WHAT MAKES ELK PLAIN SPECIAL

We are a K-7 school (soon to be K-8) with students coming from throughout the district. Our students in all grades receive integrated instruction. Elk Plain students also enjoy 60 minutes a day of specialist time including dance, theatre, music, science, visual arts, and technology.

OUR MISSION

Elk Plain School of Choice is a community of learners, working together to improve student achievement through the arts and sciences.

RAISING STANDARDS

At Elk Plain School of Choice, we work hard to create a culture of reading. As a result, almost all of our students read at or above grade level.

Two activities demonstrate our commitment to reading. In addition to whole-class reading instruction, we place students in small groups for at least 30 minutes four days a week. Certificated teachers lead the small groups, providing individualized reading instruction.

We also have a PTA sponsored program called “Read and Lead.” This is a ten-week, at-home reading program in which students spend 200 minutes a week reading to themselves and to others.

TOP-NOTCH STAFF

EPSOC has 29 classroom teachers, 29 of which teach core academic classes. They average 14.7 years of experience and 72.4 percent have a master’s degree. 97.3 percent of teachers at EPSOC meet the ESEA highly qualified definition.

They are joined with wonderful support staff who have students’ best interest in mind in all that they do.

SCHOOL SUCCESS

EPSOC is known for raising the bar in education, in and out of the classroom. Currently, Elk Plain School of Choice is creating a growth mindset with all teachers by defining, setting, and charting each child’s progress, and then adjusting instruction to help them achieve their goals. We work hard to generate a constant infusion of long-term goal language with students and families to encourage life-long pursuits of continued education. Immersion of the new common core standards with our arts and science-based curriculum has further refined our focus on individual and collaborative education. This classroom focus, coupled with our rich arts curriculum allows us to offer a variety of learning opportunities.

Outside the classroom, our students have many opportunities for enrichment including: Dance Ensemble, Thespian Club, Lego League, and Accelerated Reader. Past Elk Plain School of Choice students have become student leaders in many areas - daffodil royalty, high school class presidents, and scholarship recipients.
PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Each year, our volunteers log over 12,000 hours at our school. Volunteers include parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors. They help teachers in the classroom, assist in the library, help with gardening and landscaping, sew costumes, build sets, work in the kitchen, provide refreshments and meals for staff, pop popcorn, work in the student store, coach sports teams, facilitate scout meetings, and chaperone field trips. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering. All prospective volunteers will need to fill out an application and submit to a background check.

Our extra-curricular activities include several scout troops that meet weekly in our building, along with Accelerated Reader Club, Drama/Video Club, Art Around the World, PTA groups and Dance Ensemble. We also have an ongoing partnership with Tacoma's Broadway Center, in which many of our students participate in their on-site conservatory program.

Our building may be available for community use; please contact us for more information if interested in building usage.

The Bethel School District began participating in Smarter Balanced Testing in 2014. Below is a summary of the academic performance on all available SBA and EOC subject tests.

For additional information about school performance, visit http://bethelsd.org/pages/bsd403/School_Board/Data_Dashboard or http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us.

SBA ELA RESULTS

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SBA MATH RESULTS

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<tbody>
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<tr>
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ELK PLAIN SCHOOL OF CHOICE

Elk Plain School of Choice did not meet adequate yearly progress (AYP), as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act. Of the measured categories, the school met 47.6% of the required participation and proficiency goals in the areas of ELA, math and other indicators. The school is not in any Step of School Improvement. Bethel School District is in Step 2 of School Improvement under AYP.

To view school performance towards proficiency and participation goals, visit http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/.

AYP is determined primarily by year-to-year student performance on standardized tests. Each year individual schools and the school district must "raise the bar" in gradual increments. The goal is to have 100 percent of students achieve proficiency in each subject area.

MORE INFORMATION: FACTS & FIGURES

About the Bethel School District

The Bethel School District is a dynamic district that covers about 202 square miles in southeast Pierce County. Over 18,000 students attend the district’s 17 elementary schools, six middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, one alternative high school, and online academy. In 2010, a skills center was built in partnership with six other districts.

Bethel has won numerous national awards in technology and communications, as well as state awards in professional development, energy conservation, and the arts.

Budget information

In 2014-15, the district’s General Fund budget was about $200.7 million, which is approximately $11,363 per student. Bethel's budget demonstrated a strong commitment to educational excellence. 71.2% percent of the budget funded direct classroom support and another 24.6% went to indirect support. That means a total of 95.8% of expenditures supported classroom activities.

District revenues come from the state and federal governments as well as through local tax collections. The district also oversaw a Capital Projects Fund of $37.6 million for construction, a Transportation Vehicle Fund budget of $2 million for the purchase of buses and transportation equipment, a Debt Service Fund of $17.5 million for the purpose of paying principal and interest on voter approved bonds, and $4.7 million in Associated Student Body funds, which support student activities.

Staff and resources are allocated each year based on the number of students and the types of programs, located at the school. More information about district budgets can be found on the district website.