



Lake Washington School District School Annual Report

Each student will graduate prepared to lead a rewarding, responsible life as a contributing member of our community and greater society.

Stella Schola Middle School

13505 N.E. 75th, Redmond WA 98052 (425) 558-0842

School Mission

To offer sixth, seventh, and eighth-graders a comprehensive, consistent, classical learning environment with high academic and behavioral standards and solid teacher support.

Mascot: Five-Pointed Star

Colors: Gold and Royal Blue

Website: www.lwsd.org/ss

Steve Mezich, Principal

Brigitte Tennis, Headmistress

Stella Schola ("Star School" in Latin) is a choice middle school in Lake Washington School District. Stella Schola offers 6th, 7th, and 8th graders a comprehensive, consistent, challenging, and classical learning environment with high academic and behavioral standards and solid teacher support. The school encourages parents and community members to assist students in developing skills to become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly in a global community.

The rich, classical learning environment is based on historical themes with an emphasis on mastery learning for all students. By integrating as many subjects as possible into year-long historical themes, students learn from the past to make better choices and decisions in the future. Students have the same teacher for most of the school day, which enhances opportunities for integration of subject matter, helps promote curricular continuity, and increases the students' sense of belonging during early adolescence. Teachers work collaboratively to provide a challenging, stimulating, and hands-on curriculum for students. In-depth studies of the core subjects are emphasized. Students participate in a student-to-student mentoring program. Students may be invited to join National Junior Honor Society.

Year in Review – 2007-2008

School Improvement Plan

I am pleased to report that our improvement plan is successful in challenging all Stella Schola Middle School students to achieve at a high level. In 2008, we maintained a high level of WASL scores in reading and writing, with 100% of our sixth and eighth graders scoring at standard and 93% of our seventh graders passing at the mastery level. We experienced significant gains in science/math. Continuing the science/math focus, teachers participated in staff development focused on identifying and correcting common student misconceptions in science. Instruction and chances to master problem-solving strategies were provided. Integrating technology through the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) continues to enhance mathematical problem solving and scientific reasoning skills in a motivating way, as demonstrated by a 97% passing score in science and a 100% passing score in 7th and 8th grade math. As staff integrate lab reports and problem solving strategies, we expect student understanding of concepts and knowledge to increase.

Stella Schola's unique schedule allows teachers to create a highly personalized environment for students. Students get individual academic assistance after school as necessary to ensure mastery of content, and our students recognize the benefits of their hard work and focus on learning by experiencing personal and academic success. Academic and behavioral expectations are rigorous. A homework commitment of 60–90 minutes a night depending on the grade level is expected. All students do daily school work in cursive.

I-728

Initiative 728 was designed to improve public education and lead to higher academic achievement for all students. This funding is critical to help kids get off to a good start as well as to support those who are struggling. In this sixth year of I-728 funding, Lake Washington School District (LWSD) continued to focus on four areas:

The early childhood program, which funds preschool classrooms staffed by highly trained teachers, so more children come to school prepared to learn.

Kindergarten and first-grade class sizes, which are kept at an average of 19 so children get more teacher attention in those critical early years.

Summer and school-year programs to work with students who are struggling to meet academic standards.

The award-winning New Teacher Support Program, which helps new teachers succeed from the start, and additional professional development so teachers are always finding more ways to help students learn.

No Child Left Behind Report

The "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001 (NCLB) outlines requirements that K-12 schools must meet. LWSD met the standard for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 49 of 59 subgroups under NCLB. In most of the 49 areas, students scored significantly above the requirements. The areas of concern for the district include special education, Hispanic students and low-income students. No school district in the state of Washington with over 10,000 students made AYP, including this district. This school did make AYP for this year. NCLB requires all public schools and school districts to publish "report cards" that contain specific information highlighting their schools' progress, including the results of the Washington Assessment of Learning (WASL). Visit <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us> to view this data plus the WASL scores broken out by eight subgroups.

Stella Schola Middle School – Assessment

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)

	Reading		Mathematics		Writing		Science	
	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08
6th Grade	100	100	86	87	*	*	*	*
District	81	82	72	71	*	*	*	*
State	68	69	50	49	*	*	*	*
7th Grade	100	93	97	100	100	100	*	*
District	85	78	76	72	85	87	*	*
State	69	63	54	50	68	70	*	*
8th Grade	96	100	100	100	*	*	96	97
District	80	78	71	76	*	*	70	73
State	65	66	50	52	*	*	45	48

The WASL is a standards-based test that measures how well students apply knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, writing, and science. Scores represent percentage of students at standard in each area.
 * not tested | 7th Grade does not test Science, 8th Grade does not test Writing

District Budget Summary

District Per Pupil Expenditure

\$8,671 per pupil including I-728

General Fund Budget

\$201.1 million

Direct Classroom Support 80.3%

- Teachers
- Instructional Assistants
- Teaching Supplies
- Counselors
- Staff Training
- Curriculum Development
- Librarians
- Special Education
- School Building:
Utilities, Maintenance, Insurance

Indirect Classroom Support 14.2%

- Building Administrators
- School Support/Secretaries
- Transportation
- Food Services
- Student Activities/Athletics

Administration 4.5%

- Board, Superintendent
- Central Office Administrators
- Human Resources, Public Information, Payroll, Accounting
- Technology Support
- Administration Buildings:
Utilities, Maintenance, Insurance

Other Programs 1.0%

School Use/Parents and Community

School Use

Our school facilities are available for public use by contacting our school office.

Parents and the Community

We encourage you to get involved in our school and in our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Volunteers are trained and work in a variety of positions. To get involved, call our school office at (425) 558-0842.

School Snapshot

Building Budget

\$18,958

Student Composition

Asian	10.11%
African American	3.37%
Hispanic	0.0%
Native American	1.12%
Caucasian	85.39%
Pacific Islander	0.0%
Special Ed	0.0%
ELL	1.67%
Free/Reduced Lunch	15.14%
Male/Female	47/53%

School Enrollment

October 2006	86
October 2007	90

Staff Education Achievement

Bachelor's	1
Bachelor's + 45 credits	0
Bachelor's + 90 credits	0
Bachelor's + 135 credits	1
Master's	0
Master's +45 credits	1

Student Attendance

Attendance 96.4%

Capital Projects Levy Activities

Facilities: Installed new fire sprinkler gauges and shutoff valves.

Technology: Computer allocations were maintained at the district standard. New equipment continued to replace old on a standardized basis. Interactive whiteboards and projection systems have been installed in every classroom. Training continued on integrating technology into subject areas and using technology to increase student engagement. Software enhancements, network upgrades and new technologies to support student learning were available.

Use of Maintenance and Operations Levy

Assist schools in helping all students reach academic standards; offer ongoing teacher training; purchase textbooks and classroom materials; provide additional staff for instruction and supervision; and support extracurricular athletics and activities.