

La Center
Elementary School



Annual Report
2023-2024

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of La Center Elementary
is to empower every student to become a successful
lifelong learner in a changing world.

OUR SCHOOL

The school serves as a hub for the La Center community. The facilities are used from early morning until late at night for student instruction and community events and activities.

The elementary school shares the 17-acre campus with the maintenance shops. The original school was constructed in 1938. Our round building, which houses 5th grade, was constructed in 1968. Remodeling of all elementary buildings was completed in the fall of 2004. In 2022, the “old middle school building” was refreshed over the summer to get it ready for elementary school students.

La Center Elementary School is a safe and exciting place to learn. Children are the highest priority of all staff members. All work is directed towards meeting the individual needs of our students as whole children. We recognize that no two individuals are the same; therefore, we make every effort to accommodate the unique talents of each student.

Good things are happening at La Center Elementary . . .

“PAWS-ITIVE” COMMUNITY

Our children’s success is dependent on many factors. While our academic successes are critical, there are basic strengths that can have a positive impact on our student’s academic success and enhance their lives. It is our hope that supporting our students with a monthly theme will have a positive effect on their lives, help them academically, and support them in our learning efforts.

Monthly Character Traits

September: Respect – Seeing the good in people and things and treating them with care

October: Responsibility – To take action and understand how our choices affect others, ourselves, and to the world

November: Gratitude – Choosing to notice and appreciate things in our life, things in others, and things in the world

December: Empathy – The ability to understand and connect to the feelings of another

January: Perseverance – The ability to work through situations even when there are obstacles or challenges in the way

February: Honesty – Living truthfully in your words and actions and thoughts

March: Cooperation – Working together and helping others

April: Courage – To choose what is good, right, and kind, even when it’s hard or scary

May: Creativity – Using your imagination to create something or solve a problem

June: Kindness – 2 week Kindness Closure

Spirit Days

Students that are observed doing acts of respect towards others are given a coin to put into the Bobcat coin bucket in the cafeteria. Students can view the coin level in the bucket. Once the token level reaches the top of the bucket, students are rewarded with a school spirit day. Students earned themed celebrations such as Pajama Day, Crazy Hair Day, Sports Day and Favorite Book Character Day.

PurposeFull People

Our PurposeFull People curriculum is at the center of everything we do in La Center Elementary. Teachers use common language to teach and reinforce positive character traits needed to succeed in school. Lessons offer strategies for helping students focus, improve self-regulation, manage stress and have a positive mind-set. These lessons are reinforced through classroom “Bobcat Connection” morning meetings and daily messages from the school’s principals.

Bobcat Motto

As a Bobcat Learner, I show respect to myself, others and things.

Bobcat Den (Resolution Room)

The resolution room is designed to give students a quiet and comfortable location for conflict resolution.

Kindy Cub Nights

Our kindergarten team planned two evenings in the spring to help prepare next year’s kindergarten students and their parents for school. The evenings were spent working on activities that include using fine and major motor skills, and learning alphabet letter basics. Bobcat cubs were able to receive their own school boxes filled with supplies, as well as activities to do at home.

Highly Capable Program

Here in LCES we have math, science and leadership clubs that many of our Highly Capable students gravitate to. Our teachers go through a data-driven process annually to identify new Highly Capable students who would benefit from being placed in a cluster classroom as part of our schoolwide Highly Capable program. Our team meets regularly to collaborate and calibrate efforts and strategies to provide meaningful learning opportunities for this group of students with a few extra learning opportunities outside the classroom for additional challenges and support. As a result, our Highly Capable students participate in STEM, PBL, and other real world based lesson plans whenever applicable to the classroom learning target or unit.

Technology Tools

K-5 students utilize Chromebooks.

Assessments

Schoolwide common assessments utilize curriculum based running records for fluency and reading comprehension skills and STAR (math/ELA). Kindergarten also uses WaKids to help us place and best support our students in their learning.

Bobcat Ambassadors

The Bobcat Ambassador program is designed to introduce 4th and 5th grade students to a school community service and leadership process that will encourage them to pursue student government activities and community service in middle and high school. Two students (one boy, one girl) from each 4th and 5th grade class are selected to be a Bobcat Ambassador for the school year. Students receive training in team building, working collaboratively, respect and diversity.

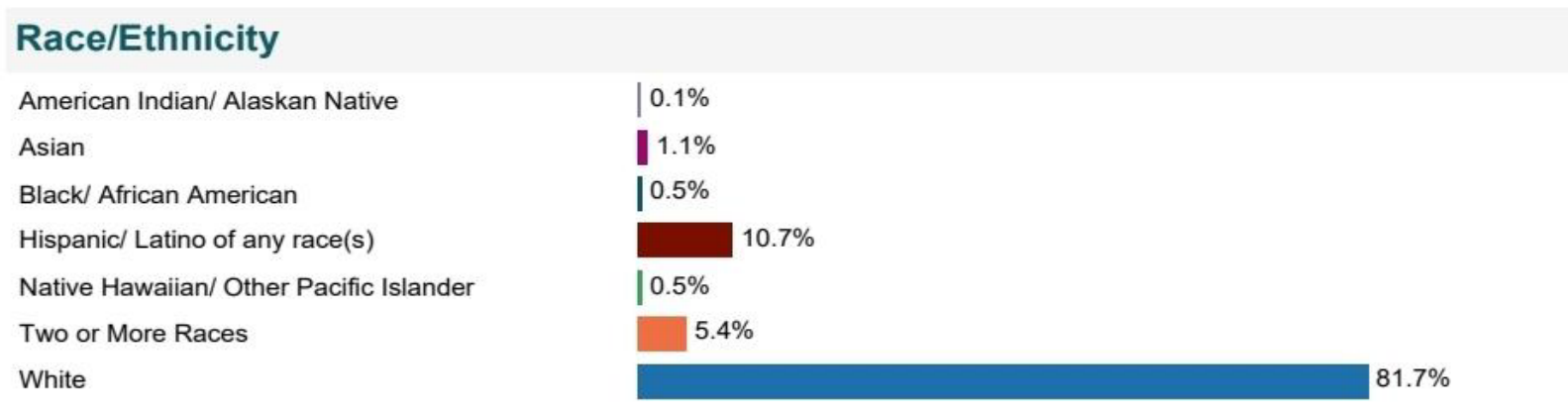
Character Crossroad

Our counseling team worked hard to design and implement Character Crossroad lessons for each classroom. These hour-long events took place once a month in each classroom. Each grade level explored our monthly themes (such as respect) and learned strategies to support themselves and others.

Weekly Art Specialist

Thanks to a full time art teacher, each class had one time each week to explore the amazing world of art. Students painted, weaved, and did printmaking to name just a few activities. A schoolwide art show with hundreds of pieces of art compiled by students gave the community a glimpse of the amazing artistic abilities of LCES students.

Our Students - 821 students were enrolled on October 1, 2023.



Students Showing Foundational Grade Level Knowledge and Skills or Above Spring 2024

ELA 71.5% Math 74.9% Science 88.3%

State Testing

Smarter Balanced Assessment

2021-2022		2022-23		2023-24 (Students on Track for College-level learning w/o needing remediation)	
Math	39.8%	Math	42.8%	Math	43.1%
ELA	47.5%	ELA	45.8%	ELA	45.5%
Science	61.2%	Science	63.1%	Science	66.9%

For additional state results, check out the OSPI Website:

<https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100569>

Literacy

Kindergarten classes utilize Lucy Calkins curriculum in reading. The reading series is rooted in best practices and newest thinking. The series includes state-of-the-art charts and tools, methods for teaching reading, and learning progressions in reading for literature and informational texts.

Grades 1-3 use the Wonders program for literacy. Its intervention program, WonderWorks, is flexible, grounded in research, and provides support designed to accelerate students back to grade level.

Grades 4-5 use the Read Side-By-Side program for literacy. The program exposes all students to longer, more complex texts, using scripted lessons for fiction and non-fiction novels, book clubs and independent reading.

Schoolwide Program

The Schoolwide Program, overseen by a reading specialist assisted by 11 para-educators, continued with much success. The program offers expanded, embedded para-educator support for each classroom, additional supervision of the playground and cafeteria, and an increased connection between students, teachers, para-educators and parents.

The priorities and goals of the program are:

- To achieve 10% growth in behavior, mathematical thinking, and reading skills
- Integrate instruction and standards across the curriculum (for example, Problem Based Learning)
- Differentiate learning to meet the needs of all students
- Build a positive learning environment with a community focus (parent engagement).

Impact on Students:

- One hundred ten students were served in guided reading intervention groups.
- One hundred percent of the students showed growth on their Running Record Assessment.
- We saw an overall increase in self-monitoring and self-correcting.
- Children learned speed was not a determining factor on “good” reading.
- Children looked forward to reading group time, read outside of school more, and showed an increase in an overall enjoyment of reading.
- Kindergarten and first grade students who traced the alphabet books in the beginning of the year were reported to have a better understanding of forming letters.
- The students who had fewer absences and who were part of groups that consistently met had more substantial growth in reading.

Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)

Our PTO is responsible for many events for the students at La Center Elementary. This group of parents and teachers spend countless hours bringing exciting opportunities and programs to our school and community.

La Center Elementary Staff for 2023-24

We have an outstanding, hardworking, group of individuals dedicated to the success of all children. Below is a list of the staff at La Center Elementary School. All of our staff work to find ways to help children become successful. Thank you to our staff for their energy and dedication to our students.

PK-2 Principal	Steve Avery
3-5 Principal	Greg Hall
Elementary Secretary	Jen Ikerd
Assistant Secretary	Joyce Hantho
Office Assistant	Angela Ossenkop
K-2 Counselor	Sierra Thomas
3-5 Counselor	Tami Karchesky
Resolution Room	Susan Shufeldt
Preschool	Teresa Warnke
Transitional Kindergarten	Sheena Davies
Kindergarten	Jennifer Blankenship, Kristen Emerick, Lynette Lindblom, Emily Parman, Erin Peck, Rochelle Stinson, Laura Tomberlin
First Grade	Nancy Buhrmester, Megan Cooper, Lois Englund, Miranda Gray, Rita Persic, Amy Webberley
Second Gr.	Kristina Billington, Megan Bright, Meghan Bridger, Sharlene Charlson, Michelle Cuthbert, Joni Hancock, Jennifer Matanich
Third Grade	Liz Crandall, Nicole Dennis, Tara Eilts, Kat Lentz, Michelle Collins, Shannon Warren
Fourth Grade	Carrie Cablay, Kris McKinney, Teri Schlenz, Haylee Tappan, Elda Hyde
Fifth Grade	McKenzie Braaten, Kate Denney, Jodi Cobabe, Glen Jones, Peter Poppert, Kylie Resch
Special Education	Karen Bachle, Austin Humphrey, Krystle Hinterlang, Wendi Sumner, Kim York
Music	Emily Bevard, Tonya McCord
P.E.	Peter Sloniker, Amy Wise
K-12 Media Specialist	Lynn Cooke
K-2 Library Teacher	Kathy Griffith
Reading Specialist	Sheila Swiderek-Quinones
Library Technician	Susan Cushwa, Angela Oeltjen
ELL	Rachel Gregg
School Nurse	Danielle Rivers
Healthroom Aide	Savannah Kendall, Tracey Stimmel
Speech/Communication Disorder Specialist	Abby Kraayeveld, Joelle Morrison, Sonya Young
School Psychologist	Brian Terletzsky
Paraeducators/Support Aides:	Stefani Amstutz, Kari Anderson, Lisa Dimmick, Cathryn Doty, Nitoshia Fletcher, Danielle Higgins, Jennifer Holbrook, Brady Lewis, Taylor Lien, Lana Luke, Lindsay McIntosh, Laura Ortega Cuevas, Emily Perez, Deena Reed, Janelle Regis, Brittany Rickman, Tammy Russo, Alisha Taylor, Darci Taylor, Telicia Taylor, Amanda Teel, Janeen Vazquez
ASK	Alexa Vermaas, Casi Ward, Shannon Washburn
Kitchen	Linda Dorman, Sarah Scott, Sydney Johnson, Janeen Vazquez
Lunch Clerk/Cashier	Donna Burnett, Christina Suhajda, Sophie Manceau
Custodial	Dana Hantho
Grounds	Londa Brown, Tom Murphy, Chris Thomas, Nick Wanous
	Bill Bauman, Dean Cook, Eric Stenberg, Rob Williamson