

La Center Middle School Annual Report

2015-2016



Mission Statement:

La Center Middle School will provide for its family a safe place where nurturing, acceptance, understanding and respect go hand-in-hand with academic success and opportunities for personal growth.

Annual Report for La Center Middle School 2015-2016

Our School...

La Center Middle School, serving students in grades six through eight, shares a 17-acre campus with La Center Elementary. Seen as a hub for the community, the facilities are consistently used after school, in the evenings, and on weekends by various local groups. Several local youth organizations meet at the school on a regular basis. Additionally, the La Center Community Education Program provides adult and youth activities at our facility. For information on any of these programs, please contact the Middle School or district offices.

Condition of the Building

The La Center Middle School building was originally built as La Center High School in 1961. In July of 2003, the new construction and modernization project approved by the voters began. With the completion of the project in October, 2004, students, staff and parents now have use of a modern facility for the educational and community needs. Student and staff security was an important aspect of the project design that included 36,000 square feet of new construction, and modernization of 71,000 square feet of existing structures.

Parent and Community Involvement

The Family/Community Resource Center is in its third year of development. The FCRC is a tremendous resource to La Center K-8 students and families. The center provides needed resources, referral services and enriched learning opportunities within our community. Several community agencies were instrumental in its creation and will continue to partner with the district through this powerful collaboration. LCMS is grateful for the tremendous parent support that we receive every year. Your feedback and assistance is very important to us. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the middle school office.

School Improvement Goals 2015-16

- Increase the number of students meeting promotion standards
- Raise the number of individual students increasing or maintaining state standards
- All students feel safe and welcome and are valued members of our school community

Student Enrollment

La Center Middle School served 376 students on average in 2015-2016. We had 132 sixth grade students, 123 seventh grade students and 121 eighth grade students.

State Assessments

This is the second year that the state implemented the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) in Math and English/Language Arts (ELA). All of our students in 6th, 7th & 8th grades completed these assessments online using Chromebooks. The SBA replaces the MSP in math, reading and writing, however the MSP Science assessment is still used for all 8th grade students. Below are the percentages of students who met the state standards in each of the tested areas, and also the state averages:

<u>6th Grade LCMS</u>		<u>State Average</u>
Math	41.3%	48%
ELA	45.1%	56.5%

<u>7th Grade LCMS</u>		<u>State Average</u>
Math	48.3%	49.8%
ELA	62%	58.5%

<u>8th Grade LCMS</u>		<u>State Average</u>
Math	53.6%	47.8%
ELA	73.9%	59.7%
Science	73.1%	67.5%

Student Academics

New 6th grade class: We added a sixth grade ‘Academic Prep’ class to assist students with their study and organizational skills. Although this class parallels the 7 & 8 grade Academic Prep Class, it is targeted at the transitional needs of our incoming 6th grade students. This class is valued by the students enrolled and seems to help tremendously.

Honors Geometry Class: We had 7 students enrolled in honors geometry class, 3 boys and 4 girls. Mr. Shucka is the instructor for these students. He works closely with Mr. Helm at the high school, who teaches the honors geometry class for the high school students.

PE Waiver: Again this year, we paralleled the high school practice of offering a PE waiver to students who participate in a school sport. The state requires an average of 100 minutes per week, and through practices and games, students will easily meet this requirement. We will waive 1 semester of PE for 1 school sport completed. This practice will open up student schedules to pursue more elective options.

Hawks Landing 1 & 2: For three weeks in August, we had 26 incoming 6th grade students participate in Hawks Landing 1, 30 incoming 7th & 8th grade students participate in Hawks Landing 2 (9 of which were on a student plan for success due to not meeting promotion standards), and we had 13 to be 9th grade students participate in 'transition' summer school (all of which did not meet promotion standards), for a total of 69 students. We had 7 teachers lead these three weeks of learning and we had bus transportation provided for students as needed.

Extended Learning Bus: We started to offer the extended learning bus from LCMS. This bus ran Monday through Thursday at 4:00 p.m. from the middle school, dropping off student riders near their homes. Extensive communications with families, KWRL and office staff assured student accounting and clear expectations for ridership. Any student staying after school to participate in study hall or yearbook meetings could take advantage of the extended learning bus after completing a registration form.

Cispus: At the end of September, we sent over 140 sixth grade students to Randall, Washington for their week of outdoor experiential learning, hiking, singing and growing more comfortable with their peers and middle school teachers. The weather was beautiful and a great time was had by all participants. We had 5 teachers, 17 adult chaperones and 27 high school student counselors volunteer their week to make this event a special occasion for our sixth grade students. Compliments were given to the high school students in particular this year as they were a very positive, energetic influence on the week. Once again, we were grateful for the ongoing support from the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund, who granted \$10,000 towards Cispus for the thirteenth consecutive year. We also had \$900 between community members (\$400) and the LCEA (\$500) donated to pay for 9 student scholarships.

Academic Improvement Breakfast: We held a celebration breakfast for 31 students and their families to note the academic improvement of these students. To qualify, the students improved their GPA by .6 points or more from last year second semester to this year first semester. A very large thank you to the Soske family, for volunteering their time, energy and the breakfast itself for this celebration. This is at least the 4th year in a row they have provided this service.

Honor Roll

We had 184 students named to the first semester honor roll, of which 39 students scored a perfect 4.0 GPA. For second semester, we had 180 students named to the honor roll and 44 of those had a perfect 4.0 GPA. To qualify for honor roll, students must have a 3.25 GPA or above.

Real Life Exhibit 8th grade fieldtrip: All of our 8th grade students were able to participate in this exhibit in Tigard, Oregon. It was a walk-through tour of various disasters (both natural and manmade) and through viewing living standards throughout the world, demonstrates the vast contrast between an average American teen life and one from another part of the world. Our students were very moved and come away wanting to make a positive difference. This exhibit is sponsored by Medical Teams International.

In our Educational Tutors Program we had 9 middle school students in the first semester and 8 in the second semester working with our elementary students one period each day. Each tutor is working with at least 3 to 5 students per day, serving our younger students as their teacher sees fit. The middle school students are required to journal about their experiences each week which contributes to their grade for the class. This is all monitored by Katie Kipp and has been a win-win educational experience. Our elementary teachers have been most complimentary of the work done by our middle school students.

Student Activities

Along with the executive council members, we had 20 student representatives, one from each homeroom class. These students participated in meetings and decisions for various activities as well.

ASB Executive Council Members: 8th grade-Abby Banholzer, Hunter Ecklund, Sean Fox
7th grade-Dominick D’Emilio, Eli Johnson, Jacob Luiz
6th grade-Adam Denney, Lauren Fox, Alex Macho

Blue Crew: Starting this year, we added “Blue Crew” meetings once a week. One student rep from each homeroom (20 in total), met weekly with the principal to discuss what is going well, what can we do better, and possible solutions to those questions. This was well-received by all and many good ideas came out of this time together.

Fall Sports: Football had 15 players on the 7th grade team and 15 players on the 8th grade team for a total of 30 boys.

Cross Country had 17 runners total.

Volleyball had 11 players on the 7th grade team, 12 players on the 8th grade team and 14 players on the blended team for a total of 37 girls.

Winter Sports: We had 24 girls filling three teams for girls’ basketball, and we had 11 participants in wrestling.

Knowledge Bowl: We had three teams this year under the guidance of Mr. Westerberg. The team made up of Kiersten Brightbill, Kalyn Flatt, Caden Fender and Max Hendrickson made history this year. For the first time in at least 17 years, a team from La Center beat all three teams from View Ridge Middle School.

Track & Field: Right after spring break the kids were able to begin participating in track. We had a total of 71 students who have turned out this year. Records are made to be broken. At the Sub-district track meet, we had two school records broken. Eighth grade students Natasha Lewis broke the record for the 1600 meter race and Hunter Haugen broke the school record for the Shot Put. Congratulations to both athletes.

Hour of Code: In December, we were able to secure volunteers from HP, who spent the day with our 7/8 grade students from our engineering class and our technology class to learn about reading, writing and developing code. We were excited about this opportunity and believe it planted some excellent seeds with our students.

Drama Performances: Our 46 drama students in two classes performed their winter plays called “Happily Ever After” and “The Dowry.” Many elementary students were able to come and watch the performances throughout the day and they always get a good laugh. Our middle school students love having an audience as well. The students work hard to prepare for their final performances and do a great job.

Leos Club: In their third year, this group of students performed community service both at school and outside of school.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: On Monday and Tuesday afternoons of conference week, we were able to hold 43 individual conferences for students identified by teachers and parents as most needing a scheduled conference. During this round table session, teachers, parents and most of the students were able to work together and communicate how to support each student for school success. We felt good about our ability to reach about 12% of our students and families in this focused method.

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons as well as Thursday night, we provided arena style conferences where parents and students could go teacher to teacher to communicate and learn how classes were going. We had 191 students represented with at least 1 parent present at these conference sessions for a 50% participation rate. This represents a grand total 234 families attending conferences, reaching 62% of our student population.

Stuff the Bus: This was a homeroom competition again this year with a party for the top 6th, 7th and 8th grade homerooms for middle school, as well as a competition between La Center Schools and Kalama Schools. Stuff the bus took place for 2 weeks in November, right before Thanksgiving break. A big thank you to KWRL for collaborating in this activity and donating the time, buses and drivers to “stuff the bus,” then weigh it for determining the school with the highest amount of food donated. All proceeds go to help the Clark County Food Bank, Lewis River Food Bank and Share. Our students collected 2,972 pounds of food for 2,477 meals.

Veteran's Day Assembly: We held two assemblies to honor our Veterans in the community, one during the school day and the other in the evening. We had multiple Veterans recognized in the stands, and for those that came to the daytime assembly, they were given a handmade card from our students thanking them for their service. A beautiful performance by both our 7/8 band and choir topped off a wonderful celebration and video production by Mr. DeWayne Pritchett.

Art & Engineering Show: Mr. Westerberg and Mrs. Schneider combined efforts in January to display student work from each of their classes. All three grade levels were represented in this show, and it was an impressive amount of quality work on hand for parents and community members to enjoy.

Band and Choir: Once again our band and choir groups were able to participate in their respective middle school festivals, held at the new and beautiful Ridgefield High School auditorium for the southwest Washington region. These students are capable, respectful, and eager to perform well. Thank you to both Ms. Slinkard and Mr. Calabrese for their unending energy, high expectations and pride they take in producing such high caliber performances year after year. They are both true professionals and very well respected by students and peers alike. We also had 3 students selected into our state's All-State Choir and 8 band students were chosen to participate in the North County Honor Band.

WE Day: 17 students and 3 chaperones attended WE Day at the Key Arena in Seattle. WE Day is a celebration for student leaders around the state to come together and get inspired to change the world. This year, there were over 17,000 students in attendance! WE Day is a free event organized by Free the Children, a non-profit organization. Students listened to various guest speakers and performers and pledged to continue to make positive changes in our community and world. Students at La Center Middle School continue to show that middle school students have the ability and desire to help others and make our community a better place to be. A big thank you to Katie Kipp, Janice Broten and Sue Fox for safely transporting our students to this amazing event.

Anti-Bully/Free the Children Assembly: On Tuesday, November 3rd we had a guest speaker from Free the Children describe his experiences growing up with bullying and how that behavior impacts people. His story was woven into a positive message about making a positive difference in other peoples' lives. Free the Children is an organization that our students have supported in the past, and did so again this year through fundraising activities like pumpkin sales.

Doernbecher Week: This year we added to our regular fund raising efforts an event called "pie in the face." Students could purchase for \$5, the opportunity to throw a pie at a teacher and for double the price, they could throw a pie at Mrs. Landerholm, which sold faster for some reason.

Pie in the face was completed after our annual staff vs. boys' 8th grade basketball game on the Friday before spring break. Other fundraising activities included Orange Crush and Fanta Sales, MS Dolly Sales, Cookie Sales, Copper/Silver War and a MS Dance. In total, over \$9,100 was raised in one week, setting a new school record for our 10th year of fundraising for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Also, our middle school students sold Doernbecher Dollies to the elementary students and raised an additional \$1,626. Great effort by our leadership students!

Kids Making Miracles for Doernbecher's Pajama Jam - 30 middle school students, 4 high school students and 22 elementary students went to OHSU to learn more about how they have impacted children through their service. They then walked to Doernbecher to rekindle the eternal flame which gives hope to patients. Braiden Wrigley and Dominick D'Emilio carried a flame and were part of the rekindling ceremony. Braiden raised \$1,440 by himself during our fundraising event at our middle school (and was able to become middle school principal for part of a day). After the procession, students celebrated at Bullwinkles in Wilsonville.

Be A Hero Spirit Day and Dance: On Friday, October 30, our middle school students had the theme of 'be a hero' for their spirit day and for the dance following school. We had 216 students stay after school and participate in the fun by either dancing to the music in the gym, playing Wii Mario Kart in a classroom or singing karaoke in the choir room. We are thankful to the many parent chaperones that helped ensure a safe and fun experience for all students.

Color Wars & Field Day:

Our last full day of school (Wednesday, June 15) was a colorful one! Students dressed in the color assigned to their homeroom super team to earn spirit points for the overall spirit competition. Here were our super teams:

Calabrese, Hollopeter, Holmes, Ecklund – Yellow

Brightbill, Cripe, Slinkard - Red

Schneider, Austad, Johnston - Green

Whelchel, Totten, Shucka - Purple

Westerberg, Kipp, Broten - Pink

Grotte, Brothers, Lindsey, Pritchett – Orange

Not only did we have a color-filled assembly in the morning, but we had a rainbow of wet kids in the afternoon field day. During this time, the students rotated in small groups to various fun stations of competitions and skills, and a couple of the stations included water. The kids absolutely love this tradition and are so well behaved and have a lot of fun. Our leadership students coordinate the stations and give up their own opportunity to participate in order to lead each group through the rules and outcomes of each station. Surprise, some of our teachers end up getting wet too!

Attendance Competition:

Throughout the month of May, we held an attendance competition for our whole student body. Students were tracked by homeroom and earned points for every day that they were present and without any tardies to their classes. At the end of May, our homeroom grade level winners were Mrs. Lindsey (6), Mrs. Kipp (7) and Mrs. Broten (8). The students in these homerooms received an ice cream sandwich and extra play time in the gym to celebrate their success. The total attendance this year over last year is as follows:

5/2016- 1,070 total absences and tardies

5/2015- 1,181 total absences and tardies

That's a positive difference of 111 less absences and tardies this year compared to last year.

Student of the Month Awards: Each month, a boy and a girl from each grade level is recognized at an assembly for a student of the month award voted on by teachers. In total this year we celebrated 54 students who demonstrated academic improvement and/or personal growth and responsibility.

Awards Assembly June 16th:

Following tradition, we held our end of the year awards assembly on the last day of school. Plaque awards were presented to the following students:

Principal Award- Bobby Jimenez, Katie Leslie

Faculty Award- Sean Fox, Jaclyn Abernathy

8th Grade Student of the Year- Sam Kitchel, Alison Brown

7th Grade Student of the Year- Dominick D'Emilio, Ellie Ossenkop

6th Grade Student of the Year- Jacob Kokotek, Makena Campbell

Duane Hamlin Band- Sam Kitchel

Duane Hamlin Choir- Ashlynn Macho, Rebecca Skufca

Pacer Pro Qualifiers: Students who qualify throughout the year do a run-off for grade level champion. The 6th grade had a separate run off since they had so many qualifiers. The kids run from one side of the gym to the other, in time with the music and bell for a mark of "1" per lap, and continue until they can do no more. Our champions, one boy and one girl per grade level and their number of laps are below:

Pacer Pro Champions for 2016:

6th Grade Boys Champion - Coby Amoruso (112)

6th Grade Girls Champion - Rowan Biancaniello (95)

7th Grade Boys Champion - Michael Goode (125)
7th Grade Girls Champion - Bryanna Unga (87)
8th Grade Boys Champion - Garrett Shapovalov (131)
8th Grade Girls Champion - Jaclyn Abernathy (100)

Perfect Attendance:

For semester 1, we had 4 students with perfect attendance; Noah Denley, Adam Denney, Donovan Penalosa and Edelyn Turner. We had one student with perfect attendance all year. Congratulations to Noah Denley!

Staff Accomplishments

Math Fellow Andrea Austad:

Washington State Math Fellows is a collaboration between OSPI and ESD 112 to build leadership within each school district. There are 35 Math Fellows this year representing 16 school districts. Andrea Austad was our La Center School District Fellow this year. The Math Fellows met on October 27 and then met with their administrator to develop a District/School Action Plan for their leadership this year. The Math Fellows studied the book Principles to Actions Ensuring Mathematical Success for All from NCTM, provided by OSPI. Their first meeting focused on the 8 mathematics teaching practices that support the Washington State learning standards. Andrea was able to share her experience and tools, including a video clip and protocol, with her middle school math colleagues in our November department meetings. It was a very productive learning opportunity.

Language Arts Fellow Janice Broten: The Washington State Language Arts Fellows is a collaboration between OSPI and ESD 112 to build leadership within each school district. Janice Broten is our La Center School District representative. She met with the other regional Fellows on October 28 to grow their instructional practice in the area of writing, specifically with drawing evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis and reflection. Janice shared her learnings with other language arts teachers in our district during our spring professional development day.

Healthy Kids Grant: A big thank you to Katie Kipp, who applied for this OSPI grant, and was awarded \$3,000 to our district to be able to install a water bottle filling station in the middle school. The installation of this station took place this summer and is located in the hallway across from the gym, near the current drinking fountain. This allows students to refill their reusable water bottles and reduce the use of disposable/recyclable plastic bottles. It will also help with community events like basketball and volleyball to provide water for all participants.

In-service Training: In October and again in April, all of our teachers, para-educators, secretaries and administrators participated in the MindUp Curriculum training provided by the Haw

Foundation. The goal of this training is to build another layer of adult support around our students using simple strategies and skills to assist them with:

- expanding their understanding of how their brain works,
- focusing their attention,
- improving their self-awareness,
- practicing self-regulation skills,
- building resilience to stress, and
- developing a positive mind-set for school and life.

La Center Middle School Staff Roster

Mrs. Landerholm	Principal
Mr. Rosenkranz	Associate Principal/Director of Special Education
Mrs. Austad	6/7 Grade Math
Mrs. Brightbill	6/7 LA, History, Study Skills
Mrs. Broten	7/8 Language Arts, Leadership
Mr. Brothers	7/8 History
Mrs. Brown	Maintenance
Mr. Calabrese	Band, Keyboarding
Mrs. Calnan	Library
Mrs. Clegg	School Psychologist
Mrs. Cooke	Librarian
Mr. Cooke	K-12 Director of Athletics & Activities
Mrs. Cripe	7 Science
Mrs. Denney	Aide
Mr. Ecklund	8 Science
Mrs. Edwards	Aide
Mrs. Galster	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Grotte	6/7 Math
Mrs. Hendricks	Counselor
Mrs. Hendrix	Maintenance
Mrs. Hollopeter	7/8 Language Arts
Mrs. Holmes	Math, Technology
Mrs. Johnston	Special Education
Mrs. Kipp	Student Tutors, PE
Mrs. Lindsey	Special Education
Mr. Pritchett	7/8 History
Mrs. Richards	Head Secretary
Mrs. Schneider	6 Science, Engineering, Electronics
Mr. Shucka	7/8 Advanced Math
Mrs. Slinkard	Choir, Drama
Mr. Totten	6/7 Health, 6/8 Science
Mr. Westerberg	6 History, 7/8 Art
Mrs. Whelchel	6 Lang. Arts, Art