

## VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

State and National School of Excellence

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# ANNUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT

November 2004

### *A message from our school...*

It has been a great year for Vista. We are very excited about our high achievement on state testing and the many ways we have seen our students' progress. The data you won't see, but also makes us proud, is how many students we have helped move from level one to the high end of level two in their WASL scores. These students may have missed being proficient in WASL, but they have progressed two, three and even four years in reading and math skills. It may be disappointing to them, but I am confident they will achieve at test proficiency by grade 10. They are well on their way now! We had over 40 students who were five or fewer points from achievement this time. Five points equates to a mere one or two questions! They will continue to improve.

The quality of education your child is getting here at Vista is due to several things. First and foremost is our outstanding staff. We have welcomed several new teachers this year, and some of our teachers on leave have returned. The whole staff is positive, well qualified, and put children and their learning first. We also have strong support programs for individual children's educational needs. We are at the completion phase of our School Improvement Planning (SIP) process and have designed a team approach to assist students in our two goal areas, math and literacy.

The SIP process is a unique opportunity to help schools aim at increasing the number of students meeting state standards of achievement. Vista has made great leaps in math and reading. It is clear that using the SIP process to focus on data and research around the nine characteristics of high-performing schools has helped energize us to help teach our kids.

Our new block schedule allowed us to have more time in the classroom for kids in math, science, and integrated studies, teachers are able to team with other staff in order to work on instruction and unit planning together, kids had fewer discipline issues and bullying dropped significantly. The removal of the common passing time, removal of bells during the school day and teacher training on teaming strategies has helped make Vista students successful.

Parents have come into our building in droves! Parent presence in the building makes for an outstanding school. Our PTSO group has increased parent participation significantly. Parents are helping with tutoring, reading, after school activities, and school day events. All of us are benefiting from this new, greater participation. Our goal this year is to have every parent work in the building for one hour!

We have a strong program for student support if they have difficulty with math and reading. Reduced class size and directed individualized instruction for our lowest tier students has helped them make great gains. We also have a strong after school study program three days a week to support those students needing extra instructional time.

Our highest achieving students have extra support in the Aiming High program. This program has proven itself over time and supports those creative students who need and desire extra challenges.

We also offer a powerful fine arts program. We have a new mechanical design class that is hands on and strongly supports math and technology. Students design and create wonderful projects which include clear demonstration of strong writing, math and computer skills as the students try to solve *real world* problems.

Citizenship is an important focus of our building. We appreciate your help in sharing with your child what it means to be a positive citizen. We have a strong program supporting positive student behaviors and working with others. Our students signed an anti-bullying agreement at the beginning of the year. This has meant that they help one another behave appropriately and remind each other how to best treat one another. The slogan *Safety and Success for all students!* or *SAS!*, is very important to our students. We frequently celebrate student success and we are always glad to catch them being *Sassy!*

## STAFFING & ENROLLMENT

The teaching staff at Vista Middle consists of two administrators, 26.3 classroom teachers, one study skills teacher, four special education teachers, one librarian, one counselor and an on-call part-time psychologist and nurse.

Our support staff consists of one secretary, 2.5 assistant secretaries, 17 full-time or part-time para-educators (library, classroom, hall monitor, tutor), one drug and alcohol counselor, four custodians, three food service workers, and 11 bus drivers.

There are the equivalent of 31.5 full-time certificated positions and the equivalent of 10.259 full-time classified instructional support positions.

### STUDENT ETHNICITY

Black	2.0%
American Indian	9.6%
Asian	2.6%
White	79.8%
Hispanic	6.0%

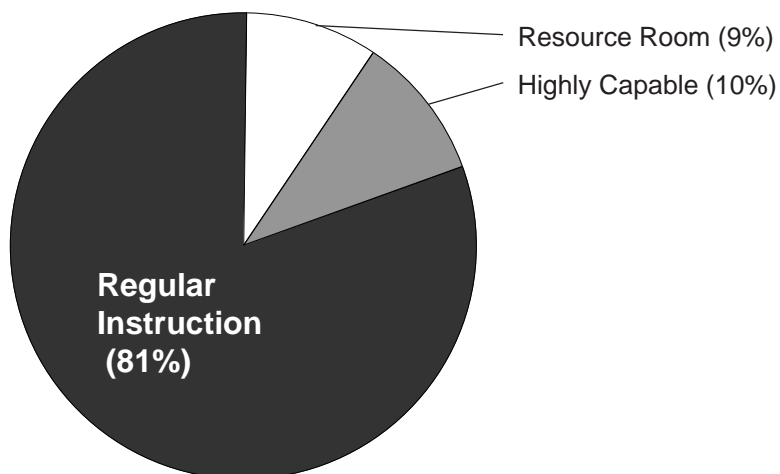
### ENROLLMENT

Students Enrolled 2003-04	461
Average School Attendance	92.7%
Average Class Size	23.4*

\*without music and excluding special programs

## PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Students at Vista Middle School participate in a variety of programs in addition to the regular classroom instruction. These programs address some of the unique needs which some students have. Special programs receive state and federal funding.



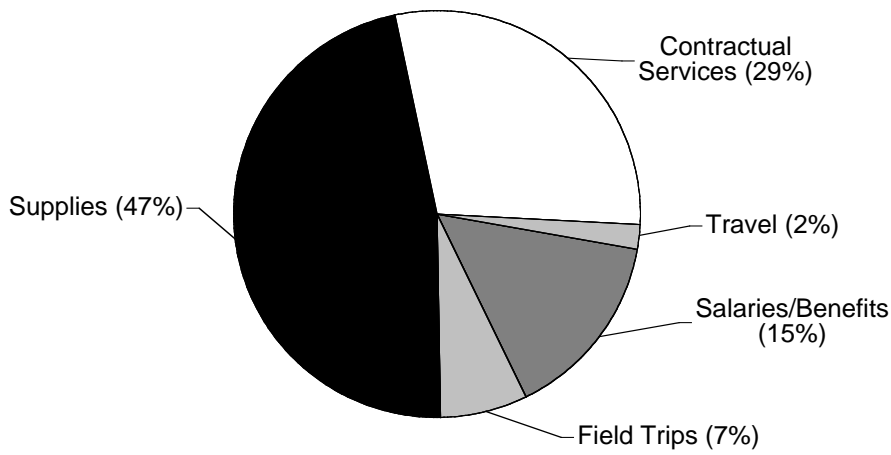
# BUDGET

## Districtwide

In 2002-03, Ferndale School District expenses for Basic Education activities were \$5,591.04 per student. The expenses for all activities including Transportation, Special Education, Gifted Education, etc., were \$7,399.49 per student.

## Building

In 2002-03, Vista Middle School's building budget expenditures totaled \$58,841. We spent our money in the following ways:



Note: 2002-03 is most current year budget information is available

# SCHOOL FACILITY

Vista Middle School is located at 6051 Vista Drive, Ferndale. The original 79,590 square foot building was constructed in 1970. Additionally, 3,147 square feet were added in 1979, as well as 5,793 square feet in 1993 and 12,581 square feet in 1994, for a total of 101,111 square feet. Over the past year, we made the following improvements to our school:

- Re-carpeted numerous classrooms, hallways and office area
- Re-stripped parking lot
- Installed a new school sign
- Installed new metal fascia
- Re-roofed portions of the school

## ACHIEVEMENT DATA

Each year Vista Middle School participates in state-mandated achievement testing. For 2003-04, results from the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) administered to seventh grade students in the areas of math, reading and writing, and administered to eighth grade students in the area of science were made available individually to each parent.

Seventh Grade WASL*					Eighth Grade WASL*	
	Math	Reading	Writing	Listening	Science	
2001	33.2	54.3	70.6	87.7	2004	45.8
2002	29.5	53	73.5	89.9		
2003	38.1	52.3	67.0	86.9		
2004	54.9	75.8	74.9	N/A		

\*Percentage of students who meet the Washington Essential Learnings' Standards

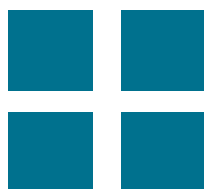
## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We have a long tradition of Viking Pride. We are utilizing state and district testing as an indicator of areas we need to improve instruction and focus curriculum development. We seek new, inventive ways to deliver curriculum and we are committed to improved student learning. This year we have designed, developed and continue to develop the following items for our staff and students:

**Curriculum:** school play • drama trip • History Day • bicycle tour • *Living Voices* performance • Washington, D.C., trip • Jazz Band • Visiting authors, storytellers, artists • student yearbook • Cultural Fair • Aiming High Program • Seventh Grade Integrated Studies Block • Seventh and Eighth Grade Accelerated Math • Seventh and Eighth Grade Accelerated Science • Spanish Class • High School Credit Classes in Algebra and Spanish • Small Schools Concept • Integration of Curriculum Delivery • Strong Program for the Arts (Music, Fine Arts) • Core Skills Program: Accelerating students reading comprehension two or more grade levels in a single school year • Extended School Day Opportunities • Implemented Schoolwide Diagnostic Assessment in Literacy and Math • Promoted 98% of Vista's Student Body based upon academic achievement and/or a summer school skill building • Established After School Study Lab for students needing or wanting academic assistance • Science Fair • Summer School

**Student Performance:** Math Olympiad • Performances by our award winning orchestra, band and choir programs • Active Associated Student Body • Student Leadership Class • SAS! Team for Community Service • Participated in Science Olympiad • Aiming High Medieval Faire • NASA Trip for Science Students • Science Field Trip on the Snowgoose • Cultural Experiences at Seattle Center, Live Performances in Seattle and locally • Rockin' Lockin' for Good Citizens • Sports and Athletic Competitions • Student Work Study Programs in the cafeteria • Student Publications Classes • Science Fair • Gallery Walk

**Resources and Support Services:** Care Team and TATU • Natural Helpers • SAS! Team • School Nurse and Psychologist Services • Healthy Kids Now! Outreach • English Language Learners Program Expansion • Extensive Staff Training in Youth Development and Issues • After School Study • Reading Immersion Program • Math Assistance Program • Counseling in a Variety of Forms • Teacher Training and Professional Development Focusing on the Nine Characteristics Of Highly Effective Schools • Implementation of a School Math Improvement Plan and Literacy Improvement Plan • Implementation of *Critical Friends* Staff Teams for Professional Development • Weekly Newsletters to Parents (one a month mailed home) • Frequent Surveys of Staff, Community and Students • Leadership Training for Staff Leaders • Outreach to community members who may have difficulty coming to the school • Group meetings for Kids in Healthy Relationships and Anger Management • Implementation of a school improvement plan • Active student council • Active PTSO • After School Tutoring • Reading Improvement Team • Math Improvement Team



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS TO PARTICIPATE

Ferndale offers a rich, diverse community with a wealth of resources to offer our students. We support and encourage participation in our school. There are a number of avenues for access to creatively contribute to our school. We have the following:

Parent Advisory Meetings • Learning Improvement Team • Weekly Publications to Parents from Staff and Students • Special Meetings with the Counselor (by appointment) • Parent/Teacher Open Houses and Conferences in the Fall and Spring • Parent Volunteers to help in the classroom, managing lunch duties, performing clerical tasks, fund-raising activities, chaperoning of dances and driving or accompanying classes on field trips • Student Performance Events • Student Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities • Support in the Creation of Publications • Tutoring • Reading with Students

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Ferndale School District students and staff are strongly supported by the Ferndale Community. Community members and businesses provide volunteer time and monetary contributions to support a variety of Ferndale’s educational programs. This last year, schools received a total of over 146,000 hours of volunteer time. Alcoa Intalco Works was honored as Business of the Year for 2003-04.

In addition, our community consistently approves levy and bond issues which provide the district with needed financial resources to support the many programs offered to students, as well as to give students well-maintained facilities in which to learn.

*Thank you* to our community members for your support!

## SCHOOL MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Middle school represents a unique time in the lives of adolescents. Students and staff are all part of our learning community. Our Mission is...

*Vista is a safe learning community where all members meet challenging academic standards while becoming contributing citizens.*

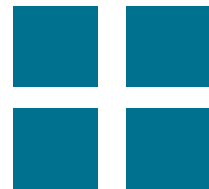
What is the quick version? **Safety and Success...(SAS!)**

## FERNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Ferndale School District, in partnership with families and the larger community, will educate each student to develop the knowledge, skills and character necessary to lead a self-reliant, socially responsible life.

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND GOALS

The state report card which reflects the No Child Left Behind Accountability goals and Vista School’s progress toward meeting these goals can be viewed at [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us) under the state report card icon. Hard copies of this report are available upon request.





*... Making A Difference*

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VISTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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