

La Center
Elementary School



Annual Report
2019-2020

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of La Center Elementary
is to empower every student to become a successful
life-long learner in a changing world.

OUR SCHOOL

The school serves as a hub for the La Center community. The facilities are used from early morning until late at night for both student instruction and community events and activities.

The elementary school shares the 17-acre campus with the middle school and maintenance shops. The original school was constructed in 1938. Our round building, which houses 4th and 5th grade, was constructed in 1968. Remodeling of all elementary buildings was completed in the fall of 2004.

La Center Elementary School is a safe and exciting place to learn. Children are the highest priority of all staff members. All work is directed towards meeting the individual needs of our students as whole children. We recognize that no two individuals are the same; therefore, we make every effort to accommodate the unique talents of each student.

Due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home order, normal activities were impacted and distance learning was implemented.

Good things happening at La Center Elementary . . .

“PAWS-ITIVE” COMMUNITY

Our children’s success is dependent on many factors. While our academic successes are critical, there are basic strengths that can have a positive impact on our student’s academic success and enhance their lives. It is our hope that supporting our students with a monthly theme will have a positive effect on their lives, help them academically, and support them in our learning efforts.

Monthly Bobcat Themes

September: Cooperation – Working together and helping others

October: Respect – Seeing the good in people and things and treating them with care

November: Gratitude – Choosing to notice and appreciate things in our life, things in others, and things in the world

December: Empathy – The ability to understand and connect to the feelings of another

January: Kindness – The choice to act with words, gifts, or actions to bring appreciation, positivity, and encouragement to others and yourself

February: Courage – To choose what is good, right, and kind, even when it’s hard or scary

March: Honesty – Living truthfully in your words and actions and thoughts

April: Perseverance – The ability to work through situations even when there are obstacles or challenges in the way

May: Responsibility – To take action and understand how our choices affect others, ourselves, and to the world

June: Creativity – Using your imagination to create something or solve a problem

Spirit Days

Students that are observed doing acts of respect towards others are given a coin to put into the Bobcat coin bucket in the cafeteria. Students can view the coin level in the bucket. Once the token level reaches the top of the bucket, students are rewarded with a school spirit day. Students get to come up with and vote on ideas for a spirit day. This year, we celebrated with such spirit days as color day and 80's/twin day.

Bobcat Store

As part of our school-wide behavior support plan, our students earn Bobcat Bucks in the classroom for doing an excellent job following the school and classroom rules. This incentive program offers students a chance to shop at the Bobcat Store using their Bobcat Bucks. Some items offered in the store include school supplies, prizes and extra recess incentives.

MindUp

Our MindUp curriculum includes lessons that use information about the brain to improve behavior and learning for students. Each lesson offers strategies for helping students focus, improve self-regulation, manage stress and have a positive mind-set.

Behavior Fairs

Behavior fairs occur twice a year and are brief lessons given by staff on appropriate school behavior. The fairs are designed to help students become familiar with the school, its policies and procedures (i.e. how to check in late and no running in the hallways).

Resolution Room

The resolution room is designed to give students a quiet and comfortable location for conflict resolution.

Kindy Cub Nights

Our kindergarten team planned three evenings in the spring to help prepare next year's kindergarten students and their parents for school. Two of the evenings were cancelled due to Covid-19. The one evening was spent working on activities that help future Bobcats prepare for school, fine and major motor skills, and learning alphabet letter basics. Bobcat cubs were able to go home with their own school boxes filled with supplies, as well as activities to do at home.

Math Is Cool!

Our Math is Cool! teams continue to enjoy exploring their math learning, fun, and competing in regional Math is Cool! competitions. Our fifth and fourth grade Math is Cool! teams prepared to compete in regionals for mental math, individual contest, team contests, team relay, and knowledge bowl. The competitions were cancelled due to Covid-19.

Science Olympiad

A group of students ranging from second through fifth grade participated in the Science Olympiad competition. The tournament was held at Clark College and included around 300 students coming from 14 different schools from seven districts. Our teams competed well.

Highly Capable Program

Our highly capable (HiCap) program is one way we challenge and support our identified highly capable students. Our HiCap students are clustered in a classroom at each grade level with other highly capable students and are encouraged to participate in enrichment activities designed to meet the needs of highly capable students. We have provided opportunity for special projects and have redesigned the candidate identification process that is shared with all families in January and utilize common assessments for all students and more specific assessments as candidates are found. Our HiCap leadership team has continued their work to improve upon our HiCap program to identify and support our HiCap students in their learning. For example, we have in the past

found that HiCap students can appear more shy or quiet. We have worked to develop better ways to find them given this understanding. We have also worked to better support our HiCap students in their learning, such as through developing and implementing special learning projects during the school year.

Technology Tools

K-2 utilizes Chromebooks and some iPads in the classroom. Grades 3-5 use Chromebooks (1 Chromebook cart with 30 Chromebooks per 2 classes).

Assessments

School wide common assessments utilize DIBELS (reading) and MAP (math). Kindergarten also uses WaKids to help us place and best support our students in their learning.

Bobcat Ambassadors

The Bobcat Ambassador program is designed to introduce 4th and 5th grade students to a school and community service and leadership process that will encourage them to pursue student government activities and community service in middle and high school. Two students (one boy, one girl) from each 4th and 5th grade class are selected to be a Bobcat Ambassador for the school year. Students receive training in team building, working collaboratively, respect and diversity. Areas of service includes assisting new students, developing and initiating our crossing guard program, and helping with events, such as our food drive, fall carnival, book fair, holiday shop, movie night and field day.

Character Crossroad

Our counseling team worked hard to design and implement Character Crossroad lessons for each classroom. These hour-long events took place once a month in each classroom. Each grade level explored our monthly themes (such as respect) and learned strategies to support themselves and others.

Weekly Art Specialist

Thanks to a full time art teacher, each class had one time each week to explore the amazing world of art. Students painted, weaved, and did printmaking to name just a few activities. A school-wide digital art show with hundreds of pieces of art compiled by students during distance learning gave the community a glimpse of the amazing artistic abilities of LCES students.

“Paws-itive” Postcards

Teachers may send home a special La Center Elementary postcard sharing with parents something positive their child has done in school. Our teachers work hard to let parents know the extraordinary effort students make while building their academic and social skills.

Middle School Tutors

The middle school Educational Leadership Class gets students involved in the classroom. This group tutors students in classrooms from elementary PE to middle school choir and math. This is a structured class where middle school students work with elementary students in reading groups, science labs, math tutoring or leading small band and choir sections. Many have been trained in the Read Naturally program. Middle school students are required to write a bi-weekly blog about their experiences in the classrooms. In order to be part of this class, students are required to take a health class during the summer. Elementary teachers have greatly benefitted from having the students work in their classrooms. This year there were 25 middle school tutors.

Our Students

School Year	Student Group	Student Group Type	% of Total Number Of Students	Number Of Students
2019-20	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Race	0.4%	3
2019-20	Asian	Race	1.1%	8
2019-20	Black/ African American	Race	0.5%	4
2019-20	Hispanic/ Latino of any race(s)	Race	8.1%	60
2019-20	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	Race	0.5%	4
2019-20	Two or More Races	Race	3.1%	23
2019-20	White	Race	86.3%	637

State Testing

Smarter Balanced Assessment

This year, the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English Language Arts and Math were not administered to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders due to Covid -19. Below are previous years' results:

	2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020	
4 th Gr. Math	Math	43%	Math	53.1%	Math	Not Assessed
4 th Gr. ELA	ELA	50.3%	ELA	61.9%	ELA	Not Assessed
5 th Gr. Science	Science	54.8%	Science	57.9%	Science	Not Assessed

For additional state results, check out the OSPI Website:

<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100569>

Fundraiser – 2019/20 Bobcat Walk/Run

In our desire to encourage healthy living and raise money for our students, we held our annual Bobcat Walk/Run event on the elementary track. Students solicited pledges per lap or single donations. Our students did a phenomenal job raising over \$14,000. The proceeds pay for playground equipment, awards for the Bobcat Buck Stores, celebrations, and any additional student activities throughout the school year.

General Music

The K-5 music program featured an after school 3rd & 4th Grade Holiday Choir, 4th Grade Recorder Club, Ukulele Club and 4th and 5th Grade Honor Choir. These groups performed at our annual 3rd, 4th and 5th grade concerts and at the annual Christmas Bazaar.

Leadership Clubs

Our students worked hard on student led club opportunities throughout the year. Some of these opportunities included:

Bobcat Ambassadors: grades 4/5 leading many events and efforts throughout the school year

Bobcat Bike Club: grades 4/5, setting up and riding bikes weekly

Historians: grades 3-5, video/photo responsibilities with tech device each, learning videos, photos for slideshow, newsletters and more

Landscape Leadership Team: grades 3-5, designing and leading landscaping projects, building wood structures, and more

Paw Print Team: grades 3-5, painting and repainting paw prints to designate mindful zones on campus

Recess Medics: grades 4/5, supporting learning community at designated recess with bandages, injury support, and escorting injured or ill to office/nurse

Recycling Team: grades 3-5, recycling weekly to take school recyclables to recycling container

Crossing Guard: grades 4-5, support safe crossing before and after school

Literacy

Kindergarten classes utilize Lucy Calkins curriculum in reading. The reading series is rooted in best practices and newest thinking. The series includes state-of-the-art charts and tools, methods for teaching reading, and learning progressions in reading for literature and informational texts.

Grades 1-3 use the Wonders program for literacy. Its intervention program, WonderWorks, is flexible, grounded in research, and provides support designed to accelerate students back to grade level.

Grades 4-5 use the Read Side-By-Side program for literacy. The program exposes all students to longer, more complex texts, using scripted lessons for fiction and non-fiction novels, book clubs and independent reading.

Schoolwide Program

The Schoolwide Program with 13 para-educators and overseen by a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) continues with much success. The program offers expanded, embedded para-educator support for each classroom, additional supervision of the playground and cafeteria, along with increased connection between students, teachers, para-educators and parents.

The priorities and goals of the program are:

- Achieve 10% growth in behavior, mathematical thinking, and reading skills
- Integrate instruction and standards across the curriculum (for example, Problem Based Learning)
- Differentiate learning to meet the needs of all students
- Build a positive learning environment with a community focus (parent engagement).

Dream Team Dental

Dream Team Dental visited our school this year and provided free dental care for those that qualified. This year, about 15 students received free dental care.

Kindy Cub Camp

Kindy Cub Camp was offered and open to all incoming kindergarteners the last week of summer to learn and experience what it is like to be a kindergarten student.

Volunteer Program

There are many ways we encourage parents to participate in our school. As a volunteer, you can ask your child's teacher if they need help with bulletin boards, classroom activities or chaperoning on a field trip. The office is also in need of volunteers for vision/hearing screenings, photo days, etc. All volunteers need to fill out the Volunteer Packet and undergo a background check. We had 250 registered volunteers for the 2019-20 school year.

Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)

Our PTO is very active and responsible for many extra events for the students at La Center Elementary. This group of parents and teachers spend countless hours to bring exciting opportunities and programs to our school and community. Thanks to everyone that has helped provide some of the following activities:

- Birthday Books- Free books are offered monthly to each student whose birthday falls in that month.
- Fall Carnival- The Fall Carnival offers fun games for all ages.
- Holiday Shop - The shop is open to students to buy gifts for their family and friends during the holiday season. Students learn to budget their money and spend wisely.

La Center Elementary Staff for 2019 – 2020

We have an outstanding, hardworking, group of individuals dedicated to the success of all children. Below is a list of the staff at La Center Elementary School. All of our staff work to find ways to help children become successful. Thank you to our staff for their energy and dedication to our students.

PK-2 Principal.....	Michael Nolan
3-5 Principal.....	Scott Lincoln
Elementary Secretary.....	Melissa Lile
Assistant Secretary.....	Joyce Hantho
Office Assistant.....	Tasha Clinton
K-2 Counselor.....	Lisa Halstrom
3-5 Counselor.....	Tami Karchesky
Resolution Room.....	Susan Shufeldt
Kindergarten.....	Jennifer Blankenship, Andi Dupper, Lisa Graham, Colleen Johnson, Lynette Lindblom, Amy Webberley
First Grade.....	Nancy Buhrmester, Megan Cooper, Lois Englund, Miranda Gray, Rita Persic, Denise Skufca
Second Grade.....	Kristina Billington, Megan Bright, Michelle Cuthbert, Jennifer Matanich, Laura Tomberlin
Third Grade.....	Liz Crandall, Kat Lentz, Kris Sawyer, Jessica Wanke, Shannon Warren
Fourth Grade.....	Carrie Cablay, Butch Lepak, Bonnie Lock, Kris McKinney, Teri Schlenz
Fifth Grade.....	Karen Alanko, Kate Denney, Scott Holt, Glen Jones, Peter Poppert
Special Education.....	Katie Morehouse, Wendi Sumner, Teresa Warnke, Kim York
Music.....	Tonya McCord, Brenda McKay
P.E.....	Peter Sloniker, Amy Wise
K-12 Media Specialist.....	Lynn Cooke
K-2 Library Teacher.....	Kathy Griffith
Library Technicians.....	Mary Lynn Henderson, Maria Rolph
ELL.....	Melissa Flatt
School Nurse.....	Danielle Rivers, Erin Uskoski
Speech/Communication Disorder Specialist.....	Holly Sing, Sonya Young

School Psychologist Brian Terletzky
 Paraeducators Darlene Bechtold, Mandy Cole, Alma Denney, Cynthia Elliott, Becky Gore, Rachel Gregg, Bo Knight,
 Christine Matzdorff, Shelley Putnum, Kelly Sullivan, Tammy Swanson, Deena Reed, Jessica Willoughby
 Special Ed Paraeducators Stefani Amstutz, Kristi Carter, Jackie Coleman, Heidi Hallstrom, Krystle Hinterlang,
Becca McLachlan, Jennifer Stephens, Janelle Regis, Maria Rolph, Emily Seastone, Darci Taylor, Shannon Washburn
 TOSA (Schoolwide) Michelle Collins, Greg Hall
 Kitchen La Dona Brown, Donna Burnett, Christine Cook, Kirby Phillips, Christine Rew
 Lunch Clerk/Cashier Dana Hantho
 Custodial Bill Bauman, Londa Brown, Dean Cooke, Melissa Hendrix, Nicole Mayfield, Tom Murphy, Tom Rice
 Stenberg, Rob Williamson

Certificated staff: 52

Support staff: 49