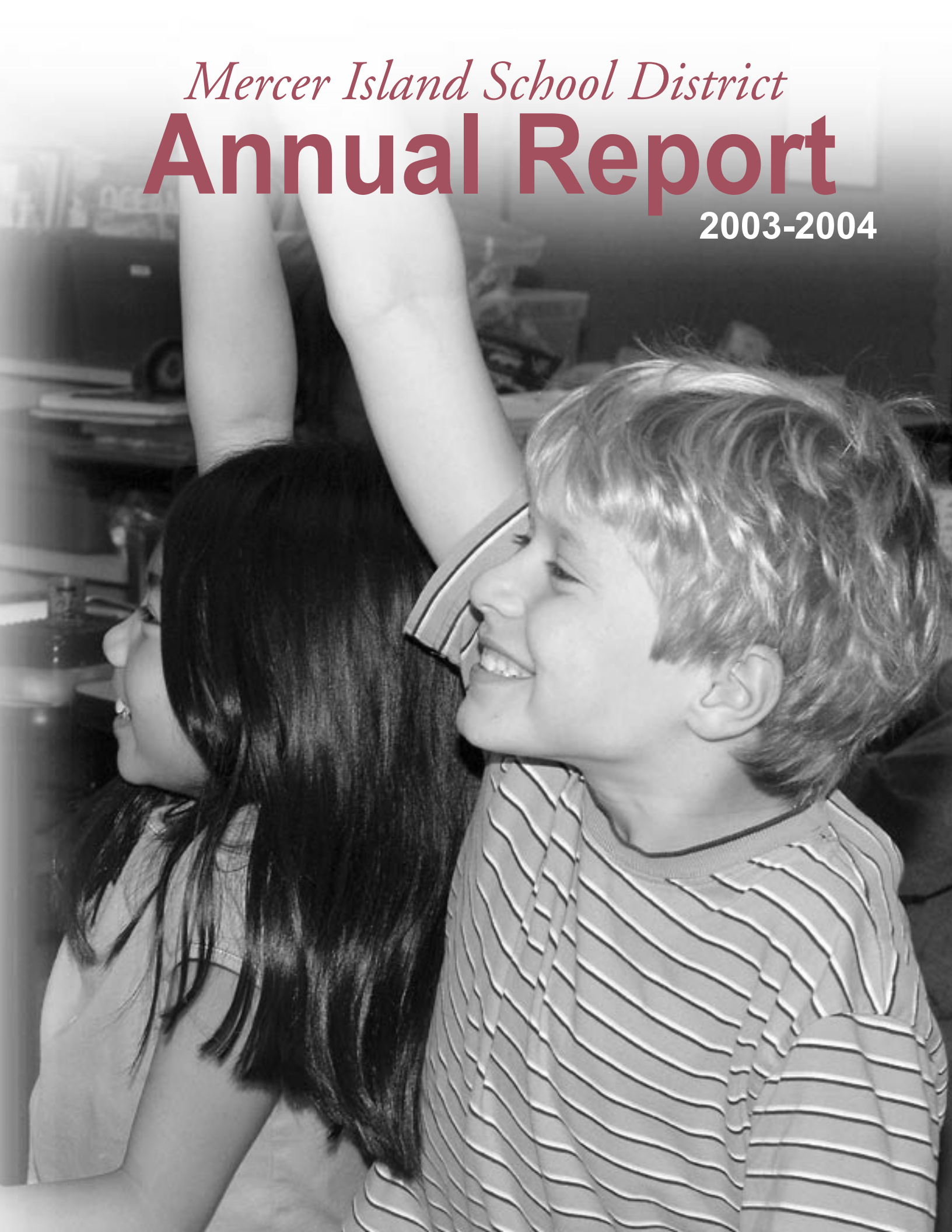


*Mercer Island School District*  
**Annual Report**

2003-2004





*Mercer Island  
School District*

**Together, we  
challenge ourselves  
to challenge our  
students.**



Published by Mercer Island School District  
Edited by Marion Mohler  
Photos by Kira Stewart Photography  
Page design by Vanessa Adams, MISD Publishing Center  
Printed by EduPrinters, November 2004

# Superintendent's Message

November 2004

I am pleased to provide parents, students, staff members and community members with the Mercer Island School District's 2003-2004 Annual Report.

This was my first full year as your new superintendent and I truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of all members of the MISD learning community as well as the support of the community at large. Our goal is to know each student's learning needs and provide an appropriately challenging course of studies for all students, making sure that we address individual student's needs within available resources.

At the beginning of the school year, the Board of Directors established four priorities for me: (1) Continued implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Instructional Program Philosophy and Guidelines (2) Build strong relationships with and between staff, parents, and community members (3) Build the leadership team (4) Provide a challenging, coordinated, balanced, yet flexible math curriculum with options that challenge each student. In addition, the board asked to be updated on progress toward programs for highly capable students. We also listened carefully to parent concerns about services for special education students.

I am pleased to report that we made significant progress on each of these priorities. I would particularly like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our teachers, staff, school PTA's, the Mercer Island Schools Foundation and countless volunteer hours spent both inside and outside of our schools. Together, we challenge ourselves to challenge our students. Thank you!

Here are some highlights from last year's accomplishments:

- Aggregate scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) positioned our students first statewide in all areas tested: 76.7% of 4th graders, 82.2% of 7th graders, and 76.3% of 10th graders met all three standards in writing, math and reading. In science, Mercer Island schools had the highest percent of students at standard – 5th grade 69%, 8th grade 82.2%, and 10th grade 76.3%.
- On February 4, 2004, the community supported the District's Capital Projects Levy to implement District facility and technology plans.



*Dr. Cyndy Simms  
Superintendent*

**Our goal is to know each student's learning needs and provide an appropriately challenging course of studies for all.**

- A review of the Strategic Plan process has been conducted and a revised planning framework is under consideration. The framework includes board governance training along with 5 year plans specific to curriculum, instruction, assessment, and staff development.
- Conflict resolution work was conducted in early spring to address long-standing conflicts at the Board of Directors and community level. Follow-up work includes a document titled, "Mutual Respect and Shared Responsibility: How We Work Together."
- We have taken a number of significant steps to improve the math curriculum at all levels.
- The Board of Directors approved an academically gifted program for 3rd and 4th grade students to begin this fall, an Autism Spectrum program for special education elementary students and an Advisory Program at Mercer Island High School.

On June 12, 2004, 338 students in the class of 2004 graduated from Mercer Island High School. Of these, 92% plan to continue their education at institutions of higher learning.

Clearly our community and our district have much to celebrate and much to look forward to. I am grateful and honored to be a part of the on-going efforts of continuous improvement in educational programs for all students at all levels in the Mercer Island School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cyndy Simms". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Cyndy Simms, Ph.D.

## Contact Information

### District Web Site:

[www.misd.k12.wa.us](http://www.misd.k12.wa.us)

Individual school web sites are accessible through the schools menu on the main site. All addresses are Mercer Island, WA 98040

## Mercer Island School District

4160 86th Avenue SE

### General Information

(206) 236-3330

### Personnel/Jobline

(206) 236-3302

FAX (206) 236-3333

## Mercer Island High School

9100 SE 42nd

(206) 236-3345 phone

(206) 236-3358 fax

## Crest

### Learning Center

4150 86th Avenue SE

(206) 236-3390 phone

(206) 236-4521 fax

## Islander

### Middle School

8225 SE 72nd

(206) 236-3413 phone

(206) 236-3408 fax

## Island Park

### Elementary

5437 Island Crest Way

(206) 230-6280 phone

(206) 230-6251 fax

## Lakeridge

### Elementary

8215 SE 78th

(206) 230-3415 phone

(206) 230-6232 fax

## West Mercer

### Elementary

4141 81st Avenue SE

(206) 230-3430 phone

(206) 230-6043 fax



# Mission & Philosophy

## Our Mission

The mission of the Mercer Island School District, in partnership with our community, is to prepare every student to be a critical and creative thinker, a productive and collaborative worker, a responsible and caring citizen, and a lifelong learner in a changing world.

## Philosophy:

### High Expectations for All Students

The Mercer Island School District strives to develop in each student a lifelong love of learning grounded in competence, personal responsibility, and continuous improvement. To do so, our schools must know each student's learning needs and provide an appropriately challenging course of studies that addresses the individual student's needs within the resources available for all students. The instructional program must be provided in a safe, nurturing environment in which diversity is valued and strong student-parent-school-community partnerships are fostered.

# A Summary of Accomplishments

2003-2004

- The Mercer Island School District had the highest scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning tests (WASL) of any district in the state
- Islander Middle School was named a Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education
- The Mercer Island community passed the 2004 Capital Projects levy for capital projects and technology improvements
- 3 Mercer Island High School students were selected as Washington State Scholar's award recipients, placing them in the top 1% of students in the state; 17 students received the Washington State Principal's award (top 5%) and 157 students won the Washington Honors Award (top 10%)
- The boys' and girls' swim teams were KingCo 3A champions for 2003
- The boys and girls waterpolo teams, and boys' lacrosse team were state champions for 2003
- The boy's track team and MIHS drill team received state academic team awards (average GPA of 3.65 for spring semester 2004)
- The Mercer Island High School music department was named a 2003 "Grammy Signature School" by the National Association of Arts and Sciences
- 338 students in the class of 2004 graduated from Mercer Island High School. Of these, 92% plan to continue their education at institutions of higher learning.

*2003-2004 School Board*

*Leslie Ferrell, John Fry, Lisa Strauch Eggers, Carrie George, Pat Braman*





# Strategic Planning 2001-2006

During the 2003-2004 year, Mercer Island School District continued to operate under the direction of the 2001-2006 Strategic Plan adopted by the school board in April, 2001. A new planning framework and 5-year plan will be completed during the 2004-2005 year. Last year we identified objectives to support five strategic planning goals:

- **Challenge for all students.** Provide a more rigorous, coordinated, balanced, yet flexible curriculum with options that challenge each student.
- **Smaller class size.** Provide smaller, effective class sizes through facilities expansion or other resources.
- **Positive relationships.** Provide methods that ensure all students have positive, meaningful relationships with peers and adults within the schools.
- **The best teachers and staff.** Provide mechanisms that better attract, support and retain excellent teachers and other staff.
- **Measureable results.** Design a more systematic approach for measuring, reporting, and using student and district performance data to guide and recognize improvement.

## The following are examples of last year's accomplishments:

### **Implementation of an academic program and services for gifted students.**

The program for 3rd and 4th grade students begins in the fall of 2004. All qualified students attend classes at West Mercer Elementary. 5th grade will be added in the fall of 2005.

### **Continued the school improvement planning process.**

Each school is engaged in planning and implementing programs designed to address the needs of students who may need enrichment beyond the core classroom program, students who have not met state standards on time and students performing in the middle range.

### **Improved the alignment of grade level learning targets, classroom instruction, and student assessment and reporting.**

The district has developed reading, writing and math targets. The K-8 math instructional materials are aligned with the targets, and assessments are being developed. Teachers selected new textbooks for Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II and participated in professional development. The district is selecting new reading materials for grades K-6 to align with the district reading targets. All schools are increasing opportunities to provide greater challenge for students at all levels.

### **Continued to work on providing smaller, effective class sizes.**

The district is continuing to work on increasing the ratio of adults to students through better utilization of volunteers, as well as identifying and employing instructional methods, scheduling options, distance learning, technology solutions, staffing, and other strategies to attain functionally smaller class sizes.

### **Provided methods that ensure all students have positive, meaningful relationships with peers and adults within the schools.**

In the fall of 2003, the district adopted a new K-12 Health Curriculum and an anti-bullying policy for all schools. Mercer Island High School has added an Advisory program to the secondary program; all three elementary schools and Islander Middle School have plans in place to improve relationships within their schools.





## The district has completed the alignment of K-12 math and writing classroom instruction and assessments with the targets completed in 2002-2003.

### **Provided mechanisms to better attract, support and retain excellent teachers and other staff.**

MISD has developed a plan to address recruitment challenges that is updated every spring, based on district needs and budget considerations.

Year Five of the Teacher/Mentor program begins fall 2004.

The district is continuing to work with the Mercer Island Education Association to design an evaluation process and revisions to the MIEA contract.

We have completed and analyzed a staff survey designed to improve job satisfaction of teachers and created a plan and schedule of implementation based on the realistic availability of funds.

The district continues to recommend additional planning time for teachers in the form of "Early Release Mondays" in which K-12 students are released one hour early each Monday.

### **Provide a more systematic approach for measuring, reporting, and using student and district performance data to guide and recognize improvement.**

The district has a highly secure Assessment Data Base that is updated every year. The database contains all of the total and subtest scores from the four district and state assessments (ITBS, CogAt, ITED, WASL), a program comparison data base and internet access. The science WASL was added in the fall of 2004.

Please note that the complete documents relating to this summary may be viewed on the district web site at [www.misd.k12.edu](http://www.misd.k12.edu) "strategic plan" link, or on the individual school web sites. You may also request paper copies by calling the district office at 206 236-3330.

**2003-2004  
District  
Demographics  
(as of October 2003)**

Total enrollment ...4,153

Kindergarten .....	234
Grade 1 .....	257
Grade 2 .....	276
Grade 3 .....	309
Grade 4 .....	297
Grade 5 .....	330
Grade 6 .....	349
Grade 7 .....	325
Grade 8 .....	381
Grade 9 .....	351
Grade 10 .....	360
Grade 11 .....	334
Grade 12 .....	350

**Student Teacher Ratio**  
(K-5 reduced by an average of 2.5 students in the past 2 years; 6-8 by 1.5 students and 9-12 by .5 students)

**Elementary**  
22.2 per class

**Islander Middle School**  
26.5 per class

**MIHS**  
26 per class

# Our District

The Mercer Island School District is located on Mercer Island, a six square mile suburban community of 22,000 residents in the middle of Lake Washington, within a 10 minute drive to Seattle and Bellevue. The school district is one of 35 King and Pierce County school districts affiliated with Puget Sound Educational Service District, a regional support educational agency.

The community has high academic expectations for the school district and has supported its maintenance and operations levy every year, as well as \$54 million in capital bonds to renovate all five schools. In February 2004, the community voted to renew funding for facilities maintenance and technology through 2008.

Mercer Island students and teachers benefit from well over \$800,000 in annual donations to the PTA/PTSA's and the Mercer Island Schools Foundation, as well as the time and energy of countless volunteers serving on committees, planning fund-raising programs, coordinating field trips and assemblies, serving as art docents, Great Books coordinators, general classroom volunteers, and many more activities.

Community, board members, and staff are committed to excellence in education for all students in the district and encourage thoughtful, articulated curriculum planning and enrichment activities that will prepare students to be "lifelong learners in a changing world."



# Mercer Island School District Testing Program

## 2003-2004

The Mercer Island School District is required by Washington state law to administer two tests to our students in specific grades.

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) is given to all 3rd and 6th graders in the state. In 2002-2003 the District also administered the ITBS at grades 5 and 8 for the first time.

The Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) is given to all students statewide at grade 9.

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is given to all students statewide in 4th, 7th and 10th grade every year in reading, writing, math, and listening. 2003-2004 was the second time the state administered the Science WASL at grades 8 and 10, and the first time for grade 5.

The ITBS and ITED are multiple choice tests designed to measure basic skills. The WASL focuses on the state Essential Academic Learning Requirements (state learning standards) and is designed to measure the application of knowledge and skills students will need in order to be prepared for the future they will face in a changing and complex world. The district uses these test results, along with classroom-based assessment tools, to continue to identify program strengths and areas for improvement, and to adjust curriculum and instruction to increase student performance.

## Other Testing

### Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

While the SAT is not a required test, most Mercer Island High students take it as part of applications to attend college.

Class of	Mean Scores		
2001	Verbal	594	Math 612
2002	Verbal	583	Math 606
2003	Verbal	582	Math 615
2004	Verbal	590	Math 610

### National Merit Scholars

Class of	Finalists	Commended
2001	11	27
2002	7	18
2003	16	9
2004	13	19

## Advanced Placement Exams

In 2003-2004, 326 advanced placement exams were taken by 214 MIHS 10th - 12th graders in Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, French, Government, Physics, Spanish, Studio Art Drawing, 2D Design, 3D Design, US History, and World History. Of the 326 exams, 274 were scored a 3 or higher (out of 5). Most colleges and universities require a score of at least 3 to give college credit for AP exams.



# Student Ethnicity

Black..... 55  
 Asian ..... 735  
 American Indian ..... 11  
 Hispanic..... 68  
 White ..... 3,284

Special Education 369  
 ESL..... 76

## Staff

### Certified

MIHS..... 86  
 IMS ..... 57  
 Island Park ..... 34  
 Lakeridge..... 40  
 West Mercer ..... 42

### Classified

MIHS..... 27  
 IMS ..... 24  
 Island Park ..... 16  
 Lakeridge..... 14  
 West Mercer ..... 18

**Total teaching staff**  
**259**

### Administrators

MIHS..... 3  
 IMS ..... 3  
 Island Park ..... 1  
 Lakeridge..... 1  
 West Mercer ..... 1

### Years of Experience:

1-2 years ..... 36  
 3-9 years ..... 96  
 10+ years..... 132

179 certificated staff members hold Master's Degrees, 5 faculty members have a Ph.D

## Spring 2003 ITBS and ITED Mean Percentile Scores

ITBS	Reading	Math	Language
<b>Grade 3 Total</b>	80	87	80
Island Park	82	87	77
Lakeridge	82	89	80
West Mercer	77	85	81
State	58	67	Not tested
<b>Grade 5 Total</b>	78	80	78
Island Park	82	81	78
Lakeridge	76	78	78
West Mercer	76	82	78
<b>Grade 6</b>	80	83	81
State	55	58	56
<b>Grade 8</b>	80	82	78
ITED	Reading	Math	Expression
<b>Grade 9</b>	81	86	77
State	53	59	54



**District Summary**  
**2004 SCIENCE WASL**  
**RESULTS**  
**Grades 5, 8 and 10**  
**Percent of Students**  
**Reaching Standard**

<b>Grade 8</b>	District	80.2
	State	32.2
<b>Grade 5</b>	District	69.0
	State	28.2
<b>Grade 10</b>	District	71.8
	State	32.2



**District Summary**  
**2004 WASL RESULTS**  
**Grades 4, 7, 10**  
**Percent of Students Reaching Standard**

	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>
<b>Grade 4 Total</b>	88.5	92.0	83.3
Island Park	91.2	95.6	83.3
Lakeridge	95.9	97.9	92.8
West Mercer	79.0	83.0	75.0
State	59.9	74.4	55.8
<b>Grade 7 Total</b>	88.0	92.0	91.4
State	46.3	60.4	58.0
<b>Grade 10 Total</b>	79.1	90.2	93.3
State	43.9	64.4	65.2





# Elementary Schools

**Island Park, Lakeridge and West Mercer**

## Use and Condition of School Buildings

All three elementary schools underwent \$6 million remodels that were completed in September 1995. The schools' multi-purpose rooms and fields are often used by the school district, the PTA, the Mercer Island Boys and Girls Club, and the Parks and Recreation Department in the evenings and on weekends.

## Curriculum

Our schools use district adopted curriculum as the foundation for instructional programs. Teachers frequently integrate material from several disciplines to make learning more meaningful to students. All of our teachers participate in staff development activities outside of their work day and/or school year.

## Technology

In February 2004, the community voted to renew funding for facilities maintenance and technology through 2008, providing all schools with the necessary equipment and software to integrate technology lessons with academic classes. The Mercer Island Schools Foundation has provided additional funding for teacher training.

## Counseling Services

Each elementary school has at least one on-site counselor who provides a variety of counseling services to individuals, groups, families, and staff. These positions are made possible by funds provided by Mercer Island Youth and Family Services, City of Mercer Island, and the Mercer Island School District.

## D.A.R.E. program

The City of Mercer Island supports this drug and alcohol education program for all kindergarten, 2nd, and 5th grade students.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Elementary school PTA's are very active and sponsor family activities such as International Week (Island Park), Reflections contest, Metrathon, Ice Cream Socials, Book Fairs, and parent education evenings. Volunteer opportunities include: Great Books, room parents, art docents, fundraising, classroom help, field trip assistance, special project work, field days, and International Week. Each school PTA is proud of a nearly 100% membership rate.

The schools' Site Councils elect new members on a rotating basis for 2 year terms. Elementary schools have 4-8 parent representatives for various grade level groups i.e K/1, 2/3, 4/5, and Support Services (ESL, Title IV/LAP, Special Education). These councils are a representative group of administrators, staff, and parents who meet monthly to discuss school issues such as: instructional programs, organization of school and classrooms, allocation of resources, schools' response to district-wide issues, and/or operational requirements of the school building.

## Improvement Planning 2001-2006

**All three elementary schools are working on improvement planning based on the attributes of high performing schools. The areas of focus for each school are a part of the district's 2001-2006 Strategic Plan.**





# Lakeridge Elementary



## Philosophy– Mission Statement

“Exploring today,  
Preparing for tomorrow.”

The mission of Lakeridge School is to enhance all students’ ability to gain knowledge, grow in wisdom, develop confidence, and become creative, compassionate, critical thinkers. Through “EXPLORATION,” our students will value learning and be empowered to succeed in a changing world.

## Goals for 2003-2004

1. To implement the second year of our 2002-2006 School Improvement Plan for improved learning opportunities for students in writing and math.
2. To increase opportunities for the development of positive relationships for students with peers and adults, measured by a higher level of satisfaction on climate surveys.

## Highlights

- 92.8% met standards in writing.
- 95.9% met standards in math.
- Implemented the district’s anti-bullying curriculum and Kelso’s Choice program.
- Selected as home of the district’s Autism Spectrum program.



# Island Park Elementary



## Philosophy and Mission

“Building for the Future”

The Island Park Elementary School Community guides all students to achieve their highest academic potential while nurturing their social and emotional well being.

## Goals 2003-2004

1. To implement the second year of the 2002-2006 School Improvement Plan for improved learning opportunities for students in writing, math and reading.
2. To increase opportunities for the development of positive relationships for students with peers and adults, measured by a higher level of satisfaction indicated on school Climate Surveys.
3. To effectively lower class size.

## Highlights

- 95.5% of 4th grade students met standards in reading.
- 82.2% met standards in writing.
- 91.2% met standards in math.
- Implemented the district-wide anti-bullying curriculum and Island Park Peer Mediators program.
- Effectively lowered class sizes with PTA supported paraprofessionals.



**Each school uses district adopted curriculum as the foundation for instructional programs.**

# West Mercer Elementary



## Philosophy– Mission Statement

- To create a place where every student learns as much and as well as he/she possibly can.
- To create a place where every teacher teaches as well as he/she possibly can.
- To create a place where every student, staff member, parent, and volunteer want to be because they feel safe, competent, valued, and know that it makes a positive difference that they are, in fact, a part of West Mercer.

## Goals 2003-2004

1. To improve all West Mercer students' math and literacy skills.
2. To enable all West Mercer teachers to further develop knowledge of and skills

in assessment focused on improving teaching and learning.

3. To create stronger and more positive relationships between students and adults.

## Highlights

- First district school to participate in the BEACONS project, a program to build mutual respect and shared responsibility in the school community.
- Selected as home of the district's Gifted Program for 3rd and 4th grade students
- All K-5 teachers participated in comprehensive training for the use of writing curriculum: 6-Traits and Writer's Workshop.



# Islander Middle School

*Blue Ribbon  
School for 2003*



A 3-year school serving grades 6-8, with 1,055 students as of October 2003.

## Our Buildings

IMS is a completely updated and inviting school facility. The latest remodel occurred in 2000, when the school completed an addition to the multi purpose room and seven new classrooms. IMS's buildings and fields are used extensively in the evenings and on weekends for special events and by the community.

## Technology

In February 2004, the community voted to renew funding for facilities maintenance and technology through 2008, providing all schools with the necessary equipment and software to integrate technology lessons with academic classes. The Mercer Island Schools Foundation has provided additional funding for teacher training.

## Curriculum

In a six period day, students at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels are required to take the four core subjects of language arts, social studies, science and mathematics. These subjects are integrated as often as possible. At the sixth grade level, two-teacher teams present the four core subjects to two groups of students. 6th graders also take Spanish and physical education each semester and a fine arts rotation. Seventh and eighth grade students participate in two hour language arts social studies block classes, and are teamed whenever possible. The school offers a wide range of electives, after school clubs and athletics.

**Counseling Services:** Each of three full time counselors follows a class of students through their three years of middle school. Two additional counselors, funded by the City of Mercer Island and Mercer School District through Mercer Island Youth and Family services provide support to students and families.

## Volunteer Opportunities

IMS welcomes parent and community member involvement in many areas of the school community. The very active Islander PTSA has over 960 members, representing over 100% of Islander families. The school's Site Council includes one parent representative



for each grade level, grade level and elective teacher representatives, parapro and office staff representatives, IMS administrators, and a PTSA board representative. A MISD School Board liaison also attends monthly meetings. Site Council meetings include discussion and recommendations are appropriate on building related issues. The Site Council work focuses on deliberation and decision-making related to school improvement planning, implementation and evaluation.

## Philosophy–Mission Statement

A place to learn, a place to grow.

- We seek to meet the unique needs of students in the middle grades.
- We work to be a caring community where all members feel safe to take the necessary risks to grow.
- We strive for high quality in all we do.
- We value diversity.
- We believe that respect, cooperation, and kindness provide the foundation of our Islander community.

## Goals 2003-2004

1. 85% of students will meet standard on the Math WASL by 2006.
2. 92% of students will meet standard on the Reading WASL by 2006.
3. Improve parent and teacher rating of the school as a “place where every student can succeed” and “a place that meets the academic needs of students.”

## Highlights

- 82% of Islander 7th graders met standard on the Math WASL in 2004.

## High School

### College Placement

92% of the class of 2004 had plans to continue their education, 82% at a 4-year institution and 10% at 2-year schools. 49% of the college-bound students went out of state.

### Students from the class of 2004 are attending 116 different colleges and universities across the nation and in Canada.

Of the 116 colleges, 70 are private institutions. Some of the schools are: Barnard, Cornell, Fordham, Hofstra, Ithaca, NYU, Rochester Institute of Technology, Skidmore, Dartmouth, Bowdoin, Boston U, Brandeis, MIT, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Tufts, Brown, Wesleyan, Drexel, Franklin & Marshall, U Penn, Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, U of Richmond, U of Virginia, McGill U, U of Auckland, Savanaah College of the Arts, Tulane, Washington U in St. Louis, Oberlin, Miami U of Ohio, Michigan State, U of Michigan, U of Notre Dame, Purdue, Holy Cross, Northwestern U, Carleton, Montana State, U Montana, Colorado College, UC Boulder, U of Denver, Arizona State, U of Arizona, U of Hawaii, Whittier, U of San Francisco, UCSD, UC Santa Cruz, UCLA, UC Berkeley, U of San Diego, Stanford, Occidental, Marymount, U of Redlands, UC Santa Barbara, San Diego State, Pitzer, Pomona, USC, Santa Clara, Scripps, St. Mary's, Chapman, Loyola Marymount, Claremont McKenna, U of Portland, Oregon State, Linfield, Willamette, U of Oregon, in addition to 6 Washington Public Colleges.

*Islander Middle School Continued...*

- 92% met standard on the Reading WASL
- Completed year 2 of the 7th grade "Focus Block", providing a smaller class and tightly structured routine with instruction targeted to student need.
- Completed year 2 of the 8th grade "Project Block" offering empowerment and responsibility through project-based instruction in Language Arts/Civics and Science. Math will be added in year 3 (2004-2005).

## Mercer Island High School

A four-year school serving grades 9-12, with 1,395 students as of October 2003.

### Mission

The mission of Mercer Island High School is to involve students, staff, parents and the community working together to create an environment that fosters:

Individual Academic Growth, Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Lifelong Learning, Involved Citizenship and Social Responsibility, Personal Integrity, Mutual Respect, Tolerance, Health and Well-being



### Use and Condition of School Buildings

The original campus was built in 1954. The school was expanded in the 1960's and had two minor additions in 1978 and 1986. In May 1996, the Mercer Island community voted in favor of a \$26.7 million bond to renovate MIHS. The total cost of the renovation, which includes some new construction, is \$37.2 million. Work began in February, 1997 and was substantially completed by September, 1998.



MIHS's gym, library, auditorium, and fields are used extensively in the evenings and weekends for special events and by the community.

### Beliefs

We believe that:

- Students, staff, parents and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
- High school must be a gateway to multiple options.
- All decisions should be made based on what is best for students.
- Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs.
- Respectful relationships are an essential component of the educational experience.
- Balance between our school and personal lives is essential for well being.
- Our school must be committed to continuous improvement

### Curriculum

MIHS offers a strong academic program in that includes 7 class periods of 50 minutes beginning at 8:00 am and ending at 3:00 p.m. A standard school day is six periods, although students may choose to take seven classes. Classes meet four times a week

with one day being a 105 minute “double: period block. In addition to regular course offerings, the school provides a variety of honors, advanced placement classes, and classes for students who travel at a slower pace.

Crest Learning Center provides an individual approach to learning for high achievers as well as high-risk youth and reluctant learners. The opportunity to form a close personal bond with a team of adults, the alternative and integrated nature of the work, and the emphasis on personal as well as academic growth are all elements that contribute to the success of each student.



## Technology

MIHS has a combination of computer labs and carts of mobile computer equipment for student use. In February 2004, the community voted to renew funding for facilities maintenance and technology through 2008, providing all schools with the necessary equipment and software to integrate technology lessons with academic classes. The Mercer Island Schools Foundation has provided additional funding for teacher training.

## Counseling

Five full time counselors serve the needs of a college bound population and also provide guidance for those students interested in vocational education. Two additional counselors focus on issues such as drugs and alcohol, and serve as a resource for community services.

## Volunteer Opportunities

MIHS welcomes parent and community member involvement in many areas of the school community. Contact the school office or PTSA if you would like to help with: Career speakers, parent newsletter, sports booster clubs, registration, counseling center, classroom

guests, music booster committee, Fine Arts showcase, office help, or book room. The MIHS Site Council has 30 members: 15 staff, 8 students, 6 parents, 1 school board member. All but the parents are chosen for 1 year terms; parents serve 2. The council meets monthly to provide a forum for discussion and recommendations as appropriate on site related issues. The PTSA has over 900 members.

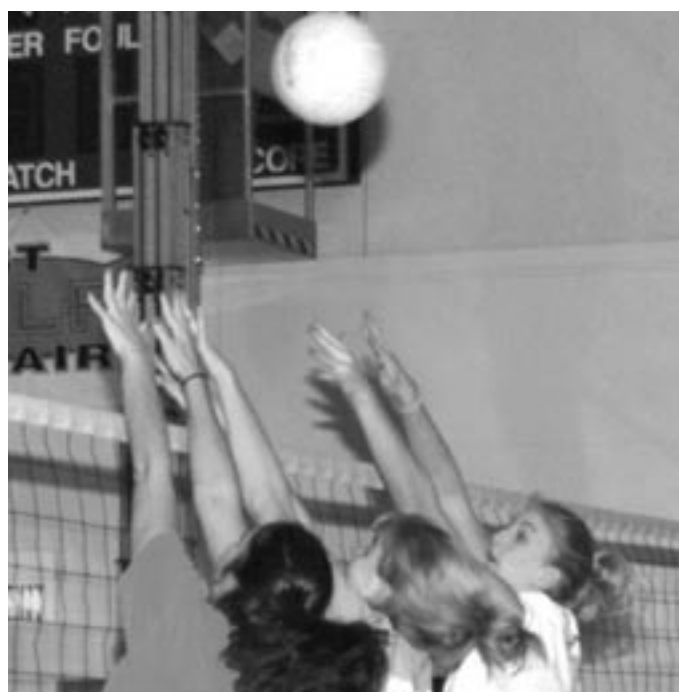
## School Improvement Plan

### Goals 2003-2004

- Develop appropriately challenging academic programs for all students.
- Help students recognize and meet their individual academic, creative, social, and emotional needs.
- Provide an environment in which meaningful connections between members of the learning community may occur.

### Highlights of 2003-2004

- New courses: AP Comparative Government, AP English Language and Composition, AP Economics, AP Studio Art, Introduction to Art, an English class that concentrates on and reinforces basic composition skills
- Skill centers: Writing Center and Math Center open throughout the day offering tutoring/mentoring help.
- Culminating Project to be implemented in 2004-2005
- Advisory Program initiated to develop a school community that promotes engagement and a sense of belonging for all members. Three all day events for students: Martin Luther King Day, Day of Respect, and Day of Service.





# Special Education

The Mercer Island School District conducts child find activities that apply to students birth to age 21 for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, and locating children with suspected disabilities. Those students who meet eligibility requirements are afforded the opportunity to a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) at no cost to the parent. State of Washington Administrative Code (WAC-392-172—100-190). In 2000-2001, 8.6% percent of the K-12 student population qualified for one or more special education services. Special education is a federal and state mandated program that districts are obligated to provide. Funding for this mandate, however, is insufficient, requiring school districts to support the shortfall out of their general operating budgets.

## Birth to Three

Children aged birth to three that are identified as having a disability are served out of district at centers for the developmentally disabled.

## Age 3-6 Resource Center

Children who meet the disability criteria between ages 3-5 are provided services by our district support staff either in community preschools or in our district preschool setting.

## K-5 Resource Centers

K-5 Learning Resource Centers (LRC's) are located at all three elementary schools. Students who are eligible for special education services are placed in general education classes to the maximum possible and attend the LRC's for a designated time for instruction as determined by their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

## K-5 Extended Resource Room (ERR)

Children with moderate to severe disabilities may attend the ERR program located at Island Park Elementary school. Here, they receive intensive instruction in academics and independent living skills. These students also receive instruction in the general education setting to the maximum amount possible.

## 5-9 Functional: Academics & Community Instructional Program

This new program bridges the gap between the K-4 Extended Resource Room program at Island Park and the Extended Learning Center at the high school. Student abilities range from multi-handicaps to varying levels of developmental disabilities. Services for students include individualized academics and living skills as well as the opportunity to be involved in community settings learning job skills.

## 6-8 Learning Resource Room

Students who qualify for special education services at the middle school may receive specially designed instruction through the LRC or through support in their regular classes. Organization/study skills are taught along with direct instruction in academic areas.

## 9-12 Learning Resource Center

Students are scheduled into the LRC for specially-designed instruction in their area of disability. Organization/study skills are taught along with direct instruction in academic areas.

## 10-12 Extended Learning Center

Students who are moderately or severely disabled receive intensive instruction focusing on learning skills needed for independent living and meaningful employment. Students are included in school-wide activities, elective, and academic classes as appropriate.

## School Transition Program

Disabled Students ages 18-21 who do not receive a general education diploma upon graduation may attend the Mercer Island/Bellevue Co-op where they are given job training. Students are placed in a variety of community work settings where their work skills may be applied or assessed for future employment.



**A community functions best when diversity is honored**

# Giving to Our Schools

The Mercer Island School District gratefully accepts your donations to our schools through the PTA/PTSA's or the **Mercer Island Schools Foundation**, both 501c(3) non-profit organizations. The PTA/PTSA's support individual school enrichment activities including: Field Trips, Assemblies, Great Books, Art Docents, Artist in Residence programs, teacher grants and discretionary funds, and classroom activities. Their primary fund-raisers of the year are the Metrathon at the elementary level, Magazine Drive and Ski Swap at the middle school, and "Pass the Hat" at the high school.

The Mercer Island Schools Foundation supports curriculum improvement at every grade level in every classroom in the district, as well as teacher initiated enrichment grants. Their only fund-raiser of the year is the Phone-a-Thon. All of these activities occur in the fall to provide funding for current year projects. Both organizations are critical in helping the district achieve desired outcomes for students.

By far, the most important thing you can give is interest in your child's education. If you have questions, comments, ideas, or concerns, call the school offices, or follow the links to individual school web sites via the district site at [www.misd.k12.wa.us](http://www.misd.k12.wa.us)



## Grants

- **Boeing Company**  
"Flight to the Future" grant
- **Boeing Company support for Board Governance Training**
- **Washington Mutual Foundation support for Board Governance Training**
- **Washington State Teacher Assistance Grant (TAP)**
- **NEVAC Partner School – National Science Foundation**
- **Developing A Community of Mathematics Learners" – partner grant, National Science Foundation• Diana Low, Teacher of the Year for the Mercer Island School District**

## Commendations

- **Joan Papsadero and Chris Twombly, District nominees for State Teacher of the Year**
- **Mary Margaret Welch, Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for the State of Washington**
- **Thelma Ritchie, Massachusetts Institute of Technology National Science Teacher of the Year**
- **Kingco 3A Coaches of the Year: Joyce Hedlund, Boys Tennis, Erica Hill, Cross Country, Dick Nicholl, Football, Jeff Lowell, Girls' Swimming and Washington State Coach of the Year for Swimming**

## Other Sources of Dollars

Discretionary \$521,163

PTA/PTSA \$550,000

### Mercer Island Schools Foundation

Classroom Enrichment  
\$67,899

Extra Curricular  
\$43,172

Fine Arts  
\$18,826

Language Arts  
\$68,379

Mathematics  
\$135,376

Science  
\$6,163

Social Studies  
\$35,910

Special Education/ESL  
\$4,047

Teacher Development  
\$139,324

Technology  
\$6,653

World Languages  
\$20,672

**Total**  
**\$546,421**

**Discretionary:** budget money from the state to fund teaching and student supplies; staff development; and technology software and maintenance.

**MISF (Mercer Island Schools Foundation):** community donations provide funding for curriculum improvements in all areas, classroom enrichment support, and technology.

**PTA/PTSA (Parent/Teacher/Student Assoc):** funds finance field trips, assemblies, teacher grants, artist-in-residence, and other cultural and enrichment activities. Island Park Elementary held a special auction to raise funds for additional paraprofessionals.

# Mercer Island School District Financials

The Mercer Island School District is a public supported organization governed by the Washington state laws and regulations. Major sources of income include: the state of Washington basic education allocation of \$4,007 per student per year and local levy funds of \$1,664 per student per year.

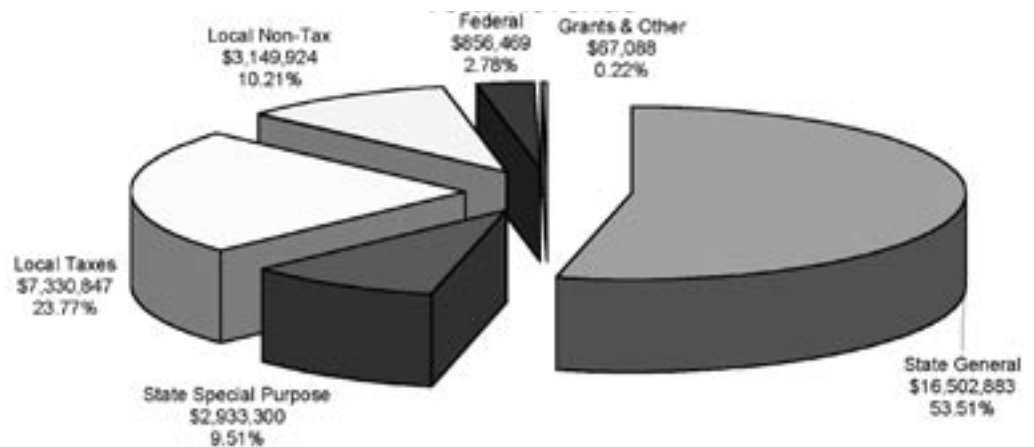
In 2002 MI voters approved a 4 year maintenance and operations levy. Approximately 25.75% of the annual property tax bill is dedicated to local schools.

Other sources of income include: state special purpose, local non-tax (i.e. fees, lunches, donations, rentals and investment earnings), federal grants.

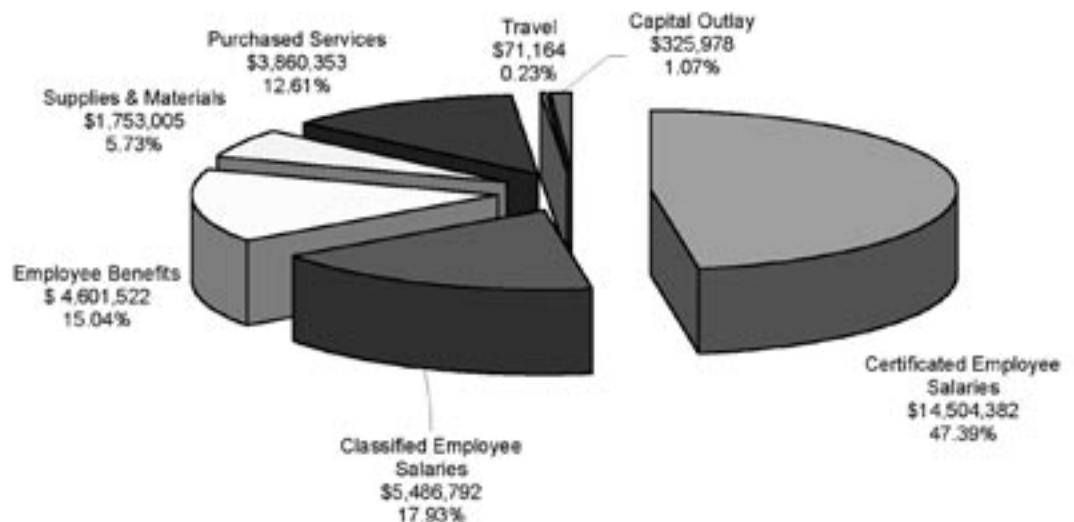
Major expenses include salaries and benefits, supplies and materials, purchased services, travel, and capital outlay. The Mercer Island School District is one of a very few districts in Washington to receive a AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poors and Moodys.

The yearly budget process begins in January with an initial enrollment projection review with principals and concludes with an open to the public budget hearing and adoption meeting in July.

## Total Revenue



## Total Expenditures





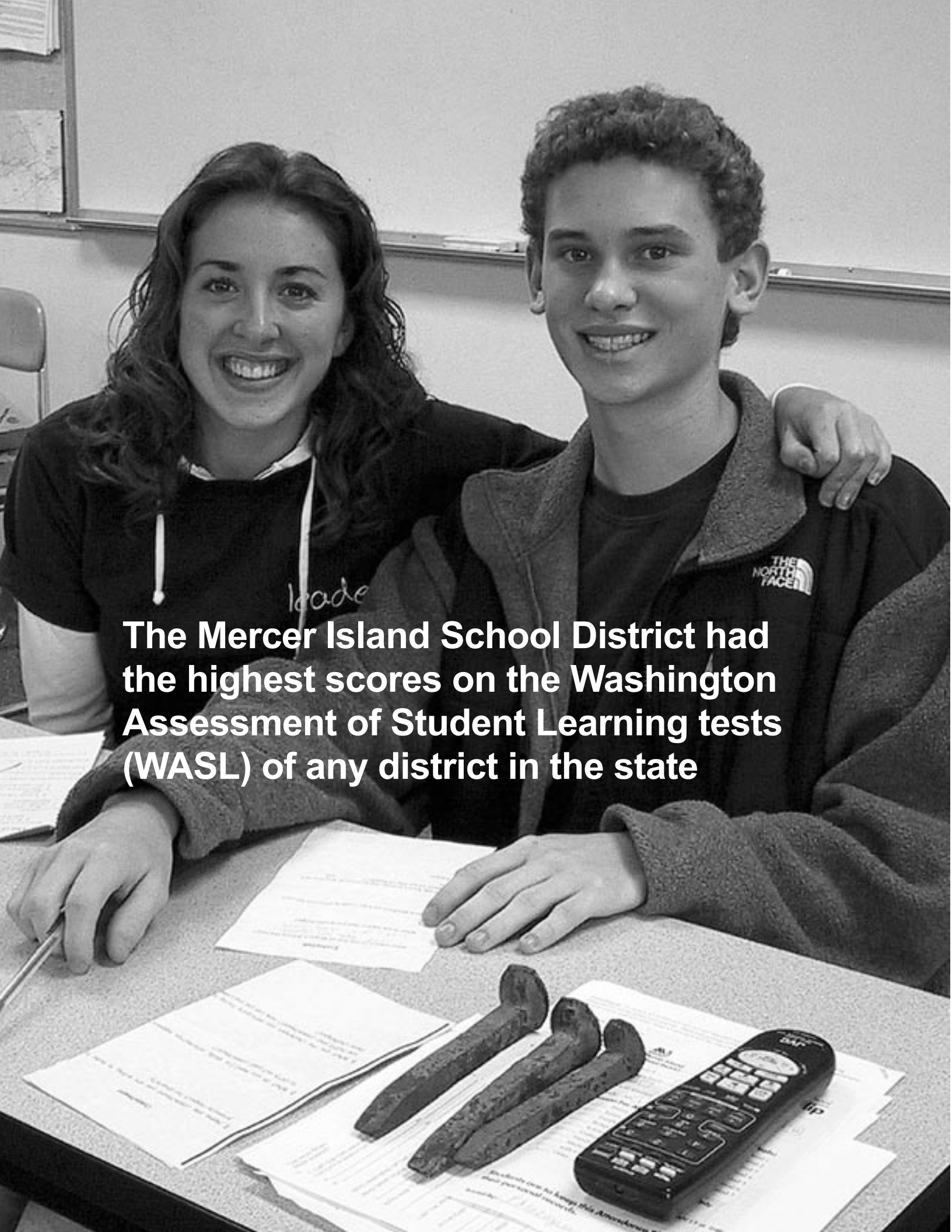
### **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) – No Child Left Behind**

The Mercer Island School District has met all requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and has reported Adequate Yearly Progress under ESEA. To view the MISD report card and/or a School Report Card, go to <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. Under Select List, click District and highlight Mercer Island. Then click on Search. Scroll down on the page and choose a school or program whose report you would like to see.

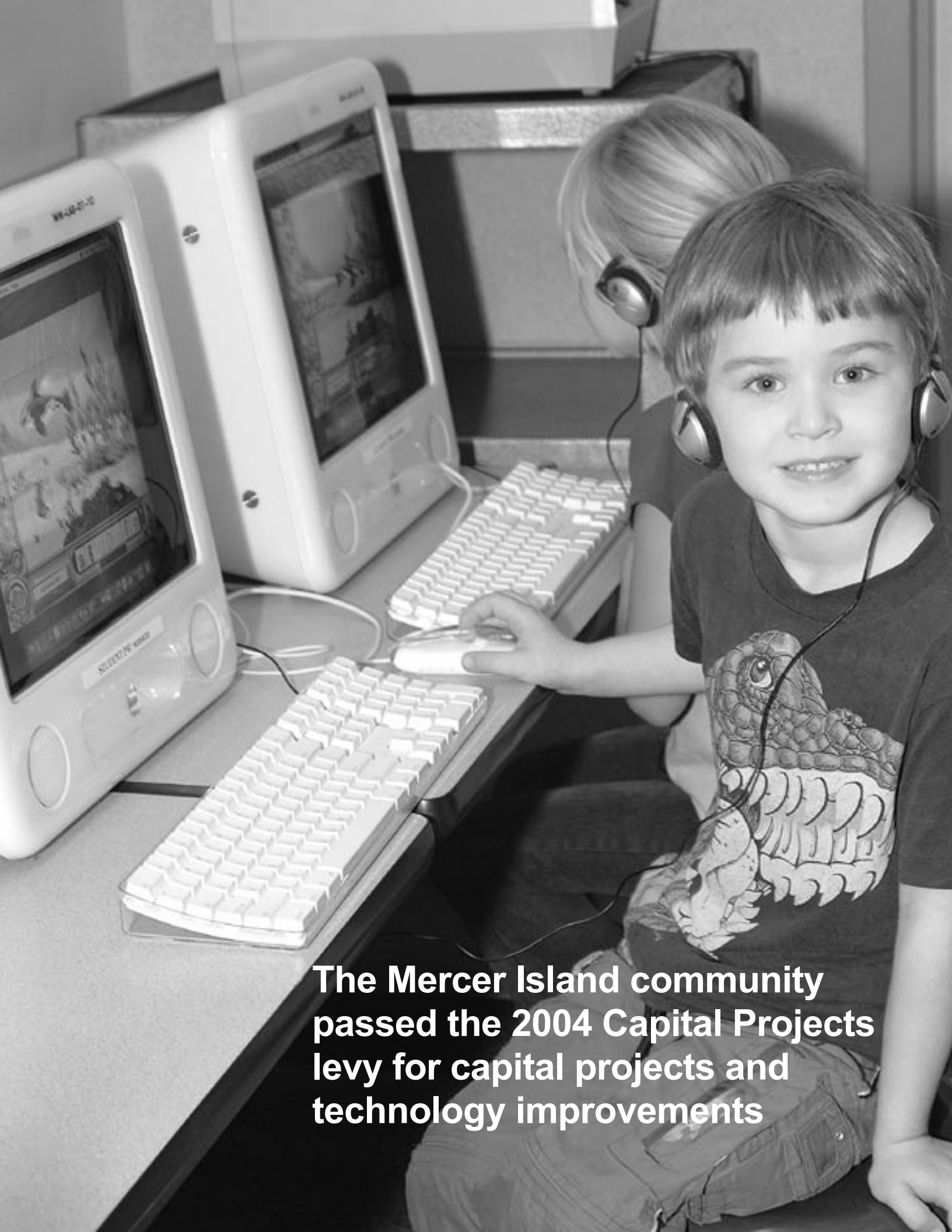
Currently our annual reports include the state requirements listed in RCW 28A.655.110, as well as ESEA Report Card elements not available on the OSPI website.

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

The Mercer Island School District complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of national origin, creed, color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, parental status, marital status, or physical, mental or sensory disability. This holds true for all students who participate in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities.



**The Mercer Island School District had the highest scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning tests (WASL) of any district in the state**



**The Mercer Island community passed the 2004 Capital Projects levy for capital projects and technology improvements**

# **Mercer Island School District**

**Committed to lifelong learning  
in a changing world.....**



Mercer Island School District  
4160 86th Avenue Southeast  
Mercer Island, Washington 98040