WHAT MAKES GRAHAM ELEMENTARY SPECIAL?

The staff of Graham Elementary School takes pride in providing every child with a positive, well-rounded, and challenging educational experience. We work together to provide targeted instruction to help all students grow and achieve as learners.

Time is allocated each day for all students to participate in School-Wide Academic Targeting (SWAT). During SWAT time, students move throughout the building to flexible instructional groupings with classmates who share similar strengths and challenges. The progress of all learners is monitored and instruction is adjusted and adapted accordingly.

RAISING STANDARDS

Graham’s teaching staff uses Common Core State Standards, coupled with Bethel School District’s curricular resources, to develop rigorous learning experiences that challenge each student to reach his or her full potential.

Our students’ progress is monitored through the use of academic screeners, common formative assessments, in-program assessments, Measure of Academic Progress (MAPs) and the state’s Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Collaboratively, we use ongoing data to identify areas of strength, learning deficits, and inform our instruction to deliver focused interventions.

As a school system grade level teams and intervention teams meet on a regular basis to analyze assessment data, review student work, determine the effectiveness of our instructional interventions, and make adjustments as necessary. Three times each year, we hold CAST (Collaborative All Staff Teaming) meetings with intervention teams, the principal, school counselor, instructional coach, special education teacher, Learning Assistance Program (LAP) teacher, and support staff to identify individual students who are not making adequate progress and determine a plan to support improved achievement.

OUR MISSION

At Graham, we are committed to helping every student achieve at his or her highest potential. We believe that all students can learn and that each child adds value to our community. Students are expected to be responsible, respectful, and ready. All Graham staff will ensure student success within a safe and caring environment by facilitating intentional teaching and focused collaboration.

TOP-NOTCH STAFF

GE has 34 classroom teachers, of which 33 teach core academic classes. They average 15 years of experience and 67.6 percent have a master’s degree. One hundred percent of teachers at GE 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.
GRAHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL SUCCESS
GE is known for raising the bar in education, in and out of the classroom. Most recently, we achieved substantial student growth in the area of reading and continue to be above the state average in math, reading, writing and science MSP scores.

The Bethel School District participated in the Smarter Balanced Field Test in spring of 2014. Results from this test are unavailable. Below, is a summary of academic performance on all MSP subject tests for 2013, as well as the science MSP for 5th grade. For additional information about school performance, visit http://www.bethelsd.org/pages/bsd403/School_Board/Data_Dashboard or http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us.

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<tr>
<th>MSP READING RESULTS</th>
<th>MSP MATH RESULTS</th>
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MSP SCIENCE RESULTS

Graham Elementary did not meet adequate yearly progress (AYP), as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act. Of the measured categories, the school met 52.6% of the required participation and proficiency goals in the areas of reading and math. The school is not in School Improvement. Bethel School District is in Step 2 of School Improvement under AYP. To view school performance towards proficiency and participation, visit http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/.

AYP is determined primarily by year-to-year student achievement on the MSP in reading and mathematics. Each year individual schools and the school district must “raise the bar” in gradual increments so that by 2014, 100 percent of students achieve proficiency in each subject area.

MSP WRITING RESULTS

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 2013-14, the district’s General Fund budget was about $183.07 million, which is approximately $10,469 per student. Bethel’s budget demonstrated a strong commitment to educational excellence. 72.5% percent of the budget funded direct classroom support and another 23% went to indirect support. That means a total of 95.5% 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 $60.6 million for construction, a Transportation Vehicle Fund budget of $1.3 million for the purchase of buses and transportation equipment, a Debt Service Fund of $17 million for the purpose of paying principal and interest on voter approved bonds, and $4.9 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.

More Information: Facts & Figures

Total Expenditures: $10,469/student
- Benefits: 20.9%
- Classified Salaries: 16.9%
- Purchased Services: 12.2%
- Supplies: 9.2%
- Capital Outlay: 0.2%
- Travel: 0.3%
- Certificated Salaries: 40.3%

General Fund Revenues: $183,071,915
- Taxes: 17%
- Federal: 10%
- Other: 2%
- State: 71%