



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.

Vista Middle

6051 Vista Drive, Ferndale, WA 98248 (360) 383-9370
www.ferndale.wednet.edu/vista

Mission and Vision

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.

We support: **SAFETY AND SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS**

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!



A message from our school

Student achievement is our goal and we are very successful in this area. In order to do well district and school staff must have a passion for excellence and an aligned and appropriate curriculum. We also believe students need involved parents and a safe school climate. At Vista all of these things are in place and the results are fantastic!

In comparison to all of the county middle schools, our students scored very well in all areas of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) exam. Our combined middle schools were first in reading, first in math and second in writing. Our eighth graders scored first in science. These scores reflect the hard work and focus of our staff, parents and students. We are very excited about our continued high achievement yet we know we still have a ways to go. Data also indicates that if students do well on achievement tests in the seventh and eighth grade their chance of success at the high school is statistically greatly enhanced. We are aware of these trends and we want our students to do well in high school and as they move on in their educational lives.

In addition, the data you don't see in the newspapers, 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. In order to be proficient they must be at levels three or four. We had 26 students out of 30 who were within two questions of being proficient in writing, 19 out of 44 in math who missed proficiency by two to five questions, and 13 of 30 who missed level three reading by two to five questions. These students may have missed being proficient in WASL but they have progressed two, three and even four years in reading, writing and math skills. It may be disappointing to them, but we are confident they will achieve at test proficiency by grade 10. They are well on their way now! If your child scholar very nearly achieved proficiency please give a hearty pat on the back!

At Vista the staff is positive, highly qualified, and puts students first. We also have strong support programs for individual student educational needs if they are at risk of falling behind or are in the race to catch up. Vista has made great leaps in math and literacy over the last five years. We do all of our work and decision-making as a team and our instructional practices reflect research of what high performing schools across the nation do to attain and maintain high achievement. It is clear that using the school improvement planning process (SIP) to focus on data and research has helped energize us to engage kids. 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. We frequently celebrate student success and reward students doing a great job!

School Composition

Enrollment

Students Enrolled 2004-05	438
Average Attendance	92.7%
Average Class Size	23*

*excludes music & special programs

Ethnicity

White	84.1%
American Indian	6.6%
Hispanic	6.8%
Asian	1.1%
Black	1.4%

Staffing

The teaching staff at Vista Middle consists of two administrators, 27 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 3.5 administrative assistants, 19 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 31.6 full-time certificated positions and the equivalent of 10.877 full-time classified instructional support positions.

Opportunities for Families

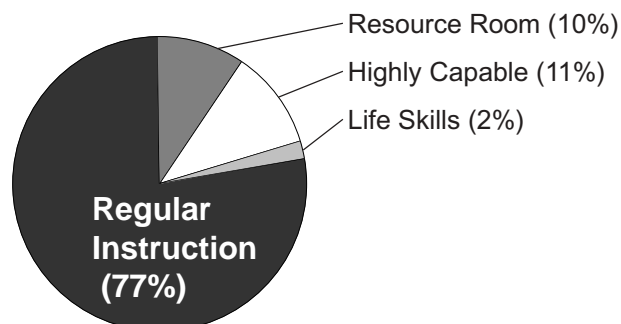
Ferndale offers a rich, diverse community with a wealth of resources to offer our students. We support and encourage participation in our school. There are a number of avenues for access to creatively contribute to our school. We have the following:

Parent Advisory meetings • Special meetings with the counselor (by appointment) • Regular publications sent home bi-weekly • Parent/Teacher open houses and conferences in the fall and spring • Volunteers helping in classrooms • Large parent attendance at activities and performances • Help managing lunch duties • Parents perform clerical tasks • PTSO support or management of fund-raising events • Parent chaperones at dances, sport events and activities • Drivers or support on field trips • Parents who assist in drama club and play performance • Chess instructors • Tutoring support • Support with the creation of publications • Classroom assistance • Reading with students • Provide WASL snacks

Also, we are supported by an enthusiastic parent group, which also encourages students to work hard and have fun at Vista. We have large participation in our school activities and sports programs, and our music program is one of the best in the state. Parents and other volunteers have come to help our students in droves! Parent presence in the building helps make Vista an outstanding school. Parents help with tutoring, reading, after-school activities and school day events. All of us are benefiting from this active participation. Our goal is to have every parent work in the building for one hour this year! The parent power would be phenomenal!

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.



Accomplishments

We have a long tradition of Viking Pride. We are utilizing state and district testing as an indicator of areas in which we need to improve instruction and focus curriculum development. We seek new, inventive ways to deliver curriculum and we are committed to improving student learning. This year we are implementing 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 School-wide 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 • Participated in Science Olympiad • Aiming High Medieval Faire • 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 • Science Fair • Gallery Walk • Science Trip to Seattle • City, local, county, regional, state and national competitive performances • Math Curriculum Night

Resources and Support Services: Care Team and TATU • Natural Helpers • 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 • 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 • Focused professional development • Biweekly newsletters to parents (one per month mailed home) • Reading pull-out class • Leadership training for instructional leaders • Outreach to community members who may have difficulty getting their child to school

Achievement Data

Each year Vista 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

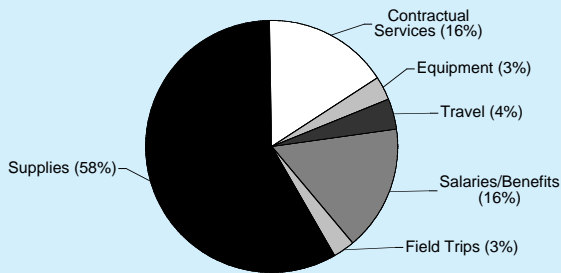
	Math	Reading	Writing	Listening
2002	29.5	53	73.5	89.9
2003	38.1	52.3	67.0	86.9
2004	54.9	75.8	74.9	N/A
2005	62.8	76.2	66.5	N/A

Eighth Grade WASL

	Science
2004	45.8
2005	48.4

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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, Vista Middle School's building budget expenditures totaled \$54,372.57.

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

Facility Update

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:

- Installed walk off mats
- Installed wheelchair access doors
- Installed four roof drains
- Replaced gutters on west side of building
- Replaced hot water tank in kitchen
- Re-graveled fire lane
- Removed dead trees
- Removed overgrowth on south and west fence lines
- Repaired entrance asphalt