

2008-09 School Performance Report

Baker Middle School

8320 S. I St. • Tacoma, WA 98408 • 253.571.5000

Steve Holmes, Principal • Janice Robertson, Assistant Principal

www.tacomaschools.org

Welcome to Baker Middle School

Baker Middle School is truly a community school, located in the historic Fern Hill neighborhood of South Tacoma. Baker has provided an excellent learning environment for students and hosts many community events during the school year. Our students represent many cultures, ethnic backgrounds and traditions. Baker also provides services to deaf/hard-of-hearing and English language learning students from across the district. We celebrate and appreciate the wonderful diversity that we have at Baker Middle School.

This year, we continued our work in Professional Learning Communities (PLC). This process allows additional time during the school year to work in teams to evaluate student work and set learning targets. Additionally, teachers talked about and reinforced best practices in teaching, all the while facilitating Baker's continuing growth in reading, writing and mathematics.

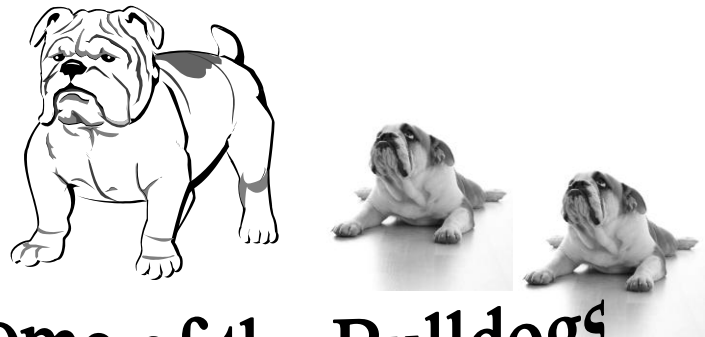
Baker implements instructional and organizational strategies that are designed to provide middle school students with academic and social growth in a safe and caring environment. During the school year, students were assigned to learning teams. Each team consists of core teachers in reading, math, science and social studies. All teachers are responsible for teaching the content of language arts. These teachers will have the same students, allowing them to collaborate, integrate instruction and consult with each other regarding management issues. This teaming organization will allow students and teachers to build solid relationships with one another, creating an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. These approaches help students make real-life connections. Baker students also take physical education and a variety of exploratory classes. Our exploratory class offerings include art, band, orchestra and Korean and Spanish languages. Baker also provides a host of clubs and activities that assist students in their learning opportunities.

Steve Holmes
Principal

Janice Robertson
Assistant Principal

Mission statement

Baker Middle School is a diverse community where high expectations and collaboration foster independent, life-long learners.



Home of the Bulldogs[®]

Working together: Home, school and community

Baker Middle School is striving to increase the involvement of parents and community members in the learning process. It is important for a successful school to involve not only the students but the families as well. Baker has a regular newsletter that goes out to the families twice every quarter with report cards and is posted on TPS Baker Web site. This newsletter contains current events, grade level news, and upcoming events and other useful information. Baker PTSA has regular monthly meetings that all of our families are invited to attend.

To assure that our families remain informed of the progress of their students, Baker sends home progress reports every six weeks. Families are also invited to attend our Bulldog arena conferences, which are scheduled in October and March. Individual conferences may also be set through our counselors to accommodate the variety of schedules our families encounter. Besides our Bulldog Arena Conference, students conduct student led conferences. This is our second year of implementation, which we find beneficial to and within our student lives.

Baker Middle School remains committed to high academic standards and seeks the involvement of the families and members of our community to help us achieve this goal.

We cordially invite you to visit Baker Middle School and become a volunteer. Staff members are proud of our school and the wonderful things that are done to serve the students, parents and community. We are committed to academic success and maintaining the Baker tradition in a safe, caring and supportive school environment.

Demographics

Enrollment

(October 2008)

Grade 6	185
Grade 7	195
Grade 8	207
Total	587

Ethnicity

African-American	138	23.5%
Asian	110	18.7%
American Indian	9	1.5%
Hispanic Pacific	99	16.9%
Islander	21	3.6%
White	210	35.8%

Staff

Administrators	2
Classroom Teachers	35
Educational Assistants	8
PE Specialist	2
Librarian	1
Music Specialist	1
Security	1
Guidance/Counselors	3
Nurse/Nurse Assistant	2
Clerical/Office Assistant	5
Custodians	4
Food Servers	6
Title I teachers	2
LRC teacher	2
ELL teacher	1
Hourly	5
Deaf Ed teacher/assistant	2
Adjustment teacher	1
Interpreters	2
Itinerants	9
Instructional Facilitator	1
SIP Facilitator	1

WASL test scores comparison

For 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, 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 six years along with the state and district averages.

Grade 6	Reading						Mathematics					
	04	05	06	07	08	09	04	05	06	07	08	09
Year												
Baker	-	-	52	48	55	53	-	-	22	38	34	34
District	-	-	55	58	59	63	-	-	33	40	37	39
State	-	-	67	68	69	72	-	-	50	50	49	51

Grade 7	Reading						Mathematics						Writing					
	04	05	06	07	08	09	04	05	06	07	08	09	04	05	06	07	08	09
Year																		
Baker	45	48	43	62	53	44	27	28	18	40	41	32	34	31	49	54	72	69
District	53	58	54	61	58	48	33	35	33	43	41	38	49	48	57	58	65	60
State	60	69	62	69	63	59	46	51	49	54	50	52	58	61	65	68	70	70

Grade 8	Reading						Mathematics						Science					
	04	05	06	07	08	09	04	05	06	07	08	09	04	05	06	07	08	09
Year																		
Baker	-	-	61	51	49	56	-	-	32	24	33	39	22	21	21	20	22	28
District	-	-	61	55	59	62	-	-	35	36	41	38	27	25	28	28	34	37
State	-	-	70	65	66	68	-	-	49	50	52	51	39	36	43	44	48	51



2007-2010

Baker is in its second year of implementing its School Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP has three major strands:

- Providing all students with curriculum that is aligned with state standards, instructional techniques that are research-based best practices and assessments that are designed to identify students who have mastered the content and those who need additional instruction.
- Working together as a staff to make sure that all students receive instruction at the correct level and interventions as they need them, and that staff members have an opportunity to learn from each other's expertise.
- Increasing parent and community involvement in each child's instructional program.

Last year, our primary focus was to refine and further develop the existing plan. This year, our focus has been to work the plan. Teachers have participated in many professional development opportunities to improve instruction, assessment and curriculum. Next year, the focus will be to continue to work the plan and develop systems to continue the plan.

Unexcused absence rate (2007-08): 0.5%

Free/reduced price meals (May 2008): 66.6%

About our building and neighborhood

With continued efforts to update and improve the facilities, Baker Middle School has maintained a clean and serviceable building. Our building was re-painted back to the original school colors of maroon and gold. We upgraded our security by adding more cameras inside. Our courtyard garden is producing delicious vegetables and fruit, along with eye appealing flowers. This task has been taken over by Mrs. Rampp, Mrs. Metcalf and their classes. Another beautified area we call "Walnut Grove" is undergoing a transformation with native, bird-friendly plants transplanted by Mr. Antonio and his science students. Besides Walnut Grove, Mr. Antonio's classes have also built several bird houses and feeders that hang around our campus.

We share Harmon Park with Metro Parks, and it has one baseball diamond, one softball diamond, one basketball court and one tennis court. The responsibility for the care of the park is shared. Baker uses the park for physical education classes, lunch time activities, after-school activities and various sporting events. Two blocks west is the newly remodeled Fern Hill Elementary School, the Fern Hill Public Library, a post office and several small businesses.

Learning improvement

Baker Middle School, in conjunction with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and seven of the other middle schools in the Tacoma School District, has continued its involvement in a program to develop better schools. We examine assessment data to determine the needs of our students and then design and implement methodologies that support students' academic progress. It is our goal to continue to be productive in reading, math and writing instruction.

In addition, Baker has two LAP programs to aid students in developing their reading skills. Using a small group setting, reading teachers work with students to improve their comprehension and other reading skills. Our LAP program has expanded to help students develop their math skills. This year is the fourth year that Baker engaged in the extended-day program. This program was aimed at seventh-grade students to assist them in developing their math and reading skills. Over a period of 10 weeks, more than 100 students participated in this effort.

Special programs at Baker

Foreign Languages: Baker has classes in both Spanish and Korean language. Baker has a sister middle school in Kunsan, Korea, and has promoted a student exchange program with students at our sister school. The Spanish class has practiced their Spanish speaking skills at Mexican restaurants and are encouraged to continue Spanish in high school.

English Language Learners (ELL): Students whose native language is not English and new immigrant students receive special help to learn basic English in the ELL classes. At Baker, we have students from all over the world.

LAP Program: The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) at Baker provides extra support for students in reading and math. Students qualify through district-approved assessments and develop strategies to increase reading comprehension and improved math skills.

Special Education: These programs serve the specialized needs of disabled students in our community. Settings include full inclusion with general education students, resource rooms for students with identified learning problems, adjustment program (self-contained class) for students with severe learning problems and deaf and hard-of-hearing assistance. In addition, services are provided from speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy staff to support students with special needs as outlined in their individual educational plans.

Interscholastic Sports: Sixth, seventh and eighth graders participate in sports that are divided up into four sessions. **Session I:** seventh/eighth grade boys' baseball, seventh/eighth grade girls' softball and sixth/seventh/eighth grade track. **Session II:** Girls' volleyball and boys' soccer for all grade levels.

Session III: Girls' basketball and wrestling for all grade levels. **Session IV:** Boys' basketball and girls' soccer for all grade levels. Student athletes compete against other Tacoma middle schools in six to 10 games a session. Students are required to maintain a "C" grade or better in all classes, a current physical on file, a medical card and an ASB membership.

Club Activities: Hundreds of Baker students participate in computer club, yearbook, ASB, art, guitar class, girl talk, tutoring, Campus Life and other activities that are provided by Baker Middle School and Metro Park/SPARX activities.

College Preparation: HERO & TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) - Early college intervention program assisting students in understanding their educational opportunities and potential. We encourage students to successfully complete middle and high school, and to gain admission to a post-secondary school of their choice. Choosing a career, college, financial aid information and planning, academic advising, homework help, field trips to college campuses and other enriching experiences are provided.

Student achievement

At Baker Middle School, success for all students is our goal. The staff has been working hard to improve student learning and achievement by focusing on specific skills in reading and math. The school improvement process (SIP) has helped teachers to set learning goals and develop strategies that ensure student success. This work is leading to higher achievement for all students.

We measure student achievement in many different ways. Most of these measures are classroom-based and include projects, essays, performances, labs, daily assignments and tests. Another measure is the standardized Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Results from all of these assessments inform instruction and help teachers to evaluate and adapt instructional strategies and goals.



Other facts to know

Baker Middle School promotes good citizenship, a safe school environment and respect for everyone. All Baker students are expected to wear proper school uniforms. In a movement initiated by the parents of Baker students, a uniform consisting of navy blue or black slacks or skirts combined with white polo shirts was adopted. The uniform helps to maintain a work-like and professional environment. The uniform is conservative in nature and enhances the learning environment for our Baker students.

An updated and detailed explanation of the school dress standards can be found in our student handbook, in the main office and on the Tacoma Public Schools Web site.

Students are rewarded for quality citizenship through our schoolwide Honor Level System. Students who follow guidelines, fulfill expectations and treat others with respect are rewarded with special activities on a regular basis. These activities include dances, prize giveaways, field trips, special assemblies, civvies day and public recognition.

About Tacoma School District No. 10

The Tacoma School District No. 10 is the third largest district in Washington state. There are 55 schools serving nearly 30,000 children in kindergarten through grade 12. Tacoma Public Schools has 37 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, five comprehensive high schools, and six 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 July 15, 2009, the district had 2,077 teachers, 27 certificated management-level staff members, 87 principals, 1,453 regular classified employees, 57 exempt classified employees, 340 classified non-regular/substitute employees and 495 certificated non-regular/substitute employees.

2008-09 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 2008-09:

State.....	\$198,646,947	62.8%
Federal	\$37,501,591	11.9%
Local taxes	\$69,537,415	22.0%
Local non-taxes	\$6,922,079	2.2%
Other	\$3,706,252	1.1%

Total revenues budgeted..... \$316,314,284

Expenditures 2008-09:

Teaching activities.....	\$192,683,624	59.8%
Other support activities	\$54,764,192	17.0%
Teaching support	\$32,516,545	10.1%
Central Administration	\$21,225,856	6.6%
Principals' offices	\$21,104,940	6.5%

Total expenditures budgeted \$322,295,157

Average per pupil expenditure 2008-09\$11,960

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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