

La Center Middle School Annual Report



2020-2021

Mission Statement:

La Center Middle School will provide for its family a safe place where nurturing, acceptance, understanding and respect go hand-in-hand with academic success and opportunities for personal growth.

La Center Middle School, serving students in grades six through eight, shares a 17-acre campus with La Center Elementary. Seen as a hub for the community, the facilities are consistently used after school, in the evenings, and on weekends by various local groups. Several local youth organizations meet at the school on a regular basis. We are looking forward to next year as a new middle school is being built thanks to the support of our community.

Condition of the Building

The La Center Middle School building was originally built as La Center High School in 1961. In July of 2003, the new construction and modernization project approved by the voters began. With the completion of the project in October 2004, students, staff and parents have use of a modern facility for educational and community needs. Student and staff security was an important aspect of the project design that included 36,000 square feet of new construction, and modernization of 71,000 square feet of existing structures.

New Staff

Matt Cooke joined the Middle School campus

Budget

Building resources are established and allocated according to the school board's end policies.

La Center Middle School State Report Card Summary

- Enrollment - 366
- English Learners - 2.2% (State 12%)
- Low Income - 25.1% (State 46%)
- Student Performance - Met grade level standards on state exams
 - ***Due to Covid much of this data is not available.***
 - English Language Arts - N/A
 - Math - N./A
 - Science - N/A
- How engaged are our students
 - N/A% have regular attendance
 - N/A% have high ELA growth (State 33.6%)
 - N/A% have high math growth (State 33.7%)
- About our teachers and classrooms
 - Number of teachers - 25
 - 70.8% have a Master's Degree or higher (State 62%)
 - 18.2 average years of experience (State 12.9 years)
 - 16.2 students per teacher (State 17.0)

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2020-2021 *

<u>Student Group</u>	<u>Student Group Type</u>	<u>% of Students</u>	<u># of Students</u>
Female	Gender	48.4%	177
Male	Gender	51.4%	188
Gender X	Gender	0.3%	1
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Race	0.5%	2
Asian	Race	0.5%	2
Black/ African American	Race	0.5%	2
Hispanic/ Latino of any race(s)	Race	5.5%	20
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Race	0.3%	1
Two or More Races	Race	2.7%	10
White	Race	89.9%	329

* from enrollment summary OSPI Report Card

Summer Professional Development

Throughout the summer there has been much uncertainty about what the return of school in the fall would look like. Once we were clear that our return would be ‘distance learning’, teachers participated in much needed PD for how to best deliver quality instruction in a distance learning environment. The agreement to use common platforms of delivery of instruction across the district meant there was a great need for PD for some. Others stepped up and assisted their colleagues. I am confident that our efforts produced a quality product and user friendly experience for our students and families.

Stephanie Holmes offered ‘LC Instruction Tech’ PD for all grade level teachers. Through these 4 sessions, we learned both asynchronously (not live) and synchronously (live), pertinent instructional strategies and skills for distance learning. Topics included: How to package your digital assignments, Branding yourself online, Utilizing the Core 4 instruction, and Working on our LC tools database.

Joe Manning offered a book study for middle school teachers called *The Distance Learning Playbook*, by Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey and John Hattie. These sessions covered 9 modules including: Take care of yourself, The first days of school, Teacher-Student relationships from a distance, Engaging tasks, Feedback, assessment & grading, and Learning, distance or otherwise.

Phone Calls Middle school secretaries and paras made phone calls to all families to gather information about students returning to school, Chromebook & internet needs. A huge thank you to Roxanne Bocchi, Emily Geddenberg, Sara Cosmi & Rochelle Wilson for assisting with this very large and important communication.

Distance Learning

“Hallway Hanging” - Zoom Style Our MS counselor Daniel Thiessen hosted a weekly grade level Zoom meeting during lunch breaks on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He did not give direction or structure, this was a way to let students socialize with some supervision. He shared the link with staff, in case they wanted to say hello to previous students they did not have in class this year or to visit with a new student.

Help for Students without Internet Through the first couple of weeks of distance learning, the middle school worked hard to identify students that truly needed internet assistance. These students were offered internet access in our gym on Monday and Tuesday from 10-2 with a paraeducator monitoring and assisting students, as well as bus transportation and school lunch for those who needed them. This allowed these students to engage in all three of their classes each day, and participate in the distance learning at school.

Early Observations on Distance Learning Teachers worked very hard through a steep learning curve, especially for a few of them. As true professionals, they demonstrated what it takes to be a lifelong learner. Online teaching and learning are exhausting. Both teachers and students diligently learned how to make it work. When Google glitches... we all glitch. It was our distance learning version of a ‘snow day’ when Google technical issues arose. Thankfully, it was a rare occurrence, but it was part of our equation.

Character Cards - Positive Reinforcement - Even in distance learning we wanted to celebrate our student’s growth as a positive human being. Mr. Thiessen and Mrs. Landerholm made home visits to students who earned 5, 10, or 20 cards to celebrate their achievements with them. Students are given character cards from the staff for demonstrating monthly traits such as kindness, commitment, patience, honesty, respect, selflessness, humility or forgiveness. Students earned items, like a Character Strong T-Shirt or Hoodie.

During distance learning (through January), Mr. Thiessen and Mrs. Landerholm made the following character card achievement deliveries until we came back to hybrid and started handing out character card achievements in person:

6th grade

261 TOTAL Character Cards given to students
18 Candy Bars and Yard Signs delivered to students at home
5 T-shirts delivered to students at home
1 Sweatshirt delivered to students at home

7th grade

423 Total Character Cards given to students
28 Candy Bars and Yard Signs delivered to students at home
9 T-shirts delivered to students at home
1-Sweatshirt delivered to students at home

8th grade

771 Total Character Cards given to students
57 Candy Bars and Yard Signs delivered to students at home
19 T-shirts delivered to students at home
1 Sweatshirt delivered to students at home

In total, 139 home visits were completed to deliver these achievement awards to students. This was a very successful and positive experience for all of us involved. And we all can use a little more positivity in the world at this time.

Student Struggles 5 Weeks into Distance Learning - Distance learning is not easy, and is not conducive to student success for many. Although some students were thriving, many had not found their groove. The numbers below are much higher than average, unfortunately.

- Middle School F List as of 10/5/2020
 - 6th Grade 57/117 - 49%
 - 7th Grade 48/132 - 36%
 - 8th Grade 29/124 - 23%

We continued to check grades weekly to pick up students who need additional support and offered them the opportunity to do distance learning in the gym “internet cafe” where they could get additional help.

Distance Learning Fall Data Comparison

Students Not Meeting Promotion Standards - Fall 2020 (8 Week Grades)

Grade Level	Number Not at Standard	Percentage Not at Standard
8th	19/129 students	14.7%
7th	21/131 students	16%
6th	31/118 students	26%
Total	71/378 students	18.7%

Students Not Meeting Promotion Standards - Fall 2019 (6 Week Grades)

Grade Level	Number Not at Standard	Percentage Not at Standard
8th	6/123 students	5%
7th	2/131 students	1.5%
6th	16/148 students	11%
Total	24/402 students	6%

Response: Our 3 sixth grade exploratory teachers (Whelchel, Westerberg, M. Brothers) coordinated to establish time during exploratory class for students that were failing classes to work in small groups with their teacher to make up their missing assignments. We hope that this temporary step would increase the number of students passing their classes. At the same time, students who were currently passing their classes got to be assigned to a virtual field trip activity that was fun and continued with their ability to ‘explore’ new learnings.

12 Week Distance Learning Student Data

11/9/20 43 students with 114 F’s (6th grade students only)
 12/7/20 33 students with 73 F’s (after 2 weeks of ‘Hawks Landing’ during 2nd per)

Great work and organization by Miranda, Shae and Warren! Thank you!

12 Week Mark- Students Not Meeting Promotion Standards

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
2019	6.1%	3.8%	15.4%
2020	13.6%	6.1%	4.7%

Additional Thoughts on Distance Learning

1. Teachers worked extremely hard and many were performing at an unsustainable level for extended distance learning.
2. Parents & students worked hard to make distance learning work. Organization and time to support students was vital.
3. Zoom Meetings- Too many students cut their video so all the teachers saw was a blank screen. Although the concerns of requiring videos to be on were legitimate, we needed to continue to find ways to break through to ‘see’ our students.
4. The amount of screen time balance for students was elusive.

5. Additional security measures taken to block social media sites and to help parents monitor their children's activities on school issued Chromebooks was a great assistance for families.

Holiday Fun

Stuff the Bus November 16-20 we held a district-wide food drive to help local families in need. All 3 buildings used distance protocols to keep everyone safe.

Final tally of the official weigh-ins for Stuff the Bus - The HS split their donations between the MS and the ES. The ES bus weighed in at 840 lbs. The MS bus however, weighed in at a whopping **1,520 lbs!!!**

Schoolwide Kahoot! Our homeroom teachers ran a fun Kahoot game in class right before Thanksgiving, and the winners from each homeroom were able to participate in a school-wide Kahoot, run by Mr Thiessen. **Congratulations to Delan Fant** from Mr Manning's homeroom! She earned points for her superteam and received her favorite snack from Mrs Landerholm. Here's all of the students who earned their way to participate:

Red Super Team - Alex Glaze Mattea Burkey, Logan Smith

Yellow Super Team - Serena Davidson, Alieria Rodda, Norah Mahl, Sharp Young

Green Super Team - Emma Perkins, Hadley Lohman, Gabriel Denon, Kennan Johnson

Purple Super Team - Aleksei Chygasov, Caiden Pelcha, Olivia West, Natalie Koistinen

Blue Super Team - Delan Fant, Jadyn Garbarino

Spirit Days in Distance Learning The week before winter break our ASB set up spirit days for students to have fun and earn points for their homeroom superteams. Our days were:

Merry Monday

Tie-Dye Tuesday

Wacky Wednesday (crazy hair or outfits)

Tired T(h)ursday (pajamas)

Festive Friday

LCMS ASB elected representatives for the 2020-2021 school year were:

8th Grade

Allison Anstine

Tristin Fuller

Aristyn Wiseman

7th Grade

Sonja Austad

Bella D'Emilio
Jaydin Talbott

6th Grade

Declan Bailey
Haley Buffon
Hannah Zylstra

Semester 1 Academic Stats

1st Semester Honor Roll

We had 162 students achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for the first semester, which meant each of these students made the honor roll. Of the 162 students, 68 earned a perfect 4.0 GPA. Congratulations to each student for their outstanding work and dedication to their studies during the distance learning environment.

1st Semester GPA Improvement

We had 15 students improve their first semester grade point average this year by .9 or higher when compared to the first semester of last school year. Ten of those students improved their GPA by 1 point or higher, and our highest improvement goes to 7th grader Kennon Johnson, who improved his GPA by 2.483 points! We are very proud of all of these students and the growth they demonstrated academically.

First Semester Promotion Standards

6th grade: 11/118 or 9.3% did not meet the promotion standards

7th grade: 9/131 or 6.9% did not meet the promotion standards

8th grade: 11/129 or 8.5% did not meet the promotion standards

Total: 31/378 or 8.0% of our students in middle school did not meet the standards

Digging a bit deeper:

When the 31 students who didn't meet the standards are disaggregated by those with and those without an IEP or 504 plan, we see the following:

22/300 students or 7.3% of students **without** an IEP or 504 plan didn't meet the standards.

9/78 students or 11.5% of students **with** an IEP or 504 plan didn't meet the standards. Breaking this down further, we find that 4/24 students or 16.7% of students with a 504 plan did not meet the standards.

Historical perspective:

In the 2018-19 school year 3.6% of students didn't meet the standards.

In the 2019-20 school year 17.4% of the students didn't meet the standards (Covid Impact).

In the 2020-21 first semester 8.0% of the students didn't meet the standards

Hybrid turning to Full Time Students

- 2/18 6th grade only Group A

- 2/19 6th grade only Group B
- 2/22 6-8 grades Group A
- 2/23 6-8 grades Group B

Middle School Sports

With the return of school sports, we had the following registration numbers. Students were very excited to be able to participate in their favorite activities again.

Cross Country - 22

Volleyball - 26

Football - 28

Boys Golf - 6

Silver Linings of the hybrid learning environment

- Delayed state testing until next fall
- Students received a lot more teacher attention in classes
- Fifteen students per classroom allowed more interactions for all students
- No student locker use has been a positive change. Backpacks are totally fine.
- The majority of students did an excellent job wearing their masks properly

Although the hybrid learning environment isn't the ideal way to move forward, there were some positive outcomes involved. Students and teachers are resilient, and both demonstrated incredible flexibility and perseverance throughout this school year.

Monday April 26th - All Students Return Full Time Each class was laid out to distance students from one another. Everyone, including students, did their best to make it work. It was an adjustment from hybrid learning, but I think we were on the right track.

Doernbecher Fundraiser Finale: La Center Middle School Leadership and Doernbecher Children's Hospital would like to give all participants in the Doernbecher fundraiser a huge THANK YOU! We exceeded our goal!

Red Team: \$640.00

Yellow Team: \$1,995.00

Green Team: \$1,350.00

Blue Team: \$1,010.00

Purple Team: \$500.00

TOTAL RAISED: \$5,495

Study Hall Resumes We were able to offer study hall to students beginning in May. This ran Monday through Thursday from 3-4 p.m., and multiple teachers worked with the students. We were also able to offer the 4:00 extended learning bus for those students who needed a ride home.

Looking Forward

Preparing for 2021-2022

Our counselors visited 8th grade classrooms to share high school graduation requirements and answer questions from the students. Eighth grade students forecasted their high school classes towards the end of April, and our 5th-7th grade students did the same for their elective choices for next year. Our special education teams met as well to share individual student information for the needs of each student as they transition to another building.

End of the Year Awards

6th grade Student of the Year

Hannah Zylstra

Lance Cooke

7th grade Student of the Year

Laney Fant

Conner McCarty

8th grade Student of the Year

McKenzie Horlacher

Josiah Davis

Staff Award

Aristyn Wiseman

Max Cooke

Duane Hamlin Award Choir

Madelynn Robinson

Duane Hamlin Award Band

Caden (Jon) Taylor

Caleb Zylstra

Principal's Award

Madelynn Robinson

Lucas Sicilia

8th Grade Reps for 2021-2022

Lucas Reich

Seth Sanders

Peyton Winston

7th Grade Reps for 2021-2022

Declan Bailey
Vanessa Brown
Hannah Zylstra

9th Grade Election Results for 2021-22

President - Aristyn Wiseman

V.P. - Tristin Fuller

Secretary - Isabella Higgins

Treasurer - Mekenzie Schockelt

20/21 Staff

Mr. Holmes	Superintendent
Mrs. Landerholm	Principal
Mr. Cooke	Athletic Director
Mrs. Wilson	Head Secretary
Mrs. Cosmi	Attendance/Athletic Secretary
Mrs. Austad	Math 6/7/8
Mr. Dan Bentson	Director of Technology
Mrs. Bocchi	Paraeducator
Mrs. Brightbill	Lang Arts/History 6/PE 6
Mrs. Brothers	Science 8/ Exploratory 6
Mr. Brothers	History 7
Mrs. Brown	Custodian
Mr. Cameron	Band
Mrs. Rolph	Library Technician
Mrs. Bailey	Paraeducator
Mrs. Clegg	Psychologist
Mrs. Cooke	Librarian
Mrs. Cripe	Science 7
Mr. Ecklund	PE /Health
Mrs. Edwards	Paraeducator/OT
Mrs. Flatt	ELL Instructor
Mrs. Gedenberg	Paraeducator
Mr. Grotte	Math 7
Mrs. Hantho	Cafeteria Cashier
Mrs. Hollopeter	Language Arts
Mrs. Holmes	Math/Technology
Ms. Knight	Aide
Mrs. Lewis	Art
Mr. Manning	Language Arts/Acd. Prep
Ms. Mayfield	Custodian
Mr. Millay	Resource Room
Mrs. McBride	Resource Room
Mrs. Munger	Paraeducator
Ms. Ott	Lang Arts 7/8, Leadership
Mrs. Phillips	K-8 Lead Cook
Mr. Pritchett	History 7/8
Mrs. Schneider	Sci.8, Electronics/Robotics
Mr. Holmes	Math 7/8

Ms. Slinkard	Choir/Drama
Mr. Thiessen	Counselor
Mr. Totten	Science 6
Mr. Westerberg	SS 6 / Art
Mrs. Welchel	Lang Arts 6/Drawing
Mr. Wilfong	SLC