

2009-2010 School Performance Report

Henry Foss High School

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Thu Ament, Principal
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Welcome to Foss High School

Henry Foss High School opened in 1973, having been named after Henry Foss, a well-known civil leader and owner of a tugboat company serving the greater Puget Sound. In 1981, Foss became the first school in Washington state to introduce the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program. This is just one of many programs that makes Henry Foss High School unique from other schools in our local region.

Other programs include Math Engineering Science Association (MESA), Higher Education Readiness Opportunities (HERO), College Bound, Upward Bound, Marine Tech Program, Educational Talent Search (ETS) and Air Force JROTC.

It has been a long-standing tradition for Henry Foss High School staff members and students to be noted as the "Foss Family." This title is carried with great pride in educating the young adults within the Pierce County region who decide to attend Henry Foss High School.

Things that you may hear around our school are, "Everyday is a great day at Henry Foss High School," "Green and Gold Heaven," and "FOSS IS BOSS!"

Mission statement:

The mission of Henry Foss High School is to develop dynamic learning opportunities through a caring and safe environment for all.

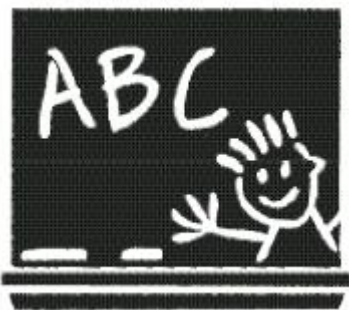
The Henry Foss High School staff members, parents and community join in a partnership to provide each student a challenging educational and physical growth experience that will lead to a productive and successful life.



Working together: Home, school and community

Henry Foss High School extends a warm and hearty welcome to parents and members of the Foss community who would like to become active members of the "Foss Family." For Foss to provide the best education possible, all segments of the Foss community need to be involved. Volunteers are always needed and welcome to assist in activities such as tutoring and mentoring students, providing classroom support, assisting in HSPE testing and chaperoning at student activities. The Foss business community continues to provide financial and volunteer support on a regular basis, as well as fund-raising ideas.

A total of 675 students at Foss have been recipients of an Achiever Scholarship. Each one of the students is required to have a "hometown" mentor. Rene Jones, through the College Success Foundation, is coordinating the effort to match volunteers with each student. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with Foss students and assist them in the exciting process of accessing college. Please contact Rene Jones at 253-571-7464 if you would like to mentor an Achiever Scholar.



Demographics

Enrollment (October 2009)

Grade 9	362
Grade 10	271
Grade 11	256
Grade 12	237
Total	1,126

Ethnicity

African American	347	30.8%
Asian	240	21.3%
American Indian	16	1.4%
Hispanic	113	10.0%
Pacific Islander	17	1.5%
White	393	34.9%

Staff

Administrators	3
Classroom teachers	60
Educational assistants	12
PE specialist	2
Librarian	1
Music specialist	3
Guidance	3
Nurse	1
Clerical	7
Custodians	7
Food servers	7
LRC teacher	5
ESL teacher	1

High school HSPE

Tacoma high schools are committed to assisting all students in meeting High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) standards in reading, math, science and writing. There are many strategies designed to assist students, including the following: Reading 180 and Math Intervention, two classes that assist students functioning below grade level; Promoting Academic Success, a class that provides foundations for student not meeting standards on the high school HSPE; and after-school tutoring for each student who needs more focused assistance.

All ninth-, 10th- and 11th-grade students who failed to meet any of the standards on the HSPE must have a Student Learning Plan. The purpose of a Student Learning Plan is to personalize the student's education and give him/her support to be successful. Also, in an effort to work more closely with parents/guardians, Foss High School has implemented student-led conferences.

Test scores comparison

For more information on test 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, then click on the School Report Card link or go directly to: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores are listed for the last five years along with the state and district averages. In 2010, the WASL was replaced by the HSPE for high school. (The Measurement of Student Progress replaced the WASL for grades 3-8).

Year	Reading						Mathematics						Writing					
	05	06	07	08	09	10	05	06	07	08	09	10	05	06	07	08	09	10
Foss	64	62	77	75	66	68	36	34	41	27	24	25	61	65	76	85	79	79
District	60	64	70	71	73	74	33	32	36	32	31	28	55	66	70	81	81	84
State	73	82	81	81	81	79	48	51	50	49	45	42	65	80	84	86	86	86

Year	Science					
	05	06	07	08	09	10
Foss	22	18	23	27	20	27
District	23	21	24	27	26	32
State	36	35	36	40	39	45

Foss was a school in Step 4 of improvement during the 2009-10 school year.

On-time graduation rate (2008-2009): 77.3%

Extended graduation rate (2008-2009): 84.5%

Annual drop-out rate (2008-2009): 5.7%

Free/reduced price meals (May 2010): 60.6%

About our building and neighborhood

Originally designed on the British open school concept, Foss initially had few permanent walls. As the student population increased and educational philosophies evolved, significant remodeling occurred. Because of the continued support of the Foss community in passing a bond for capital improvements, Foss now has 20 new classrooms, additional science facilities, a weight room and a gymnasium. This construction began in June 2003 and was completed in the fall of 2005. The school, located in the center of an urban area, serves an ethnically diverse population. With its central location and accessibility for people with disabilities, Foss has become a popular location for activities.

Student achievement

Henry Foss High School completed the Bill & Melinda Gates Grant process in 2008. As part of the grant, Foss began a “small school within the school” concept in September 2004 with four academies. All students are assigned to an academy. The Foss academies are academically focused and prepare students to participate in college-level courses, including the International Baccalaureate program and advanced career/technical courses if they choose. Each academy teaches the core requirements within the academy structure (English, history, science, math and foreign language). Students whose educational plans require more advanced courses, other required courses or elective courses may take those courses outside of their academy. Eligible 11th graders were also able to apply for scholarships through the Achiever grant. This grant provided scholarships, averaging \$30,000, to talented, low-income students. Each Achiever Scholar was assigned a mentor at the beginning of his/her junior year. Foss had 675 students receive these scholarships since they were started in 2001. Foss completed the Bill & Melinda Gates Grant process in 2008.

Foss staff members are also working with teachers at the middle-school level to inspire students to set the high expectations that they will attend college and graduate from college. The middle-school focus will be to support the integration of a college awareness component in the regular education curriculum.

Learning improvement

The learning improvement days were spent implementing standards based instruction with Hunt Middle School. Staff focused on teaching and learning and how to provide students with skills to achieve at a higher level. Foss has also completed its accreditation process. Staff identified five major goals (literacy, math, transitions, developing the 13th-year plan and stakeholders). These activities will continue to move Foss staff members and students toward better articulation between content subjects, academic teams and integration of curriculum, interdisciplinary teaching and higher achievement for students. Staff has identified literacy, math and ninth-grade achievement as goals for the Foss Student Learning Plan.

1. Literacy: On the 2008-09 Washington reading assessment for grade 10, 66.4 percent of students met the standard. Our six-year goal for the 2010-2011 reading assessment is that 74.8 percent of the 10th-grade students will meet the standard on the HSPE.
2. Math: On the 2008-09 WASL math assessment, 23.7 percent met the standard. Our six-year goal is that 62.7 percent of our students will meet the standard in math by 2010-11 on the HSPE. Collaboration among school staff, teachers and administration is in the interest of student learning.
3. Our goal is to increase the percent of graduates having the opportunity to attend post-secondary educational institutions.

Special programs at Foss

In 1981, Foss High School became the first school in the state of Washington to introduce the International Baccalaureate Program (IB). The IB program greatly enhanced the academic offerings at Foss. The program is a comprehensive two-year curriculum with an international focus including studies in literature, history, mathematics, advanced sciences, philosophy and an equivalent of five years of a foreign language. Students' studies culminate with a series of essay exams which can earn up to a full year of university credit. IB is unique in requiring a 4,000-word extended essay based on independent research and the Theory of Knowledge course which explores the relationships among various disciplines and engages students in critical thinking.

Foss is proud of the many clubs in which its students can choose to participate. Students are encouraged to stop by the counseling center for more information.

Graduation requirements

Graduation Requirements	Credits
English/Communication Grades 9–12	4
Mathematics Grades 9–12	2
Science/Technology	2
Social Studies	3
Art Education	1
Health/Fitness	2.5
Occupational Education	1
Electives	7.5
Total	23

Only those students who satisfy the established graduation requirements of 23 credits will be allowed to participate in formal graduation ceremonies.

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



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Tacoma School District complies with all federal and state laws and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, or ancestry, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability, age, familial or marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status. This applies to all educational programs and extra-curricular activities. Inquiries regarding the application of the above should be directed to Laurie Taylor, assistant superintendent, Human Resources, telephone 253-571-1252. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX should be directed to Jennifer Kubista, director of Athletics and Activities, telephone 253-571-1123. Inquiries regarding the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (concerning students with disabilities who are not eligible for special education) should be directed to Jennifer Traufler, executive director, Special Education, telephone 253-571-1224. Inquiries regarding accommodations for disabled employees and the public should be directed to Leslie Nohr, Disability Accommodations Office, telephone, 253-571-1021. These individuals may be contacted by mail at P.O. Box 1357, Tacoma, WA 98401-1357.

Tacoma Public Schools
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