



**La Center Middle School
2023-24 Annual Report**

Mission Statement:

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

Our School

La Center Middle School serves students in grades six through eight. Seen as a hub for the community, the facilities are consistently used after school, in the evenings, and on weekends by various local groups and community members.

New Staff

Andy Davis: Part time, 7th grade Math

Molly Lopez: 6th, 7th & 8th grade Health/PE

Grace Robinett: 6th & 7th grade Math

Danielle Przedwojewski: 7th & 8th grade Science, 6th grade Exploratory

Erin Smelser: 2-1 paraeducator

Budget

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

La Center Middle School State Report Card Summary

- Enrollment - 413
- English Learners - 5.6%
- Low Income - 31.5%
- Highly Capable - 9.7%
- Homeless - 1.9%
- Section 504 - 10.4%
- Students with Disabilities - 14.8%
- Student Performance - State Testing
 - Students on track for college-level learning without needing remedial classes:
 - English Language Arts - 43.6%
 - Math - 34.7%
 - Science - 36.6%
 - Students showing foundational grade level knowledge and skills or above:
 - English Language Arts - 71.5%
 - Math - 64.1%
 - Science - 65.0%

- How engaged are our students
 - 72.7% have regular attendance*
 - 50.0% have high ELA growth
 - 54.0% have high Math growth
- About our teachers and classrooms
 - Number of teachers - 29
 - 70.4% have a Master's Degree or higher
 - 17.5 average years of experience*

 - 28.4 Student to teacher ratio*
 - 20.7 Average class size*

**2022-2023 school year*

[Statistics from OSPI Report Card, La Center Middle School](#)

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2023-2024

| <u>Student Group</u> | <u>Student Group Type</u> | <u>% of Students</u> |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Female | Gender | 49.2% |
| Male | Gender | 50.6% |
| Gender X | Gender | 0.2% |
| American Indian/ Alaskan Native | Race | 0% |
| Asian | Race | 1.2% |
| Black/ African American | Race | 0.5% |
| Hispanic/ Latino of any race(s) | Race | 11.9% |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | Race | 0.2% |
| Two or More Races | Race | 4.4% |
| White | Race | 81.8% |

* from enrollment summary OSPI

23/24 Middle School Staff

| | | | |
|------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Peter Rosenkranz | Superintendent | Seth Holmes | STEM/ Racquet Sports |
| Lauri Landerholm | Principal | Karlene Kitchell | Paraeducator |
| Dave McIntosh | Asst. Principal | Malia Lee | Language Arts 7 |
| Matt Cooke | Athletic Director | Molly Lopez | Health 6/7/8 |
| Nicole Andrell | Dir. of Technology | Nicole Mayfield | Custodian |
| Rochelle Wilson | Head Secretary | DJ Millay | Resource Room |
| Sara Cosmi | Asst. Secretary | Donna McBride | Resource Room |
| Socorro Larkin | Office Clerk | Abby Kraayeveld | SLP |
| Andrea Austad | Math 7/8 | Joyce Munger | Paraeducator |
| Roxanne Bocchi | Paraeducator | Meredith Ott | Lang Arts 8/ Leadership/ Drama2 |
| Tammy Brightbill | Lang Arts 6/ History 6/ Exploratory 6 | Lucero Ponce | Custodian |
| Todd Brothers | History 7 | Danielle Przedwojewski | Science 8/ Science 7/Exploratory 6 |
| Alison Brown | Paraeducator | Grace Robinett | 6/7 Math |
| James Cameron | Band | Maria Rolph | Library Tech |
| Rhonda Catchpole | Choir/Drama | Stacey Roy | History 8 |
| Sara Clegg | Psychologist | Kristy Schneider | Sci.8/ STEM |
| Alex Combs | ELL Paraeducator | Erin Smelser | Paraeducator |
| Lynn Cooke | Librarian | Crystal Shealy | Cafeteria |
| Laura Cuevas | Paraeducator | Diane Suomi | Paraeducator |
| Jeremy Ecklund | PE/Health Outdoor Ed | Daniel Thiessen | Counselor |
| Lacy Foley | Paraeducator | Angela Thompson | Art |
| Mattie Garduque | Custodian | Mark Totten | Science 6 |
| Emily Gedenberg | Paraeducator | Megan Volkman | Science 7 |
| Jason Grotte | Math 6/7 | Warren Westerberg | History 6 / Art |
| Mindy Grove | Cafeteria | Shae Whelchel | Lang Arts 6/Drawing |
| Kim Hollopeter | Lang. Arts 8/ Pop Lit/ Yearbook | Nathan Wilfong | SLC |
| | | Jessica Wirkkala | Cafeteria |

MS Highlights from Each Month

September 2023 Theme: Flexibility

August Teacher Back to School - A lot of professional development (PD) opportunities were offered to our teachers and administrators during the summer months. Many teachers chose to participate in book studies, EdTech training, math and reading training, and lesson engagement and design training, just to name a few. During the back to school work days, teachers were able to dive deeper into such things as Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), Restorative Practices, Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), and Teacher Collective Efficacy.

Open House Tuesday, August 29, 2023 from 1-3 - Families and students were able to come and explore the middle school, get their schedules, and walk their classes. Overall it was a pretty good turnout.

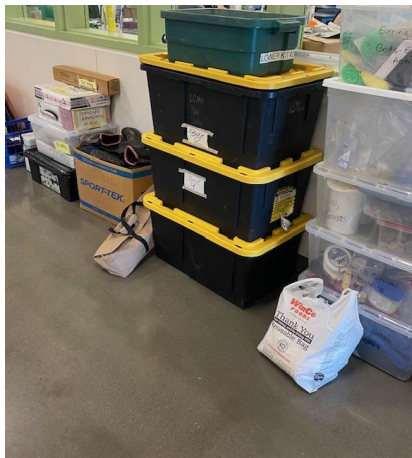
First Day Activities - The first day of school was filled with a lot of positive energy. Students were excited to see their friends and teachers, and teachers were excited to see students back in the building. We were able to welcome in our incoming 6th grade class as they embark on their middle school journey, along with our new and returning 7th and 8th grade students. The morning started off with an all-school assembly where teachers introduced themselves in unique ways based on their hallway location in the building. Students then got to participate in their homeroom groups, team building activities, and were also able to do a mock run through of their classes later in the day.

1st Day Assembly





CISPUS - This year, CISPUS was during the week of September 18-22. The staff worked hard on planning an exciting week of learning and activities for our 6th grade students. Below are just some of the tubs and boxes of materials in our hallway that the staff take with them.



The 6th grade students reported that they had a great time at Cispus. We had 119 attend this year, with students reporting that they enjoyed such activities as the challenge course, the long hike up the mountain, and especially staying overnight in the cabins.



MLL Professional Development - On September 6, during our weekly Wednesday 1-hour late start, our teachers were able to have the high school teachers and administrators join us at the middle school for a presentation by Katelynn Brown. Katelynn presented the staff with a framework on how to best support our multi-language learners (MLL). As we continue our development on how to best serve our MLL students, we look forward to continuing our work with Katelynn this year. This work will help us not only better support MLL students, but all students through a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) lens.

International Dot Day - On Friday, September 15, the middle school celebrated International Dot Day, which was a day to celebrate creativity, collaboration, and making connections. Led by our Art Teacher, Angie Thompson, some students decorated dots that were hung up in the hallway, while many other students and staff came dressed with dots on their clothes...or on their faces.



Fall Sports - Football, volleyball, boys golf, and boys and girls cross country began. We currently had 98 middle school students participate in fall sports this year. Here is the breakdown:

- Football - 36
- Volleyball - 35
- Cross Country - 25
- Boys Golf - 2

Spring Semester 2023 Honor Roll - At the end of our spring semester last June, 158 students made the Honor Roll, of which 31 had a perfect 4.0 gpa. Eleven

students improved their spring semester gpa from their fall semester by .75 points or better. All students received a certificate at our End of the Year Assembly.

October 2023
Theme: Commitment

AWSL Fall Leadership Day - Our student leadership class attended the AWSL (Association of Washington School Leaders) Fall Leadership Day at Shahala Middle School in Vancouver on September 29. This regional day-long workshop is designed to equip students with skills and ideas to understand their futures and lead in their schools. Students can contribute to planning for their future, creating a culture, ensuring school safety, and engaging the school community by working with school staff and each other.

Fall Assembly - We held our fall assembly on Friday, October 6, and fun was had by all. This assembly was planned and run by Ms. Ott's leadership class and included musical pieces from our middle school band conducted by Mr. Cameron and the Star Spangled Banner sung by our choir under the direction of Mrs. Catchpole. Some activities that students participated in were the balloon pop, a mummy wrap challenge, a wiffle ball basket toss, and some dancing. The staff even got involved in a pick-up-the-plate game that ended up getting really competitive among the adults.



Fall Sports Ending/Winter Sports Beginning - As Fall sports wrapped-up several student-athletes began transitioning to winter sports. Of note, the 7th

grade boys football team finished the season 5-1, which was the best record in the league. The 8th grade volleyball team also had a great season finishing 7-2. The girls cross country team finished in 1st place at the District Middle School League Championship Meet on October 11.

6th Grade ASB Election - We had 13 students participate in the 6th grade ASB election this year. On Monday, October 9, the students stood in front of their peers in the gym and gave speeches as to why they would be a good candidate to represent the 6th grade class. Brielle Budai, Aubrey Denon, and Lyla Roy represented their class this year.

November 2023
Theme: Patience

Veterans Day Assembly - On November 9, the middle school held the annual Veterans Day Assembly. Many community members joined the middle school students to celebrate those that currently serve, and have served, in the armed forces. Mr. Cameron's band and Mrs. Catchpole's choir did a tremendous job performing such pieces as the *National Anthem*, *Blowin' in the Wind*, the *Armed Forces Service Song Medley*, and *Liberty Bell March*. The local boy scouts presented the flags while students Hannah Becker and London Worthington led the event. Mrs. Roy oversaw the assembly and did a tremendous job organizing it for the students and the community.



Fall Sports Champions - The 7th grade boys football team earned a late season victory over Coweeman to be crowned the 2023 League Champions. The team finished with a 5-1 overall record and the trophy pictured below was later presented to the team. The girls cross country team also became Trico League Champions in addition to their District Championship noted in last month's board report. At the Trico League Championship, London Worthington picked up another win while Chloe Daruud placed 4th, Ona Collins 9th, and Evalyn Barnes finished in 10th place overall. Congratulations to all of our fall middle school sports student-athletes.



Winter Sports - The girls basketball program had 36 girls playing, which allowed us to have an 8th grade team, a 7th grade team, and a blended 7th/8th grade team. Boys and girls wrestling also had 36 student-athletes participating this year. Games and matches began the week of November 6 and conclude in mid-December.



**December 2023
Theme: Humility**

Stuff the Bus - The middle school Stuff the Bus event during mid-November was another success. Mrs. Landerholm drove the bus to FISH in Vancouver stocked with 1,236 pounds of food. FISH is a food pantry based in west Vancouver that "provides nutritionally-balanced food without charge to anyone declaring their

need.”



Science at Work - Mrs. Schneider’s and Ms. Przedwojewski’s 8th grade Science classes spent part of a day outside to test water quality and identify macroinvertebrates in the water that lies in the wetlands to the west of the building. Students tested the temperature and pH of the water, as well as used water samples and charts to identify the different living organisms that reside in it.



Staff Spotlight - It is important to recognize the incredible work that our staff does while working with students and families to improve student learning. At the middle school, I think we all agree that we are fortunate and thankful to work with one another. Anyone who works in education understands that the office staff organizes and keeps everything running smoothly in a building. We are extremely grateful to have Socorro, Sara, and Rochelle as the heartbeat of our team!



Winter Wonderland Social - On Friday, December 8, many students attended the Winter Wonderland Social held in several areas of the middle school. There was dancing in the commons, ping pong and basketball in the small gym, an area to

take pictures with 2 different backgrounds, a board game room, and a room showing the movie *The Polar Express*. Many different opportunities made for an inclusive experience for all that attended.

Winter Sports - The first session of middle school winter sports came to an end with the conclusion of girls basketball on December 11. The 7th grade team finished with a 9-1 record. The wrestling team concluded their season on December 9 at the league tournament held at Mark Morris High School. Of the 25 La Center wrestlers that participated in the tournament, 19 placed in the top 5. La Center had 10 finalists with 7 individuals taking home league championships for their weight classes.



Winter Concerts - The middle school band and choir winter concerts were held on December 12 and 13.





January 2024
Theme: Selflessness

Winter Assembly - The middle school ended 2023 with a winter pep assembly as we headed into break. The assembly concluded with an intense battle among the teachers of musical chairs that was eventually won by our long-term substitute teacher, Mikaela Williams.



February 2024
Character Theme: Kindness

New Semester, New Teacher, New Class - The second semester began on January 29, and with it came some exciting new additions to the middle school. Mr. Andy Davis joined the middle school staff as a part-time 7th grade math teacher. The addition of Mr. Davis helped to decrease 7th grade math class sizes and allow for more small group and individualized support for our students. Mrs. Angie Thompson moved to the middle school full-time. Prior to this semester, she was splitting her time between the middle school and high school. With Mrs. Thompson here full-time, an advanced art class was able to be added to the schedule for students to take.

Honor Band Representation - Members of the middle school honor band had the opportunity to participate in a couple events held in Clark County. The weekend after the ice storm on January 20th, Aimee England, Kai Davis, Benny Jaimes, and Jace Pash were able to attend the LCRMEA Middle School Honor Band at Union High School. On February 2nd and 3rd, Jace Pash and Benny Jaimes, represented La Center Middle School at the North County Honor Band where they got to play under Jeff Wilson from Rex Putnam High School in Milwaukie, Oregon. During the events, Mr. Cameron stated that these individuals represented our school very well.



Middle School Drama - During the month of January, the middle school drama students put on several performances of their play, *Once Upon a Fairy Tale*, under the direction of Ms. Meredith Ott. Each session of the play was well attended by parents, community members, staff and students. Not only does the middle school have talented actors and actresses, but also talented members behind the scenes that do such things as lighting, run the soundboard, and set production.



Winner Winner - Mrs. Megan Volkman entered a contest through the Battle Ground Weather Facebook page and received the most votes to win a \$1,000 weather station. Mrs. Volkman intends to use it in her classroom to share La Center's most up-to-date and accurate weather information and data with her students. Congratulations to Mrs. Volkman!



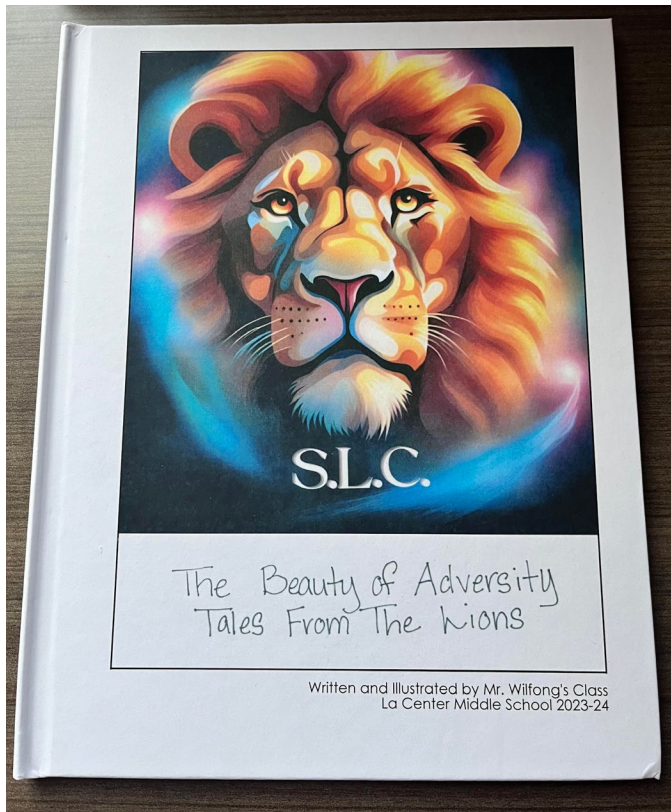
ASB Valentine Fundraiser - This year the middle school ASB team decided to switch up their Valentine's Day fundraiser. In the past, students could purchase Orange Crush or Root Beer soda for themselves or for others. This year, the ASB students sold candy hearts and bear keychains for their annual fundraiser. Over 350 items were sold, with students purchasing 208 candy hearts and 145 bear keychains.

Boys Basketball - The Boys Basketball program had 36 players making up 3 full teams, which consisted of an 8th grade team, 7th grade team, and a 7th/8th blended team. The 7th grade boys basketball team got off to a great start, posting a 4-0 record at the beginning of the season.



March 2024
Theme: Respect

SLC Classroom Publishes a Book - Our structured learning classroom (SLC), led by Mr. Wilfong, had a book published through Studenttreasures Publishing titled *The Beauty of Adversity: Tales from the Lions*. Students and staff from the classroom wrote personal stories aimed to inspire others, favorite motivational quotes, and different strategies to overcome some of life's challenges.



Achieving Students:

The middle school was able to honor several students that excelled in the classroom. For 1st semester, we had 37 students receive a 4.0 GPA, 155 students received a 3.50-3.99 GPA, and 36 students improved their GPA 0.5 points between the 22-23 spring semester and the 23-24 fall semester.



Successful Week for Band - The week of March 11 was a busy week for middle school and high school band students, along with Mr. Cameron. On Tuesday, March 12, all of the middle school and high school bands performed in a concert at the middle school. Then on Thursday, the Intermediate Band went to Camas to perform at the Garver Theater for the LCRMEA Intermediate Band Festival. The following day, the La Center Jazz Band, which includes several middle school students, traveled to Oregon City for the Clackamas Community College Jazz Festival where they placed 3rd place in their division. Benjamin Jaimes also received a soloist award at the festival. Finally, on Saturday, March 16, the jazz band headed to Tacoma for the Commencement Bay Jazz Festival. This time, the La Center jazz band brought home a 1st place trophy in their division. Again, Benjamin Jaimes was one of the band members to also receive another soloist award. What a week for the La Center bands!



Basketball Season Comes to an End: - Boys basketball came to an end on March 11. With that, the winter season also comes to an end for middle school sports. The 8th grade team and the 7th/8th blended team showed tremendous growth throughout the season. The 7th grade boys basketball team finished with a 9-1 record, losing their final game by 3 points to Cascade Middle School of Longview.



Clark Public Utilities (CPU) Solar Car Challenge - On March 9, Mrs. Schneider took some middle school students to Hudson Bay High School in Vancouver to compete in the CPU Solar Car Challenge. Students were given 5 weeks to build a

solar vehicle from kits provided by CPU. La Center sent 3 teams to the competition, "Team Barbie," "The Estrellas," and "L.A." Ashur Kitzerow and Jack Wooten, who made up Team Barbie, received the judge's award Best of the Show for their creativity and presentation of their design.



Leadership Visits the Elementary - The middle school leadership team has done quite a few service projects so far this school year. They have donated food and supplies to different organizations, but one of the students' favorite activities is to give their time to the elementary students. Below are a couple of pictures of the middle school leadership students playing with the elementary students during recess.



Spring Pep Assembly - Although not quite spring during the event, the middle school held a Spring Pep Assembly on March 15. Many students wore their

superteam colors of red, purple, or green during the day in preparation for the assembly. The choir kicked off the event with the national anthem. Games included a feather relay where students had to blow a feather down the court and keep it off the ground, a hula hoop relay, an obstacle course, and also a ping pong ball bounce competition for the teachers. There was also a video and a short skit to remind students to purchase a yearbook. Students love their pep assemblies!



April 2024
Theme: Honesty

Holocaust Speaker - On March 20, the entire 8th grade class, as well as 7th graders from Ms. Ott's Leadership class, were able to listen to a guest speaker talk about the Holocaust. Karen Treiger shared some experiences that her family members endured during that time period, which included experiences in the internment camps. The students were highly engaged, listening to the stories and watching the slides that were presented, while also asking inquisitive questions at the end of the presentation.



Choir Festival -
school choir atte

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March 26, where they once again received exemplary marks from the adjudicators. It was a great experience for the students to attend a larger school in the heart of Vancouver where they received guidance and critiques from other music professionals in the area.



Judicial Institute for Teachers - Mrs. Roy, our 8th grade history teacher, applied to and was accepted to the summer's Judicial Institute for Teachers. This is a program from the U.S. District Court of Western Washington in collaboration with Seattle University School of Law, for teachers of grades 5-12 held for three days in July. This highly interactive program offers teachers a unique opportunity to hear from federal judges, attorneys, and law enforcement to learn about topics including the U.S. Constitution, federal judiciary, civil rights, federal-state courts, and federal criminal law. Teachers will attend actual proceedings, as well as be questioned in a simulated jury selection process.

Doernbecher Fundraiser - On Friday, April 12, the leadership class began their annual fundraiser to raise money for Doernbecher Children's Hospital with a program called Dollar Wars and Pie in the Face. The middle school held an assembly where students were able to watch video testimony from patients and parents of patients that needed to use the services of the hospital. Many of our own students also stood up when asked to acknowledge that either they themselves or someone they know has benefited from the services of Doernbecher. Students are able to bring in cash to donate to the cause with all proceeds going directly to Doernbecher Children's Hospital. The superteam that brings in the most

money will also receive a \$25 party of their choice. An additional incentive for students to participate was the 5 teachers who were in the running to receive a pie in the face based on which jug had the most money in it. Thank you to Mr. Westerberg, Mrs. Brightbill, Mr. Ecklund, Mrs. Thompson, and Mr. Holmes for being good sports to benefit a great cause!

May 2024
Theme: Forgiveness

Doernbecher and Pie - The middle school raised over \$2000 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital during the annual fundraiser. Part of the incentive to donate was teachers volunteering to possibly receive a pie in the face. The three with the most amount of money donated in their jug would receive a pie. Mr. Ecklund, Mrs. Brightbill, and even Mr. Holmes, who is currently out on paternity leave, were great sports and ended up with the most money in their jugs. Three students were then chosen at an assembly to give the teachers a pie in the face, all for a great cause.



Spring Dance -The end of April was a great time to have the middle school spring dance. The theme of the dance was a tropical theme so many students came dressed in Hawaiian style dresses, shirts, and leis. Some students danced while others played games and socialized.



Math is Cool - Miss Robinett took students from Math is Cool on a trip to Moses Lake for the Math is Cool competition. While they didn't place, the students seemed to enjoy the experience.



Spring Drama 2 Play - The Drama 2 class, led by Ms. Ott, performed "Who Killed the Tax Man" to students, parents, and the public during the week of May 13. The play was comical and well-received by everyone that watched.



June 2024

Middle School Champions - Seventh grade students Mason Rogers and Parker Holst placed 1st in the Underwater Rover competition held at South Kitsap High School. Here they are shown with their 1st place medals:



Middle School Art Show - On June 3, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Westerberg held an Art Show to showcase the creative work that our middle school students have done in their respective classes. We have some very talented artists in the middle school!





Middle School Track Standouts - Our middle school track team had several standouts at the League Championships, which included individual league champions and broken school records. Bostyn Taylor was named the Athlete of the Meet at the League Championships. She also broke the school record twice in the 400m and placed in the 400m, 100m, and long jump. Milly Sullivan won league and broke the school record in the javelin while Chloe Daarud was the league champ in the 1600m. Adrian Whited also placed in all four of his events, which were the 100m, 200m, shot put, and discus.



Honoring our Retirees - On June 14, the middle school staff and friends of our guests of honor held a retirement party for Kristy Schneider and Donna McBride. Kristy served students throughout Clark County for 40 years. Donna taught for 38 years, with the past 6 years being here in La Center. We are greatly appreciative of

their service to all of the students they have worked with over their careers, in particular, our La Center students. They will be greatly missed by our staff. We were fortunate to have them as a part of our team. We wish them the very best in their well-deserved retirements!