



Ferndale School District No. 502

School Performance Report



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.

Horizon Middle

2671 Thornton Road, Ferndale, WA 98248, 360/383-9850
www.ferndale.wednet.edu/horizon

Mission and Vision

Our Mission: To Teach – To Learn! When home, school, students and community pull together as one, students will become *well-rounded* citizens who are ready for their next educational step, the high school. With a continued focus on core academic areas and elective courses that allow students to explore other areas of interest, students will be successful learners.

Our Vision: Horizon Middle School is a community oriented school dedicated to high academic standards, committed to nurturing positive relationships with and between students, parents, staff and community while focusing upon strategic instruction that is technology rich, motivating, and concept oriented.



A message from our school

Horizon Middle School is committed to becoming a professional learning community that includes school, staff, parents and students. Providing an environment that encourages the building of strong relationships with and between students, parents, staff and community is a priority. A variety of student data is used to monitor academic improvement and to help teachers make instructional decisions to encourage success for all learners.

The primary focus at Horizon is to improve instruction in order to increase student capacity in the area of literacy. We believe that all students will be more successful in every subject area if they have the tools needed to read for comprehension and to write and communicate effectively. Additionally, offering students a more rigorous curriculum will help to prepare them for the rest of their academic training. Strategic instruction through smarter planning, a focus on proven instructional strategies, and the effective use of student assessment data to plan academic interactions is an ongoing effort.

We continue to work on development of a positive school climate and to increase collaboration between staff and with the community. Using the principles of *Love and Logic* in our school-wide discipline program is a common sense way to deal with the choices students make. This includes development of unit and course organizers that reflect clearly what is taught by the teacher and what students will learn that will help to ensure content literacy.

Community Support

Ferndale community members and businesses strongly support Ferndale School District staff and students by providing volunteer time and monetary contributions to support a variety of Ferndale's educational programs.

Thank you to our community members for your support!

School Composition

Enrollment

Students Enrolled 2004-05	393
Average Attendance	91%
Average Class Size	23.6*

*excludes music & special programs

Ethnicity

White	75.8%
American Indian	11.7%
Hispanic	8.4%
Asian	3.8%
Black	.3%

Staffing

The teaching staff at Horizon Middle School consists of two administrators, 24 classroom teachers, half-time study skills teacher, two special education teachers, one librarian, one counselor, and an on-call part-time psychologist and nurse.

Our support staff consists of 2.5 administrative assistants, 12 full-time or part-time para-educators (library, classroom, hall monitor, tutor), one signer and 17 bus drivers.

There are the equivalent of 28 full-time certificated positions and the equivalent of 6.677 full-time classified instructional support positions.

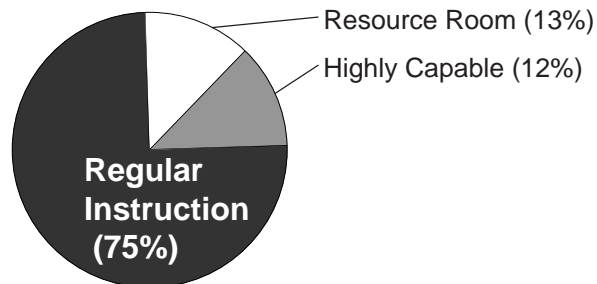
Opportunities for Families

Volunteers help out in various ways at Horizon Middle School. They are a vital component in making activities available for students. Examples of the various activities at which volunteers help are:

- New student orientation
- First day of school – assisting new students find classes, lunchroom, library, etc.
- School pictures
- Open house
- Our middle school magazine drive – our major fund-raiser for ASB activities
- Vision and hearing screening
- School dances
- Classroom help
- Love and Logic* workshops
- School musical/music programs
- Enrichment Clubs
- PTO activities
- Classroom presenters as experts in areas related to the curriculum
- Parent Lending Library (*Love and Logic* materials)
- Chaperones on field trips
- After school sports

Participation in Special Programs

Students at Horizon 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.



Accomplishments

Horizon staff members continue to embed reading strategies into all content area classes. This deliberate focus on adolescent literacy continues as we work to ensure that all of our students have access to content specific information. This is being done through staff development directed toward continued reading strategy instruction, critical content mapping and teaching routines that facilitate student learning. These efforts are also being supported through our master schedule teaming model that provides opportunities for teachers to collaborate. What this means for our students is a rich variety of learning experiences designed to help all students achieve success. Additionally, a variety of performance assessments are used at school such as projects and presentations. Specifically, events such as the Spring Gala in May of 2005 was an example of students displaying their best work for the community and demonstrating their learning in a variety of ways.

Student Participation/Educational Programs: Natural Helpers' Program • YMCA Adventure School • Awards' Assemblies • Math Olympiad • Service Opportunities • After school sports: football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and track • Peer Tutoring Opportunities • Marching Band • Field trips for all music programs • Yearbook • Teacher Assistant Opportunities • Enrichment clubs • After school tutoring (academic intervention) • School dances • School Musical • Performance Opportunities and Contests: music programs • School newspaper, *The Stinger* • History Day • Science Club • Eighth grade bicycle trip • Jazz Band • Hands Against Hate • Native American Day activities • Cross Country Fun Run • Spring Gala – (Performance and demonstration of learning in every subject area) • Veterans' Day • Cinco de Mayo activities • Project Wisdom –Character Building/Community Building.

Professional Development: Critical Friends Group operating at Horizon to study and improve instruction practice • MAP training-student assessment program to chart progress in reading and math • Compass Learning Computer training-Individualized instructional computer based learning program • Reading in the Content area focus with ongoing staff development training in effective reading strategies • Literacy Committee • Reading Study Group • Staff development of *Critical Questions and Concepts* for curriculum focus and alignment • Opportunity for parents to participate in our Building Council • Assess 2 Learn student assessments • Use of Eddata Solutions database for past assessment information to inform instruction • Love and Logic study group • CLC – Content Literacy Continuum, teaming inservice for all teachers to prepare for new team-based master schedule • Differentiation in the classroom • WESPac/Skyward technology training; SIM – Strategic Instructional Model, LINC's – Vocabulary instruction strategy, FRAME – Graphic Organizer enhances critical content.

Achievement Data

Each year Horizon Middle School participates in state-mandated achievement testing. 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 are made available individually to each parent.

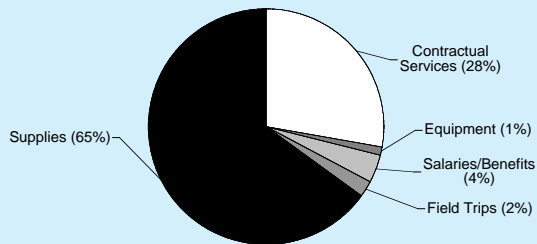
WASL is a standards-based test. Scores are percentage of students who meet the standard in each area.

Seventh Grade WASL				
	Math	Reading	Writing	Listening
2002	31.5	43.1	55.4	90.6
2003	35.1	47.4	44.0	87.9
2004	44.3	58.1	56.8	N/A
2005	62.4	81.8	70.7	N/A

Eighth Grade WASL	
	Science
2004	42.8
2005	44.4

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Building expenditures were spent in the following ways



No Child Left Behind

The State of Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction provides on-line access to data required by the No Child Left Behind Act. District and school report cards can be accessed at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. Once at the web site, select the school district and then the school. Printed copies of all reports may also be obtained at any Ferndale school office or administration office or by calling the district's public information office at 360/383-9207 or e-mailing tbengen@ferndale.wednet.edu.

Financial Information

In 2003-04, Ferndale School District expenses for Basic Education activities were \$5,602.86 per student. The expenses for all activities including Transportation, Special Education, Gifted Education, etc., were \$7,598.95 per student.

In 2003-04, Horizon Middle School's building budget expenditures totaled \$50,502.40.

Note: 2003-04 is the most current year that financial information is available.

Facility Update

Horizon Middle School is located at 2671 Thornton Road, Ferndale. The original 72,000 square foot building was constructed in 2001. Over the past year, we made the following improvements to our school:

- Installed signs in bus zone to watch for students
- Replaced restroom partition doors
- Painted various interior/exterior surfaces