



Flagship

A Report to the Community

Fall 2014 www.shorelineschools.org

Learning more about Common Core

The recent Common Core Information Night drew over 120 people to Shoreline Center to hear about the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessments being implemented across much of the country. Inside this issue of *Flagship* is a four-page section on the new learning standards.



Help fill Holiday Baskets for families in need

The Shoreline PTA Council is partnering with other community organizations to provide quality food and gifts to support Shoreline School District families needing assistance this holiday season.

The 2014 Shoreline PTA Council Holiday Baskets Food, Toys & Teen Gifts Drive will run Dec. 1 to 12. Collected foods, toys for children, and gifts for teens will be distributed to families on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Kellogg Middle School.

Other community partners include the Shoreline Fire Department, Hopelink,



Rotary Club of Lake Forest Park, Rotary Club of Shoreline (Lunch), Shoreline Breakfast Rotary, the City of Shoreline and Dale Turner Family YMCA.

Donations of non-perishable food, unwrapped toys for children up to age 9 or gifts for teens ages 10 to 18 may be made at any school in the District or at Shoreline

Center. Monetary donations can be made payable to: Shoreline PTA Council. Note "Holiday Baskets" and designate food, toys or teen gifts and mail to P.O. Box 55832, Shoreline, WA 98155. Donations are tax deductible.

Families needing assistance with holiday food and gifts should register on-line at Eventbrite.com or contact your school nurse or family advocate for registration assistance.

For more information, or to donate using PayPal, go to shorelinepta.com and click on Family Services, then Holiday Baskets.

Shoreline Public Schools
18560 1st Avenue N.E.
Shoreline, WA 98155-2148

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Superintendent's Message: Thank you for the warm welcome to our community

Dear Shoreline Schools Community,

It is hard to believe, as I write my second *Flagship* message, that I have already been in the District five months. During that time, I have been blessed to meet hundreds of community and staff members, tour classrooms, and participate in events in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park.



Rebecca Miner

I am grateful for the gifts of time and insights I have received during meetings with groups and individuals throughout the District as a part of my entry plan. Your willingness to participate and generously convey your thoughts regarding our District has been incredibly valuable to me as I begin my work here. I look forward to developing a report about the information I learned and sharing it in the spring.

Generosity in our community extends beyond what has been shown to me as a new superintendent, however. At the start of the school year, the Back to School Consortium provided more than 1,000 students with supplies, clothing and haircuts as well as other resources. Currently, the Holiday Baskets event is being coordinated to provide food and gifts to families for the holidays.

Throughout the year, hundreds of volunteers serve in our schools in a myriad of capacities, including the popular WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students) program for men or the Power of One program for seniors. We are also grateful to our community partners, which include four area Rotary Clubs and the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation. It has quickly become apparent to me that I am fortunate to have come to a district which values its children to help them be successful.

It is in that supportive community that the District continues its work on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. In this edition of *Flagship*, we have highlighted our District's work in this arena and provided information about its implementation in Shoreline.

District staff members have aligned teaching and student learning to these rigorous standards. I have had the pleasure of touring many classrooms in our District and during those visits, I have seen wonderful examples of our students engaged in activities planned by their teachers.

Our students are citing evidence to explain their thinking, participating in performing or visual arts pursuits, setting fitness goals, creating hypotheses for experiments, and are involved in many other activities to gain knowledge, hone their skills and demonstrate their learning.

More than 120 parents attended a recent informational night about the standards to learn more about this work and gain insight into how to support their students. I would encourage any community members who have questions about Common Core that aren't answered here or on our Web site to reach out to us so that we can provide you with that information.

I wish everyone a restful holiday season and a wonderful start to 2015. I will be reflecting on our supportive and generous community throughout the season with gratitude.

Sincerely,

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

The Shoreline School District is on Facebook and Twitter. You can link to our Facebook page or Twitter feed (@ShorelineSD) directly from the Web at shorelineschools.org.



District hiring substitutes for both teaching and non-teaching positions

Shoreline is hiring for both certificated substitute positions (teaching degree required) and classified substitute positions (no degree required).

Classified substitute positions include playground/lunchroom supervisors, crossing guards, paraeducator (classroom help) and more.

Substituting can be a very flexible part time job, or full time profession. The job offers many benefits, such as:

- ▶ Flexible work hours
- ▶ Certificated substitute pay rate:
\$135-\$145/full-day
- ▶ Classified substitute pay rate:
\$9.32-\$13.85/hr
- ▶ Satisfaction of helping students
- ▶ On the job practice for future teachers
- ▶ Choice of student age group
- ▶ Opportunities for creative expression

For additional information, contact Jackie Sullivan at 206-393-4224 or email jackie.sullivan@shorelineschools.org. To access the online application, visit shorelineschools.org.

COMMON CORE IN SHORELINE SCHOOLS

New learning standards develop college and career readiness for all students

The Common Core State Standards, or “Common Core,” are academic learning goals for grades K-12 in mathematics and English language arts.

Common Core is Washington’s new learning standards in math, reading, communication and writing.

Common Core was conceived by educators and representatives from individual states to identify and develop college- and career-readiness standards for grades K-12.

The standards describe the knowledge and skills in English language arts and mathematics that students will need when they graduate, whatever their choice of college or career.

Over 40 states have adopted these standards, developed by educators nationwide through a process led by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. States are pooling resources and expertise to implement the standards.

Common Core was adopted in Washington state after input from business leaders, teachers, administrators and parents.

The vision of American students fully prepared for their future is consistent with our state’s vision that every Washington public school student will graduate from high school globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st century.

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GREATER EXPECTATIONS



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

MATHEMATICS

New, More Rigorous Academic Expectations

- Solve problems with more time, using a variety of tools
- Demonstrate mastery of complex test items using a variety of answering techniques
- Cite evidence, substantiate answers, and defend conclusions
- Demonstrate technology, writing, and critical thinking skills

English Language Arts

(staircased by grade)

- **Reading Comprehension**
informative and literary text
- **Writing Skills**
including research, and making arguments, explanations, and presentations
- **Speaking and Listening**
including the presentation of increasingly complex information
- **Language Skills**
including vocabulary development and formal English facility

Mathematics

(staircased by grade)

- Counting & Cardinality
- Operations & Algebraic Thinking
- Numbers & Operations (Base 10 and fractions)
- Measurement & Data
- Geometry
- Ratios & Proportional Relationships
- The Number System
- Expressions & Equations
- Functions
- Statistics & Probability

COMMON CORE IN SHORELINE SCHOOLS



Sixth graders in Nicole Mauge's class at Meridian Park Elementary learning to divide by decimals by converting the decimal divider into a whole number.

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The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) standards are a close match to our state's current standards, but strengthen those standards by targeting the skills and knowledge that are most critical for students to know—a reflection of standards in other countries that focus on depth, not breadth.

These measures were then benchmarked against international standards to ensure students have the skills and knowledge needed for success.

Right now, Washington has 25,000 unfilled jobs for highly-skilled workers, and that number is projected to double by 2017.

Each school or district will continue to determine the way in which the Common Core learning standards are taught and have the flexibility to select the teaching materials and resources that best meet the needs of its students.

Shoreline has been preparing for the new standards for the past three years by connecting content and instructional changes brought by the Common Core to new curriculum in English language arts and math.

The introduction of Common Core means significant instructional shifts in Math and English Language Arts (ELA).

In math, this means three major changes:

- ▶ Teachers will concentrate on teaching a more focused set of major math concepts and skills.
- ▶ This will allow students time to master important ideas and skills in a more organized way through the year like a staircase, leading from one grade to the next.
- ▶ The standards call on teachers to use rich and challenging math content and to engage students in solving real-world problems in order to inspire greater interest in mathematics.

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COMMON CORE IN SHORELINE SCHOOLS

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On a recent morning at Meridian Park Elementary, teacher Nicole Mauge was showing her sixth grade class how to divide by decimals. Students were diligent in showing their work, and demonstrating the various ways to solve the problem.

In English Language Arts, students will continue reading and writing, but with emphasis in new areas:

- ▶ In addition to stories and literature, they will read more texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas including science and social studies.
- ▶ They will read challenging texts and be asked more questions that will require them to refer back to what they read.
- ▶ There will also be an increased emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that students can read and understand challenging material.

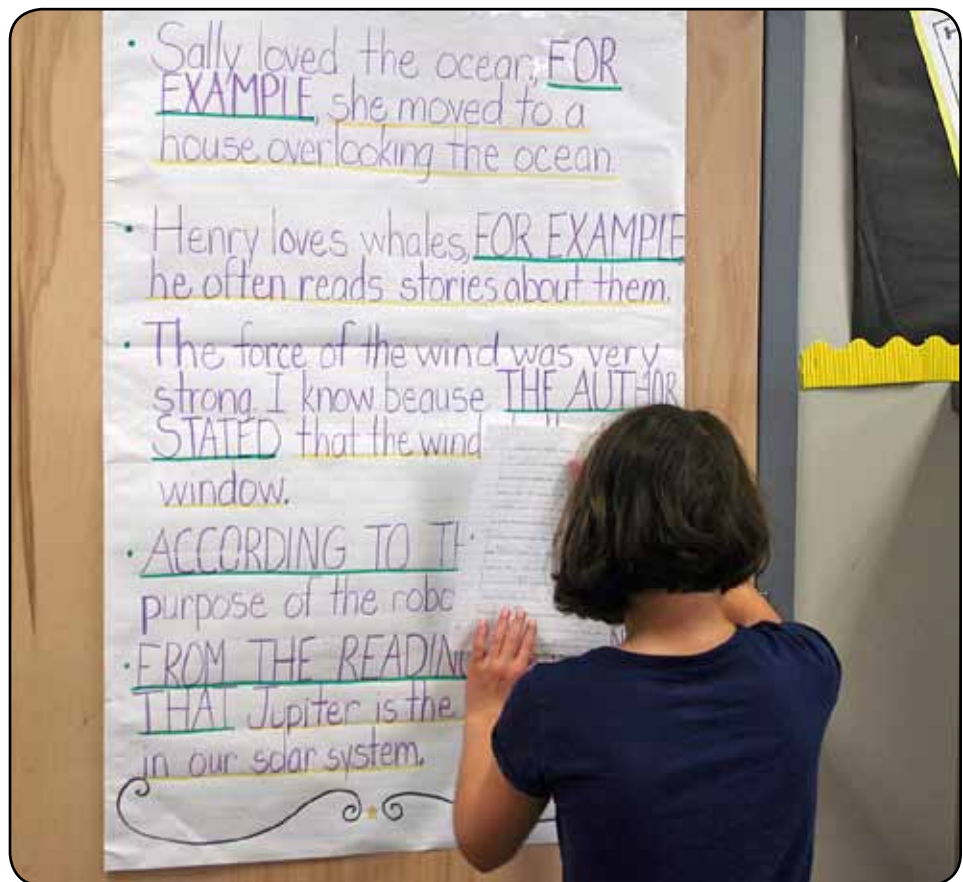
For example, at Brookside Elementary in Lake Forest Park, fifth graders in Mary Telstad's class recently were studying the impact of European exploration on the native cultures of the Americas, specifically Christopher Columbus and the Tainos.

Telstad's students wrote persuasive papers debating the merits of honoring "Indigenous Peoples Day" on Columbus Day and shared them with members of the City Council.

This assignment is in line with Common Core's standards for fifth graders, including integrating information from several texts on the same topic, writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information and drawing evidence from literary or informational texts to support their work.



Brookside teacher Mary Telstad works with a student on his persuasive paper.



A student "reads to the wall" as part of her persuasive writing assignment at Brookside. On the wall is a set of evidence-based terms that students are using as part of the new learning standards.

COMMON CORE IN SHORELINE SCHOOLS

New assessments aligned to Common Core

In Shoreline and across the state, we will replace some of our state tests with new exams aligned to the Common Core in math and English language arts. The new exams are a part of a comprehensive system called Smarter Balanced Assessments.

This system is made up of four components:

- ▶ an online summative test given during the last 12 weeks of school;
- ▶ optional interim tests available throughout the year to see if students are on track to achieve their end-of-year goals;
- ▶ a research-based digital library of professional development materials and instructional tools for teachers; and
- ▶ a secure online reporting system that will show student achievement and progress toward understanding the standards.

Accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners will be built into the system so that the progress of students can be accurately measured.

Improving Teaching and Learning

The Smarter Balanced Assessment System will give parents and students more accurate information about what students are learning.

Smarter Balanced will provide parents, students, and teachers a clearer window on whether students are on track to graduate high school, ready for college and the workplace.

These assessments will include performance tasks that allow students to demonstrate research, writing, and analytical skills.

In addition to a year-end test, teachers will be able to administer



Parents learn about the new assessments at a recent Common Core information night.

interim assessments throughout the school year to monitor student progress and make adjustments to instruction.

Instead of only multiple-choice tests, students will be analyzing and synthesizing information, writing essay responses, and answering in-depth questions to show how much they understand and can use the materials presented in class.

The tests are computer-adaptive, automatically adjusting the difficulty of the questions as the student is taking the test.

In spring 2015, students in grades 3-8 will take the new Smarter Balanced tests in math and English language arts.

High school juniors will take the new Smarter Balanced tests that will measure college- and career-readiness in math and English language arts.

Because Common Core State Standards are more difficult than our former state learning standards, student test scores may initially be lower than what students, parents and teachers have seen in the past. Smarter Balanced tests set a new baseline for student test scores.

Thank you!



Thank you for answering the call and helping the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation raise more than \$30,000 during our Fall Campaign for Kids and Phonathon. These funds support innovative grant projects that touch every student in the district.

Many thanks, also, to our phone volunteers and businesses who supplied in-kind gifts.

If you haven't yet had a chance to contribute, please donate online at www.shorelinefoundation.org.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendar for our Spring Event, the Foundation's annual breakfast and lunch fundraiser, on March 26, 2015.

Growing Great Minds



New Shorecrest dedicated in true Scots style

The new Shorecrest High School campus was dedicated on Sept. 27 as more than 1,500 attended the community celebration.

Photos clockwise from top left: the Shorecrest Highlander Marching Band performed in the school courtyard; the school's first two principals, Erling Holand and Lynn Waller, were honored; the Pipers performed during the dedication program; and ASB President Andre Zamani cut the ribbon opening the new main academic building. (Photos by Larry Gill)



District students outperform peers on state tests

This chart shows Shoreline School District students achieving significantly higher scores across the board than the state average on the spring 2014 state assessment tests, including high school End of Course (EOC) exams. Each

year the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) publishes an online "Report Card" for each school and school district in Washington state. The Report Card lists the results of state testing, student demographics, teacher information and financial data. Look for the link to the OSPI District Report Card on our home page at shorelineschools.org.

Grade	Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding Standard 2013-2014							
	Reading		Writing		Math		Science	
	Shoreline	State	Shoreline	State	Shoreline	State	Shoreline	State
3	82.5	72.0			79.9	63.0		
4	82.8	70.0	67.5	62.1	75.2	60.8		
5	83.2	72.4			72.0	63.5	80.9	66.8
6	85.6	72.7			84.4	63.6		
7	83.1	67.7	79.5	71.1	72.9	57.8		
8	86.6	71.6			71.4	55.9	82.5	67.2
10	89.0	82.8	88.6	85.6				
EOC* - Algebra					75.2	58.4		
EOC* - Geometry					76.5	53.4		
EOC* - Biology							77.5	70.3

*End Of Course exams are taken by students at any grade who have completed this course.

Public invited to attend holiday concerts during December

Dec. 9 • Shorewood High School band concert, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 9 • Syre Elementary and Einstein Middle School choirs greet Holiday Ships arrival at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 10 • Einstein/Shorewood orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m., Shorewood theater.

Dec. 11 • Shorewood choir concert, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 15 • Kellogg Middle School jazz concert, 7 p.m.

Dec. 15 • Combined elementary bands concert, 8 p.m. Third Place Commons. at Lake Forest Park Towne Centre.

Dec. 16 • Shorecrest High School band and orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 17 • Combined elementary orchestras concert, 7:30 p.m., Third Place Commons.

Dec. 18 • Shorecrest choir and orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m.

Ridgecrest honored as School of Distinction for second straight year

Ridgecrest Elementary in Shoreline has received the School of Distinction Award for a second consecutive year in recognition of outstanding improvement in student achievement over the past five years in reading and math.

"We are thrilled to receive this honor again," said Dr. Sue McPeak, Ridgecrest principal. "It validates the collaborative teamwork of our staff, parents and students over the past five years."

For example, 89 percent of Ridgecrest fourth graders met standard in reading in 2013-14, as compared to 74 percent in 2009-10, and 77 percent of third graders met standard in math, compared to 60 percent five years ago.

The 2013 School of Distinction award winners include 99 schools statewide. The awards are presented by The Center for Educational Effectiveness, the Association of Educational Service Districts, the Association of Washington School Principals, Washington Association of School Administrators, and Washington State School Directors' Association.



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Board of Directors:

Mike Jacobs, President
Debi Ehrlichman, Vice President
Dick Nicholson
Dick Potter
David Wilson

Superintendent:

Rebecca Miner

Public Information Officer: Craig Degginger

Shoreline Schools Calendar

For complete listings of District events, subscribe to the online Tandem calendar at shoreline.tandemcal.com

December 2014

1 to 12 • Holiday Baskets food, toys and teen gifts drive; donations may be made at any school in the District or at Shoreline Center

6 • Lake Forest Park Elementary Holiday Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

8 • School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center

22 to Jan. 2 • No School, Winter Break

January 2015

12 and 26 • School Board meetings 7 p.m., Shoreline Center

19 • No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

24 • Shorecrest/Shorewood Hoopalooza at Shorecrest gym, all day

24 • Kinderfest kindergarten information fair, 10 a.m., Shoreline Center

26 • No School, Staff Work Day

February 2015

2 • Kindergarten registration begins for 2015-16

3 • Westside Band Festival, 7:30 p.m., Shorewood gym

9 • School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center

9 • Eastside Band Festival, 7:30 p.m., Shorecrest gym

10 • District Orchestra Festival, 7:30 p.m., Spartan Gym