

# 2009-2010 School Performance Report

## Lowell Elementary School

810 N. 13<sup>th</sup> St. • Tacoma, WA 98403 • 253-571-7200

**Robert Dahl, Principal**

[www.lowelleopards.org](http://www.lowelleopards.org)

### Welcome to Lowell Elementary School

Lowell Elementary School stands as the oldest school in the Tacoma School District, having been founded in 1869 in a log cabin on the corner of North 28th & Starr streets. With this proud heritage, the Lowell community has always had a close and vital relationship with its school. This continues today with a home/school/community connection that is second to none.

Virtually 50 percent of our student body comes from areas other than our immediate neighborhood, making a special and diverse group of children. This diversity creates an opportunity for our boys and girls to experience life as it truly is in our country.

Lowell prides itself in having a skilled, tenured staff of dedicated professionals to work with the whole child. All staff bring to their job some other talent that they readily share with the larger school. In addition, Lowell's staff members stand ready to assist in all programs and activities for the greater good of the school.

Robert D. Dahl,  
Principal

### Mission statement

The mission of Lowell Elementary School is to offer our students, in cooperation with their parents and the community, an education that will provide the initial building blocks for life in the year 2010 and beyond. To accomplish this, the recognized core curriculum will be stressed, complemented by an understanding of the importance of finding solutions to the many global problems of tomorrow's world.



**Creating skills and attitudes for life in the 21st century!**

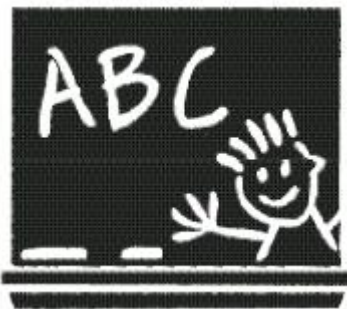
### Working together: Home, school and community

Parents and community members are always welcome at Lowell Elementary School. Whether to visit your child's classroom or to volunteer at the school, the door is always open.

Many adults give of their time on a regular basis or on an as-needed basis. Lowell is complemented by 315 registered volunteers. Such assistance includes in-class/pull-out tutoring or teacher assistance, food distribution during the holidays, library clerical assistance, science fair helper, fundraiser assistance, Art and Ceramics presenters, Garden, Chess, Geography, Student Green Team, Math and Photography clubs, as well as foreign languages, just to name a few. Thank you, volunteers!

Lowell staff members realize that communication between school and home is very important to our students' success. We send out school newsletters monthly and class newsletters on a weekly or monthly basis.

We recognize the value and support of our parents as their child's first and most important teachers and that this partnership between home and school will enhance Lowell's academic program.



## Demographics

### Enrollment (October 2009)

Pre-kindergarten	0
Kindergarten	73
Grade 1	73
Grade 2	78
Grade 3	78
Grade 4	76
Grade 5	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>457</b>

### Ethnicity

African American	37	8.1%
Asian	30	66.6%
American Indian	9	2.0%
Hispanic	22	4.8%
Pacific Islander	1	0.2%
White	358	78.3%

### Staff

Administrators	1
Classroom teachers	18
Educational assistants	3
PE specialist	1
Librarian	.8
Music specialist	1
Head Start	0
Guidance	.5
Nurse	.2
Clerical	2
Custodians	2
Food servers	2
Title I teachers	0
LRC teacher	.6
ESL teacher	0
Playground supervisors	3
Instructional facilitator	0
Reading coach	0
Math coach	0

## Test scores comparison

For 2010 Measurement of Student Progress and 2005-2009 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) results and detailed demographic information about the Tacoma School District and its individual schools, please go to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Web site at [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us), then click on the School Report Card link or go directly to: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.

Measurement of Student Progress and Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores are listed for the last six years along with the state and district averages.

Grade 3	Reading						Mathematics					
	Year	05	06	07	08	09	10	05	06	07	08	09
Lowell	-	71	83	89	89	83	-	74	80	87	87	66
District	-	63	65	64	65	66	-	52	64	61	55	54
State	-	68	71	70	71	72	-	64	69	68	66	62

Grade 4	Reading						Mathematics						Writing					
	Year	05	06	07	08	09	10	05	06	07	08	09	10	05	06	07	08	09
Lowell	92	91	86	83	86	79	73	66	74	67	71	72	87	70	79	83	63	85
District	76	75	70	66	67	61	50	43	46	47	39	45	59	55	54	58	56	56
State	80	81	76	72	74	67	61	59	58	53	52	54	58	60	60	62	60	61

Grade 5	Reading						Mathematics						Science					
	Year	05	06	07	08	09	10	05	06	07	08	09	10	05	06	07	08	09
Lowell	-	88	74	86	87	87	-	64	65	69	76	75	51	49	41	40	52	55
District	-	70	65	69	68	63	-	46	54	51	52	44	25	24	23	30	32	21
State	-	76	72	75	74	70	-	56	59	61	62	54	36	36	36	43	45	34

In the 2009-2010 school year, elementary school teachers continued with implementation of the Enhancing Literacy Instruction program, which provided them best instructional practices for teaching reading during the 90-minute reading block. This was also the fifth year for implementation of the new science curriculum. Work continued in the schools on building strong professional learning communities whereby teachers could engage in conversations with each other about students' achievement and best practices in education. Grade-level and cross-grade-level teaming provide the method for these conversations to happen.

Free/reduced meals (May 2010): 20.8%

Unexcused absences (2009-2010): 0.0%



## About our building and neighborhood

Lowell Elementary School is located in the historical heart of Tacoma and has been an integral part of the area for 130 years. We are within walking distance of the waterfront, local parks, the University of Puget Sound campus and the early pioneer homesteads. For a building constructed in 1950 and added to in 1961, our school is in amazingly good shape. This is due to ongoing major maintenance and general occupant care through the years. Every room is used daily by both grade-level classroom teachers and/or specialists. We do not have the luxury of empty spaces for unique uses or expansion, and this causes some concern, particularly as enrollments vary. From a community standpoint, Lowell is used after-hours by our PTA, the YMCA, outside athletic teams, special classroom instructors, political caucuses, elections and other community-based groups.

## Student achievement

Our standardized test scores at Lowell typically rank within the top five or six schools districtwide. We attribute this to a comprehensive curriculum that matches closely to the material the tests concentrate on. In addition, the whole concept of testing and the importance of doing one's best is stressed. Student achievement likewise is enhanced by the parents of our children. Their participation in their children's education is not only noticeable at school but also in the support they receive at home.

We are very excited about the format of the state testing program and see it as both an opportunity and challenge to gain more reliable and meaningful information regarding a child's performance and true understanding.

## Learning improvement

The primary goal for school improvement this year at Lowell has been literacy. Specifically, all effort has been directed to improve our children's skills in writing and reading, particularly as it relates to meeting the state's essential academic learning requirements (EALRs). Teachers have attended both local and national conferences and have been involved in specially designed workshops at school to accomplish this goal. The added training allows and promotes adjusting instructional strategies to meet diverse learner needs, celebrates and rewards effort and encourages success of students and staff members. We feel confident we will be able to have our children ready to meet these more stringent requirements.

## Other facts to know

Community Service...these words are not taken idly at Lowell. What they mean to each parent and child is a very active food collection program. We begin our collection in September with the opening of school and continue it monthly as the year progresses. Each year, we contribute nearly 10,000 cans of food to the Food Connection.

In recognition of our school's involvement, we have received the St. John's Award from the food bank for outstanding participation. The Lowell community is very proud of this accomplishment, and as parents and teachers, we know that our children are the real winners as they learn how to be involved in service to others.

## Special programs at Lowell

Our school is very pleased to have two special programs. One is our special education class for autistic children. In addition to providing a highly specialized and unique curriculum for these boys and girls, many of the children in the regular classes of our school befriend and work with the children in this class. This results in positive character enhancement for those involved.

The other is our JAWS program, which serves students from grades three to five. The JAWS teacher serves the school three days per week. The goal is to provide enrichment beyond that which is presented in the regular classroom.

Both of these programs have brought special rewards to our school. Other special programs at Lowell are supported and presented by the PTA.

Courses and clubs offered include foreign language classes before school, art/drawing classes and the garden club. These programs provide children with passion, interest and talent in varied areas.



# About Tacoma School District No. 10

The Tacoma School District No. 10 is the third largest district in Washington state. There are nearly 30,000 children in kindergarten through grade 12. Tacoma Public Schools has 37 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, five comprehensive high schools, and seven alternative learning sites. The district encompasses 56 square miles and is located on the southern end of Puget Sound in the shadow of Mount Rainier. As of Oct. 1, 2009, the district had 2,008 teachers, 26 certificated management-level staff members, 88 principals, 1,406 regular classified employees, 55 exempt classified employees, 742 classified non-regular/substitute employees and 520 certificated non-regular/substitute employees.

## 2009-2010 district improvement goals

1. Increase achievement for all students each year by 10%. (Based on the difference between the 2007 WASL scores and 100% of students meeting state standard.)
2. Decrease the gap between underperforming subgroups and the district average performance on the WASL by 10% annually.
3. Decrease the dropout rate by 10% annually.
4. Reduce the number of students not graduating by 10% annually.

## Financial data

### Revenues 2009-2010:

State .....	\$181,436,768	56.4%
Federal .....	\$57,586,354	17.9%
Local taxes .....	\$72,232,664	22.4%
Local non-taxes .....	\$6,831,491	2.1%
Other .....	\$3,795,569	1.2%

**Total revenues budgeted .....\$321,882,846**

### Expenditures 2009-2010:

Teaching activities .....	\$195,536,100	60.5%
Other support activities.....	\$54,738,203	16.8%
Teaching support .....	\$32,154,459	9.9%
Central Administration .....	\$20,776,021	6.4%
Principals' office .....	\$21,018,081	6.4%

**Total expenditures budgeted .....\$362,222,864**

Average per pupil expenditure 2009-2010 .....\$11,990

The information in this report is a requirement of our state's legislature. The Tacoma Public Schools supports this sharing of educational information with the community. If you have questions about district policies or programs, contact the Public Information Office at 253-571-1015.

The Tacoma Public Schools Web site: [www.tacomaschools.org](http://www.tacomaschools.org)



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