

# Pioneer Elementary School

## 2008-09 School Performance Report

### ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

#### Demographics and history of neighborhood or area:

Opening in September 1959, Pioneer Elementary School became the seventh elementary school in the Auburn School District. Forty-eight years later, Pioneer Elementary School serves over 400 students, ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade, many of whom reside or attend day care within a mile's radius of the school. In 1959, the neighborhood served by Pioneer Elementary School was marked by pasture land and the occasional residence. Today, a drive through the community surrounding Pioneer Elementary School illustrates the growth of apartments, duplexes, mobile homes, and single-family dwellings that has taken place throughout Auburn.

#### Students

As of October 1, 2008, 404 students are enrolled at Pioneer Elementary School. The student count for October 2007 was 425. The student gender percentages for October 2007 were 48.9% male and 51.1% female. The ethnic breakdown for October 2007 is reflected below:

White	40.7%	Black	4.2%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	5.4%	Hispanic	42.4%
Asian	7.3%	Mobility Rate (2007-08)	34.0%

- Free or Reduced-Price Meals (May 2008) were 72.5%
- Special Education (May 2008) was 6.9%
- Transitional Bilingual (May 2008) was 31.2%
- Migrant (May 2008) was 0.0%
- Unexcused Absences Rate (2007-08) was 0.2%

#### Staff

Below is the educational information about Pioneer Elementary School's teachers. It includes the total number of certified teachers who instruct elementary students in a classroom setting for which daily attendance is kept. This information also includes teachers who instruct students in ungraded classes, as well as those who teach special education, gifted, disadvantaged, early childhood, home/hospital, and adult education programs.

#### Teacher Statistics for 2007-08:

Classroom Teachers:	24
Teacher Experience:	Teachers have an average of 8.6 years of teaching experience.
Teacher Education:	The percentage of teachers with at least a master's degree is 33.3%.

### MISSION STATEMENT

At Pioneer, we dedicate ourselves to students and their families, to inspire and empower children to achieve their greatest academic and social potential.



### OUR SCHOOL BUILDING

#### [Condition, school size, classroom space, portables, planned improvements or remodeling and community use]

Pioneer Elementary School first opened in 1959 and is a familiar landmark to the residents of Auburn. The building has been well maintained and remodeled over the years and remains an attractive, highly functional facility. A bright and colorful mural and landscaping project has been completed to encompass the theme of pioneers from the past, present and future. In addition to the 21 classrooms housed within the main building, two classes are housed in portable classrooms to accommodate continued growth. Last fall, Pioneer Elementary School was proud to welcome the Head Start program to Pioneer Elementary School. They have two full classes that serve almost 40 students every day. They are housed in the third portable on campus.

Pioneer Elementary School underwent a number of capital project improvements during the summer of 1997. These improvements were made possible through the passage of a bond in 1996. The list of projects for Pioneer Elementary School includes new computers for each classroom and a computer lab in the library, hardwiring to facilitate Internet access, a new intercom system, phones in each classroom, replacement of carpeting, a larger freezer for food services, replacement of water pipes and reinforcement of walls. During the 2004-05 school year, the computer lab was updated with 26 new Dell computers. During 2007, 53 new flat screen Dell computers were added to classrooms and the lab. Exciting new technology continues to be added each year. Community use of school facilities includes Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts; and recreational use by local churches. The YMCA and Auburn Parks and Recreation use the gym and the fields for a variety of team sports. In the fall of 2008, Pioneer Elementary School received two portable laptop towers which included 30 lap top computers each.

## TEST RESULTS

Pioneer Elementary School uses a variety of assessment measures to develop a profile of what students know and are able to do. These profiles are used to monitor and report student progress in meeting the Essential Academic Learning Requirements for the state of Washington.

Assessment data is collected by the standards-based Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading, writing, and math at grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10. The WASL requires students to use a different approach to problem solving than has been previously required on standardized tests. In addition to standardized tests, teachers collect classroom-based evidence such as reading unit tests, spelling, essays, math, science projects, and social studies tests, as well as observations, daily assignments, class participation, behavior charts, and major projects to assess student progress. Student progress is reported through individual score reports, parent conferences, report cards, classroom newsletters, phone calls, and notes. Special education, Title I/LAP, and ELL use a variety of individual assessment measures for screening and identification for placement.

### Grade Levels and Subjects Tested Using WASL

	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	10th
Reading	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Math	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Writing		X			X		X
Science			X			X	X

### 2007-08 WASL Results for Pioneer Elementary

Grade Level	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
3rd Grade	80.8%	76.9%		
4th Grade	88.6%	62.9%	42.9%	
5th Grade	74.4%	48.7%		19.2%

Washington State Assessment of Student Learning Benchmark One Trend for Pioneer Elementary % of Students Meeting the Standard				
	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Math</b>	51.5	60.9	55.7	88.6
<b>Reading</b>	80.9	85.9	87.1	62.9
<b>Writing</b>	42.6	62.1	35.7	42.9
<b>Science</b>	13.2	21.1	23.0	19.2

#### Legal Notice

The Auburn School District No. 408 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origins, sex, or disability, and does not tolerate sexual harassment. This holds true for all students who are interested in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Any reports of alleged sexual harassment or concerns about compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district Title IX RCW 28A.640 officer and Section 504 and ADA coordinator, Tim Cummings, 915 Fourth Street Northeast, Auburn, Washington 98002 (253) 931-4932.

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND/ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is one of the cornerstones of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) signed into law January 2002, as the "No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act." In Washington, it is primarily a measure of year-to-year student achievement on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading and mathematics. One of the requirements of NCLB is that states develop a baseline or starting point for students to achieve proficiency as measured by WASL in math and reading scores. Every three years, the state must "raise the bar" in gradual increments so, by 2014, all (100%) students and identified student populations such as special education or English Language Learners (ELL) will achieve proficiency in each content area. NCLB requires that ninety-five (95) percent of the enrolled students must take the state's standards-based test. States are also required to identify an additional indicator for elementary/middle schools and high schools. Elementary and middle schools are required to monitor unexcused absences, while high schools are required to monitor on-time graduation rates. Thus, each district and school will be monitored annually on thirty-seven (37) AYP indicators or areas. For schools receiving Title I Part A funds, the law specifies consequences when a school does not meet AYP targets for two or more years in a row. While the results of WASL testing are reported for all schools and districts, the consequences apply only to those schools receiving Title I Part A funds.

Results for Pioneer Elementary School for the 2007-08 school year indicate Pioneer Elementary School met 37 of the 37 indicators for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements.

- Pioneer Elementary School met the AYP requirement for Unexcused Absences Rate.
- Pioneer Elementary School met the AYP requirement of 95% WASL participation.

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Auburn School District Funds Spent Per Student for 2007-08	
Total Expenditures (includes salaries)	\$8,361.74
Supplies and Materials	475.62
Equipment	29.12

Pioneer Elementary 2007-08 Budget Funds Spent Per Student (not including salary)	
Books and Supplies:	
Basic Education	\$53.00
Special Education	57.19
Library	6.00
Field Trips	1.80
Administrative Supplies	.90

## TITLE PROGRAM

Students are served in the school-wide Title I program. Extended year service test results show positive student academic growth as an outcome of these programs. Pioneer Elementary School encourages parental participation in all of the Title I programs.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Pioneer Elementary School staff provides a highly positive environment where staff continually assesses and improves the quality of the school's academic and social programs. Pioneer Elementary School is committed to a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that emphasizes three academic areas (reading, math and writing) with a fourth emphasis being focused on bullying prevention. After four years with the new plan and programs underway, Pioneer Elementary School realized tremendous increases in reading and math achievement as demonstrated by WASL results. The achievement gap in reading and math has been closed with Hispanic and White students achieving at the same high level on the 4th grade WASL. The PTA also supports the continued use of the Accelerated Reading program. Pioneer Elementary School and the Auburn School District offer strong, specific, professional development for the improvement of students' reading, math and writing skills. Pioneer Elementary School is a great place for students to learn and grow. The fourth area of emphasis focuses on educating staff and students in the area of bullying prevention. The staff at Pioneer Elementary School is looking closely at the incidents of bullying as well as better methods of prevention and intervention. Staff is working hard to create a bully-free environment. School-wide training in recognizing the characteristics of bullying behavior and identifying bullying prevention strategies take place each year. Training has been provided in conjunction with the Puget Sound Educational Service District.

During 2006-09, Pioneer Elementary School was the recipient of a \$90,000 grant from the USDA to supply a snack of fresh fruits and vegetables to students every afternoon for the entire school year. Fresh fruits and vegetables will be served at all parent/student events as well. This fall, Pioneer was awarded a \$5,000 grant by the Washington Health Foundation to build a walking path for students, staff and community in order to promote fitness. Physical fitness activities and nutritional opportunities are incorporated daily for all students and faculty. Western Washington University has also granted Pioneer Elementary School support staff to enhance student and staff knowledge of good nutrition through gardening and cooking. Pioneer Elementary School is an exemplar school that models all eight of the Center for Disease Control's Coordinated School Health Model. During the 2005-06 school year, Pioneer Elementary School was awarded over \$80,000 from various community groups to revamp three large playground areas.

Pioneer Elementary School is currently piloting a software program, free of charge, geared toward the primary and ELL student learner, called Knowledge First. This program is designed to enhance and promote brain growth through enhanced neuron connections. In 2004-05, Pioneer Elementary School was the recipient of a \$15,000 private grant to focus on a school-wide reading improvement software program, "Reading Plus." In addition, as a school-wide Title I school, Pioneer Elementary School is using federal funding to reach much larger numbers of students than ever before in the area of reading.



## WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT OUR SCHOOL?

### Special Programs, Events, Activities

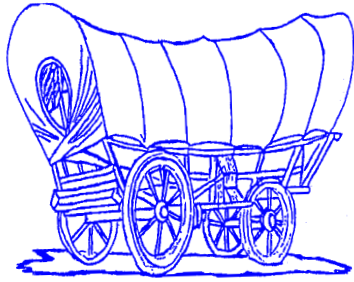
Pioneer Elementary School staff takes to heart their reputation for being a highly positive place for children. Parents and visitors will see teachers greeting arriving students at the buses and at the classrooms every morning. They will see staff waiting to say good-bye until the bus departs each afternoon. Staff has taken a pledge to greet and send off each student with a smile, a high five, or a friendly hug each day. More importantly, this staff has dedicated their school hours to being a very uplifting experience for every child. Staff knows that when children feel safe and cared for, they learn more. Staff knows that when children are presented with very positive role models who believe in their abilities, they learn more. Staff has decided that it is worth the conscious effort on their part each and every day to create a special place for children to thrive.

Pioneer Elementary School is a school with a diverse economic and ethnic student population. The school is dedicated to meeting the instructional needs of all students whether they are at, below, or above grade level, so they can reach their greatest potential. Pioneer Elementary School has been awarded a private grant worth \$15,000 that allows the school to put into place a reading software program that includes all the components backed by the acclaimed National Reading Panel research. This is a reading program that looks to be as effective as it is efficient in serving high-needs students, as well as gifted students. The program is set up for use in the computer lab. Twenty-six Dell computers are equipped with the software, as well as computers in all of the classrooms.

There are schedules and systems in place at Pioneer Elementary School that put reading first every single day. A schedule has been created that allows every grade level to serve students at their instructional reading level, in 45-minute direct instruction lessons, five days per week. The average ratio of students to adult in these groups is 6:1. In addition to this, classroom teachers provide their whole class, in a heterogeneous grouping, with 45 minutes more of reading comprehension instruction. Time at Pioneer Elementary School is efficiently scheduled to give students effective instruction emphasizing reading, math, and writing day in and day out.

The staff at Pioneer Elementary School is an amazing group of people who are willing to put personal issues aside as they dedicate their time each day to creating a special experience for children. They are highly flexible and willing to try curriculum that will help their students excel. They are collaborative risk takers who are willing to change their approaches to teaching in the face of convincing scientific research on best practices. They are very dedicated to professional development and welcome training opportunities. Staff trains regularly in all academic areas and positive discipline. As a result of a staff committed to student safety and the efficient use of instructional time, there are very few behavioral problems. Staff provides a highly structured and loving environment where students are given every chance to succeed.

The positive atmosphere is palpable at Pioneer Elementary School. Staff has worked hard to create community partnerships and have a reputation within and outside the district as innovators who aren't afraid to create miracles for children. There is an open-door policy and staff invites anyone interested to share in staff development or observe the good work that is being done for kids. Pioneer Elementary School welcomes outside ideas and innovative thinking and is committed to a learning environment where the idea of community is emphasized. Parents and community members are integral partners at Pioneer Elementary School. They are welcomed and encouraged to volunteer in classrooms. On any given day, parents and community volunteers can be seen assisting in classrooms and around the school. Pioneer Elementary School's PTA is very active and supports many programs to benefit students. Responsible for assemblies, the school reader board, and buttons for the student recognition program, as well as book fairs and parent/student evening fun nights, the PTA is a tremendous support to Pioneer Elementary School.



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Auburn, Washington 98002

Phone: 253-931-4986

### How to get involved

Auburn School District encourages all parents and community members to be involved in the educational process. Each of the district's 14 elementary schools, four middle schools, and four high schools offer volunteer opportunities, including PTA. For more information, contact your school.



*"In a safe environment, all students will achieve high standards of learning in order to become ethically responsible decision makers and lifelong learners."*

**"AVENUE TO EXCELLENCE"**

**Auburn School District No. 408**  
915 Fourth Street Northeast  
Auburn, Washington 98002

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