

# 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.

## Custer Elementary

7660 Custer School Road, Custer, WA 98240 (360) 383-9500  
[www.ferndale.wednet.edu/custer](http://www.ferndale.wednet.edu/custer)

### Mission and Vision

School improvement at Custer Elementary is an ongoing process of growth within a positive learning environment. It is based on data driven goals that are continuously evaluated for maximum student achievement.

Each staff member in our building is a member of a study team for Reading, Math or Writing. All three of these academic improvement teams have developed Action Plans that are now being implemented. We are in the process of continually evaluating our practices, based on student performance data, and adjusting based on our students' performance and researched best practices. We are aware of each child who is below grade level standard and work to ensure that these children are linked to learning interventions designed to bring their performance up to standard.

We emphasize the need for continued, strong parent support for our children. The academic support of students, knowing what homework children have, providing a place in the home for children to do their homework, providing parental supervision to ensure that the homework is completed and returned to school, and reading with your child each night, or ensuring that s/he reads, is critical. We have numerous opportunities for parental participation in our classroom and school activities, and have always enjoyed terrific parent and community support.

### A message from our school

At Custer Elementary School we are in our fifth year of School Improvement Planning and continue our evolving work as a collaborative, professional learning community. The nine characteristics of high performing schools are the foundation of our work. These characteristics are:

- 1 Clear and shared focus
- 2 High standards and expectations for all students
- 3 Effective school leadership (principal and teacher leaders)
- 4 High levels of collaboration and communication
- 5 Curriculum, instruction and assessment aligned with standards
- 6 Frequent monitoring of learning and teaching
- 7 Focused professional development
- 8 Supportive learning environment
- 9 High levels of family and community involvement

### Community Support

Ferndale community members and businesses are commended for their strong support district staff and students. Many volunteer hours and monetary contributions are provided to the district in support of a variety of educational programs.

Thank you to our community members for your support!



### School Composition

#### Enrollment

Students Enrolled 2005-06	408
Average Attendance	95%
Average Class Size	23*

\*excludes music & special programs

#### Ethnicity

White	83.58%
American Indian	.98%
Hispanic	10.78%
Asian	1.96%
Black	.98%
Multiracial	.74%
Not reported	.98%

#### Staffing

The teaching staff at Custer Elementary consists of one principal, 17 classroom teachers, three reading specialists, one and one-half special education teachers, .5 math specialist, one librarian, a P.E. specialist, a half-time counselor, three part-time music specialists, a part-time speech/language pathologist, a part-time psychologist and a part-time school nurse.

Our support staff consists of two administrative assistants, 12 full-time or part-time para-educators (library, classroom, and playground), two custodians, two food service workers, and eight bus drivers.

There are the equivalent of 25.943 full-time certificated positions and the equivalent of 6.367 full-time classified instructional support positions.

### Opportunities for Families

A special invitation to our parents and community to participate:

#### School Opportunities

- School Improvement Team
- Classroom Tutors
- Room Parent
- Celebration of the Arts
- Young Authors
- Student Council
- Talent Show
- Office Assistance

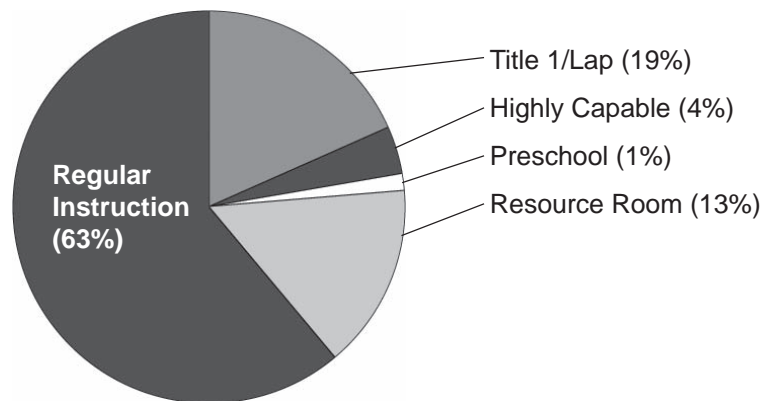
- Art Docent Program
- Math Olympiad
- Passport Club
- Monthly Enrichment Opportunities
- Health and Vision Screenings
- Field Trip Assistance
- 100 Lap Club
- Field Day

#### PTO Opportunities

- School Store
- Holiday Store
- PTO Executive Board
- Harvest Festival
- Annual Fund-raising Events (e.g. Jog-a-Thon)
- Spring Carnival
- Monthly after school enrichment
- Family Fun Nights

### Participation in Special Programs

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



## Accomplishments

**Educational Accomplishments**—Please note the data in the right-hand column that shows the number of students meeting or exceeding Washington state standards in third through sixth grades. Of our former students who now attend Horizon Middle school, 63.3% of seventh graders met or exceeded the standard in reading, 51.1% met or exceeded the standard in math, and 65.3 % met or exceeded the standard in writing.

Continued staff development in best practices in Reading, Writing and Math • Teachers participate in summer workshops in reading and math • North Cascades and Olympic Science Partnership teacher leader Training • Two Student Teaching Interns from WWU • All teachers have at least an hour a week for collaborative planning • Teacher leaders receive training in instructional coaching • All teachers participate in OSPI's K-12 Reading Model training (LINKS) • All teachers in the building participate in school improvement planning • Principal attends Principal's Academy training through ESD 189 • 1.5 FTE reading specialists and .5 math specialist • Extended school day (Early Birds) academic programs for students needing additional support

**Students**—Cross-age reading buddies • Inclusion of students with diverse needs • School community service program managed by sixth grade students • Kids with Character Program • LAP and Title 1 special reading programs • Full time ELL assistance available in the building • Aiming High available for highly capable students • Quarterly assemblies recognizing student accomplishment • Student Council • Two successful food drives that resulted in over a ton of food being donated to Project Concern • Essay winners in the VFW and Elks writing contests • Principal's Writers Lunch Bunch

**Enrichment**—Artist-of-the-Month Art Docents Program featuring five artists and art lessons in classrooms at all grade levels • Mount Baker Theatre Arts Performances for second, third and fourth grades • Math Olympiad • Sixth Grade trip to the Pacific Science Center • Celebration of the Arts school-wide evening program for the community highlighting fine and performing arts • Winter holiday play involving all classrooms; band, strings and choral music students • Student Newspaper • Student Produced Video Production • Student Council • After-school enrichment classes • Reading Olympics • Summer Open Library

**PTO**—Harvest Festival • Monthly after school enrichment classes • Spring Carnival • Jog-a-thon • A field trip for each grade level • Holiday Store for students and a School Supply Store • Provide treats for teacher staff development days, as well as soup and salad suppers for evening conferences • Parent members of the School Improvement Team (L.I.T.) • Purchase of new climbing wall for P.E. and additional playground equipment • Provision of computers and other technology for teachers and students • Skating parties • Movie Nights • Passport Geography Club

## Achievement Data

Each year Custer School participates in state-mandated achievement testing at the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade levels.

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is a standards-based test. Scores are percentage of students who meet the standard in each area.

### Third Grade WASL

	Math	Reading
2006	72.9	64.4

### Fourth Grade WASL

	Math	Reading	Writing	Listening
2003	49.2	75.8	57.1	66.7
2004	54.5	65.5	47.3	N/A
2005	58.8	80.4	29.4	N/A
2006	55.4	76.8	52.6	N/A

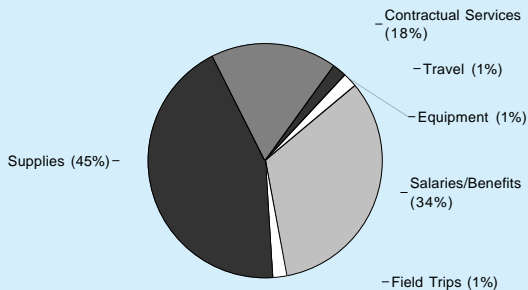
### Fifth Grade WASL

	Math	Reading	Science
2005	N/A	N/A	41.7
2006	60.4	91.3	34.7

### Sixth Grade WASL

	Math	Reading
2006	56.3	70.8

**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](mailto:tbengen@ferndale.wednet.edu).

**Financial Information**

In 2004-05, Ferndale School District expenses for Basic Education activities were \$5,486.13 per student. The expenses for all activities including Transportation, Special Education, Gifted Education, etc., were \$7,672.68 per student.

In 2004-05, Custer Elementary School's building budget expenditures totaled \$50,170.07.

Note: 2004-05 is the most current year budget information is available.

**Facility Update**

Custer Elementary is located at 7660 Custer School Road, Custer. The original 18,568 square foot building was constructed in 1936. Additionally, 7,406 square feet were added in 1940, 5,619 square feet in 1959, 10,706 square feet in 1980, and 2,750 square feet in 1999, for a total of 45,049 square feet. During the past year, we made the following improvements to our school:

Cleaned carpets in Rooms 16-20