

# Northern Heights Elementary School

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome to Northern Heights Elementary. We provide a balanced, engaging and comprehensive education that ensures all students develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and perspectives required for successful citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Vision

The Northern Heights' school community engages all stakeholders in learning through inquiry, critical thinking and authentic problem-solving taught within a safe, nurturing learning environment. All learners participate as active members of a supportive, involved community. Individual contributions and diverse perspectives are recognized and valued. Members of our learning community develop and demonstrate positive personal characteristics, which allow them to productively contribute to a



## Core Beliefs

**All individuals are naturally curious and desire to learn.**

**All individuals have diverse academic and social needs and strengths.**

**Students must be prepared for future independence as learners and contributing members of a global society.**

**Collaboration ensures an engaging and safe environment for all learners.**

**School, family and community partnerships are vital and necessary for success.**

Northern Heights' students believe in:

- **Learning: We show it when we are our best selves as learners.**
- **Following directions.**
- **Being respectful.**
- **Staying on task.**
- **Trying our hardest.**

As students, we believe our teachers help us learn and keep us safe. We believe in education to learn all the things you need to know and get a good job.



## Principal's Message

WENDY BARRETT



It is with such pride and excitement that I share the Northern Heights Elementary School Performance Report this year!

We have an engaged, enthusiastic and committed school community; students, parents and staff who work together to create an inspired home for learning. The many exemplary programs and experiences available to our students reflect the most current, as well as forward-thinking practices in teaching and learning. This year we are especially proud to have earned designation as an International Baccalaureate World School offering the Primary Years Program (IB-PYP).



The IB-PYP engages our students in a rigorous instructional program that develops strong academic, personal and social skills necessary for their

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## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Northern Heights

Bellingham  
School  
District

Oct. 2010 Oct. 2010

#### Student characteristics

Total Enrollment	432	10,919
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#### Class Size Average

Grades K-3	22.6	22.5
Grades 4-5	23.2	25.3

American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1%	1%
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Asian/ Pacific Islander	10%	6%
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Black	5%	3%
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Hispanic	18%	14%
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White	66%	76%
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English Language Learners (ELL)	46	600
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Highly Capable	2	206
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Title I /LAP	0	642
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Special Education	82	1,380
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#### 2010-11 school year

Unexcused absences	0.2%	0.5%
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#### Discipline\*

Suspensions	14
Expulsions	3

\*This data represents the required incidents reported to the state in specific behavioral categories.

Free and Reduced Meals (May 2011)	37%	40%
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Student-to-computer ratio: 4 to 1

#### Expenditure per pupil

In 2009-10, the per student expenditure rate was approximately \$9,310. About 72.3% of the district budget was spent on teaching and teaching support, well above the state average of 69%. Funding sources: 64.3% from state based on enrollment; 21% from local taxes supported by the maintenance and operations levy; 10.4% from federal; and 4.3% from other sources such as donations and investment earnings.

2009-10 is the latest year data is available

# 2010-11 Highlights of Progress

## Learn

- Earned full authorization as an International Baccalaureate World School, offering the Primary Years Program.
- Completed curriculum alignment and fully implemented transdisciplinary units of inquiry across all grade levels (IB-PYP Program of Inquiry.)
- Trained teaching staff in Thinking Maps and Write from the Beginning, programs designed to support higher order thinking, comprehension and writing skill development.
- Fully implemented the Write from the Beginning program schoolwide.
- Provided developmentally-appropriate Spanish language instruction for all students.
- Increased use of technology to support student

## Personalize

- Increased the level of teacher collaboration with focus on curriculum development and assessment within the units of inquiry (IB-PYP-Assessment Policy)
- Designed a structure and process for student self-reflection and use of portfolios to show learning over time (IB-PYP-Assessment Policy)
- Partnered with Western Washington University practicum students to provide direct instruction

reading support for students in grades 1 to 5.

- Provided instructional interventions for struggling students through the services of more than 50 parent and community volunteers.
- Implemented RAZ-KIDS online program to increase reading fluency.
- Trained teachers in Response to Intervention and began to develop a systematic program to monitor student progress and provide intervention/enrichment service to all students.

## Engage

- Continued to increase parent understanding of and involvement with the IB-PYP .
- Partnered with Allied Arts, Bellingham School District and the Northern Heights PTA to provide visual and performing arts experiences for all students, K-5.
- Engaged community organizations (i.e. WWU, Whatcom Community College, Mei Hua School) to provide a variety of multicultural and extended learning experiences for students.
- Hosted visitors from a school, Collegio Miguel De Cervantes, located in Bellingham's sister city of Punta Arenas, Chile.
- Increased use of technology to engage families; new website, logo, SchoolMessenger and Facebook page.

## Northern Heights Programs

- Full-time kindergarten
- Spanish language instruction within the school day
- Additional world language taught through optional fee-based enrichment classes: Mandarin, French, German
- International Pen Pals and Global Connections
- Character Development through IB Attributes & Attitudes
- Back on Track Reading Program
- Intervention/Enrichment Block
- Web-based Learning Support: Ten Mark, RAZ-KIDS, Rosetta Stone
- After School Enrichment opportunities (Wednesday Early Dismissal)
- Allied Arts Visual and Performing Arts Enrichment
- Environmental Education through 5th Grade Mountain School
- Student Leadership Team/Learning Leaders Program
- Community Service & Stewardship
- Fit for Life Club
- Girls on the Run

## NORTHERN HEIGHTS MSP DATA

### Percentage meeting or exceeding standards

	Grade 3			Grade 4			Grade 5		
	School 2011	District 2011	State 2011	School 2011	District 2011	State 2011	School 2011	District 2011	State 2011
Reading	66%	78%	73%	73%	75%	67%	61%	74%	68%
Writing	—	—	—	62%	66%	61%	—	—	—
Math	45%	64%	62%	64%	63%	59%	47%	67%	61%
Science	—	—	—	—	—	—	49%	69%	56%

Washington uses the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP), given to students in grades 3-8, to measure how students in the district and state are progressing in meeting state academic standards.

# Northern Heights Plan to Improve Learning, 2011-12

- Fully implement the new Benchmark Literacy program for reading, K-5
- Further align curriculum and expectations for writing among and between grade levels
- Increase staff understanding and application of inquiry-based transdisciplinary instruction
- Implement a system to ensure ongoing monitoring of student progress across all levels
- Initiate intervention and/or enrichment opportunities for all students
- Improve practices for communicating student progress to include student goal-setting, self-reflection and use of portfolios
- Expand community understanding of and engagement in all aspects of the Primary Years Program

## Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Dear Family,

As part of the “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) legislation of 2001, schools and school districts are considered to be making “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) if they meet targets in various categories, including those listed below. Academic progress in reading and math must be measured for: All Students, American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Special Education, Limited English, and Low Income. Missing the target in many one category causes a school or district not to make “Adequate

Yearly Progress” overall. **Northern Heights made AYP in 15 of its 21 required categories for 2010-11.** Our school did not make AYP in reading proficiency in all, white, special education and low income, and in math proficiency for special education and low income. This is part of our plan to improve learning.

The district made AYP in 61 of its 67 required categories. It did not make AYP at elementary

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## AYP CONTINUED

level for reading proficiency in the categories of all, white, special education and low income. At the middle school level, the district did not make AYP in reading proficiency in the categories of all and low income. At the high school level, the district made AYP in all of its required categories.

Sanctions for not making “Adequate Yearly Progress” affect schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding. For more information about “No Child Left Behind,” visit [http:// www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/](http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/)



## ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS STATUS

AYP Indicators	Northern Heights 2010-11	Elementary Schools in District 2010-11
Sufficient percentage of elementary students who met state testing standard	<b>In Reading NO*</b> <i>*(All, White, Special Education, Low Income)</i> <b>In Math NO*</b> <i>*(Special Education, Low Income)</i>	<b>In Reading NO*</b> <i>(All, White, Special Education, Low Income)</i> <b>In Math YES</b>
At least 95% of elementary students participated in state testing	<b>In Reading YES</b> <b>In Math YES</b>	<b>In Reading YES</b> <b>In Math YES</b>
No more than 1% of students' absences were unexcused	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
Met AYP	<b>Overall NO</b>	<b>Overall NO</b>

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

The annual School Performance Report, required by federal and state law, provides access to information on the educational programs in each school so families and community members can make informed decisions about the schools in their district. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also provides online access to more detailed data required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). District and school report cards can be viewed at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. Select "Bellingham School District" or the name of the school to view further student achievement and demographic information. Printed copies of the reports are available at schools, district offices and the Bellingham Public Library.



Receive phone, e-mail or text notifications by managing your contact preferences.

Go to <http://bellingshamschools.org/schoolmessenger>

### Northern Heights Elementary

4000 Magrath

Bellingham, WA 98226

647-6820

<http://northernheights.bellinghamschools.org>

**Principal:** Wendy Barrett

**Secretary:** Linda Kirschman

**PTA President 2011-12:** Piper Fowler

**Vice President:** Lily Salas

**Secretary:** Kiersten Johnson

**Treasurer:** Robin Mills



## History & Facility Information

Northern Heights Elementary School opened in 2002.

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

future success. Foundation skills are taught and further extended through inquiry-based learning experiences. Our students also learn responsible citizenship and collaborative skills needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. Technology is used for research, as well as to share learning with other children around the world.

We are pleased that all students receive Spanish instruction through classroom lessons and the Rosetta Stone online curriculum. As one of only two IB-PYP schools in Washington, it is both an honor and privilege to have achieved this

major milestone. I am very proud of this accomplishment, as well as the strong, collaborative support from parents and our greater school community!

Northern Heights Elementary is truly a wonderful place to learn, play and work. Whether you are already part of our school community or someone who may be considering Northern Heights as an educational option for your child, I invite you to visit us and share in our excitement for learning. We welcome your participation at any time.



1306 Dupont Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225-3118

Kèm theo đây là giấy tờ bao gồm các chi tiết quan trọng về nhà trường của con em quý vị. Xin đưa những chi tiết này cho người nào đó có thể giải thích cho quý vị hiểu càng sớm càng tốt. Cảm ơn.

Прилагаемый документ содержит важную информацию из школы ваш его ребенка. Пожалуйста, попросите перевести вам эту информацию как можно скорее. Спасибо.

Adjunto se encuentra un documento que contiene información importante de la escuela de su hijo. Por favor solicite que le traduzcan esta información tan pronto como sea posible. Muchas gracias.

ਨੱਥੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਜਿੰਨੀ ਜਲਦੀ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ ਕਰੋ। ਧੰਨਵਾਦ।