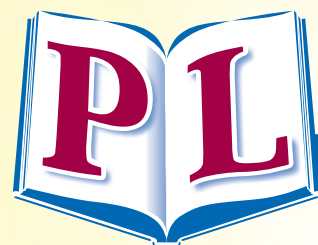




# Excellence . . . One Student at a Time

January 2010



*Papillion-La Vista School District*

*Excellence...One Student at a Time*



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## **Papillion-La Vista School District Mission**

**In cooperation with family and community, the mission of the Papillion-La Vista School District, is to prepare all students to be productive responsible citizens, in a changing society, through superior educational programs, in a safe and supportive environment.**

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## Greetings from the Superintendent

In cooperation with family and community, the mission of the Papillion-La Vista School District is to prepare all students to be productive, responsible citizens in a changing society, through superior education programs, in a safe and supportive environment. Preparing all students to be productive responsible citizens is a charge we take very seriously. The most important responsibility we have is to ensure that after 13 years of education, all Papillion-La Vista School District graduates are prepared to make that smooth transition into the next phase of their lives. How do we accomplish this?

We accomplish our mission by focusing on Excellence...One Student at a Time. This excellence is found in teaching, in student achievement, and in programs. This brochure was designed to capture our excellence. It will provide you with several snapshots of excellence being portrayed in our classrooms, through our programs and most importantly the excellence in our staff. Through these pages, you will find the evidence of our excellence and the core operation of our School District.

In the Papillion-La Vista School District, we are teachers, support staff, administrators, parents, volunteers and members of the community working in partnership every day to provide an excellent education for each and every child. I invite each of you to come visit our schools. See our teachers at work with students. Observe a staff development day and the professional growth of our staff. Attend a school board meeting. You too, will quickly discover the Excellence of the Papillion-La Vista School District!

Rick Black, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



*Above photo: Papillion-La Vista School District Superintendent Dr. Rick Black reads to Hickory Hill students.*

## Meet the Board of Education



**President-**  
Dr. Dan Flanagan



**Vice President-**  
Barry DeJong



**Secretary-**  
Bill Gess



**Treasurer-**Patricia  
Conway-Boyd



Deborah Boykin



Valerie Fisher



**Excellence . . .**

**in Learning**





*“In the Papillion-La Vista School District, we are committed to the whole child. We want to make certain that all students have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful long after graduation.”*

*- Dr. Rick Black,  
Superintendent*

## **Preparing All Students to be Successful - District Defines Standards All Students Should Know and Be Able to Do...**

The ultimate goal of education in the Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) is to prepare every student for a smooth transition into life after high school. The next step after high school may look different for each student. Some students may choose to attend post-secondary education in a four-year college, a two-year college, or a technical or trade school. Others may choose to go directly into the workforce or enter the military. Whichever choice a student makes, it is the commitment of the PLSD to prepare each student for that transition. To accomplish this, the PLSD identified the power standards. The power standards are embedded in the curriculum for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Throughout a child’s education in the PLSD, he or she will have numerous opportunities to demonstrate his or her ability to accomplish each of the power standards. By graduation, students should have fully developed the nine power standards and be prepared to make that smooth transition into the next phase of life.



*Above photo: Assistant Superintendent of Business, Doug Lewis, hands his son, Aron Lewis, his PLSHS diploma at graduation.*

### **After 13 years of Education all Papillion-La Vista Graduates will be...**

**Knowledgeable Individuals** - understand content necessary to be successful in a variety of endeavors.

**Information Processors** - gather and process information from a variety of sources for different purposes.

**Effective Communicators** - apply their reading, speaking, writing, and listening skills to communicate effectively in a variety of modes and settings.

**Competent Thinkers** - think analytically and creatively, solve problems, and make decisions.

**Self-Directed Learners** - actively and independently inquire and apply learning to new and different situations.

**Quality Producers** - create products and performances that reflect high standards.

**Collaborative Individuals** - work successfully with others to achieve a common goal.

**Well-Balanced Individuals** - value physical, intellectual, emotional and social well-being.

**Responsible, Active Citizens** - are well-informed and apply knowledge and skills to improve the quality of their lives and communities.



# Excellence . . . in Program Opportunities



*“I love that the zoo is our classroom!”  
- Nicole Mann, Zoo Academy Student*



## Academies Offer the Opportunity for Students to Live Their Education!

The Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) knows that students need practical, hands-on experiences to bring their education to life. Along with two comprehensive, state of the art traditional high schools, the PLSD is offering high school students the opportunity to learn in a very non-traditional setting known as the academy program. For some PLSD students, their “high school” is not what you would think; instead these students attend high school at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo or Alegent Health Midlands Hospital.

Students enrolled in the academy programs have the option of attending school at their academy the entire day or attending a partial day and returning to their traditional high school for additional course offerings. Each academy program has an on site PLSD teacher for math, language arts, science and social studies. The exciting part of the academy is that education is provided in an environment where students can instantly apply their learning.

As a part of the program, students are hands-on at both the hospital and zoo. At the zoo, students work directly with the animals, conduct real research in the lab and learn first-hand how academics can be put to work. At the hospital, students work with patients, observe medical practices and apply their classroom knowledge to the medical setting. Students can learn and work side-by-side with zoo and health systems professionals. The PLSD has had an academy program in place for nine years now, but this is the first year it was expanded to include an all-day program with core classes on location.



Above photo: Health Systems Academy students Stefanie Alther and Karissa Madler practice making surgical cuts on twinkies during class.

### Programs for All Students

The PLSD prides itself on meeting the individual needs of all students through a wide range of “Opportunities for Excellence.” To the right is a brief description of some of the program opportunities offered. For more information on additional programs, please visit the District Web site at [www.paplv.org](http://www.paplv.org).

#### Special Education

- The PLSD promotes the individual skills of all students with disabilities within their neighborhood school and in their regular classroom setting. This inclusion model brings the special education teacher into the classroom to work directly with the regular classroom teacher. Together, the teacher team meets the special needs of all identified students.

#### Summer School

- Summer school at the elementary level provides students with individualized instruction in the area of reading, writing and math. Summer school opportunities are also available at the middle school and high school level, with the primary focus being credit recovery. Over 911 students participated in summer school at all levels.

#### Cooperation-BEST

- The Cooperation-BEST program connects business partners with PLSD students and teachers to provide hands-on learning experiences for students.
- There are 105 School-Business Partnerships within the PLSD.

#### High Ability Learner (HAL)

- The HAL program is designed to provide academic enrichment to gifted students. Each HAL student, along with his/her teachers, develops a gifted education plan identifying primary goals for the student. Along with the regular classroom instruction, a variety of opportunities are available throughout the year.



**Excellence . . .**

**in Student  
Achievement**





*“Our district assessments allow us to measure what we value - student performance on our power standards.”*

*-Laura Miller, Instructional Facilitator*

## District Assessments Show Ongoing Growth in Student Achievement!

Ongoing, continuous improvement in student learning is the ultimate goal of the Papillion-La Vista School District. One way of measuring this improvement is through the results of district assessments. Along with the power standards, the PLSD has written its own content standards which identify what students should know and be able to do in each content area such as math, language arts, etc. The PLSD also writes its own assessments which measure how well students know the District content standards. The District assessments are very challenging and go far beyond a simple multiple choice test. Through the assessments, students are asked to actually perform a skill such as reading, figuring a math problem, giving a speech or writing.

All students at each grade level take the same assessments. The information from these assessments allows teams of PLSD teachers to compare results and identify strengths and weaknesses. This common data is used to drive decisions about instruction, programs and student learning.

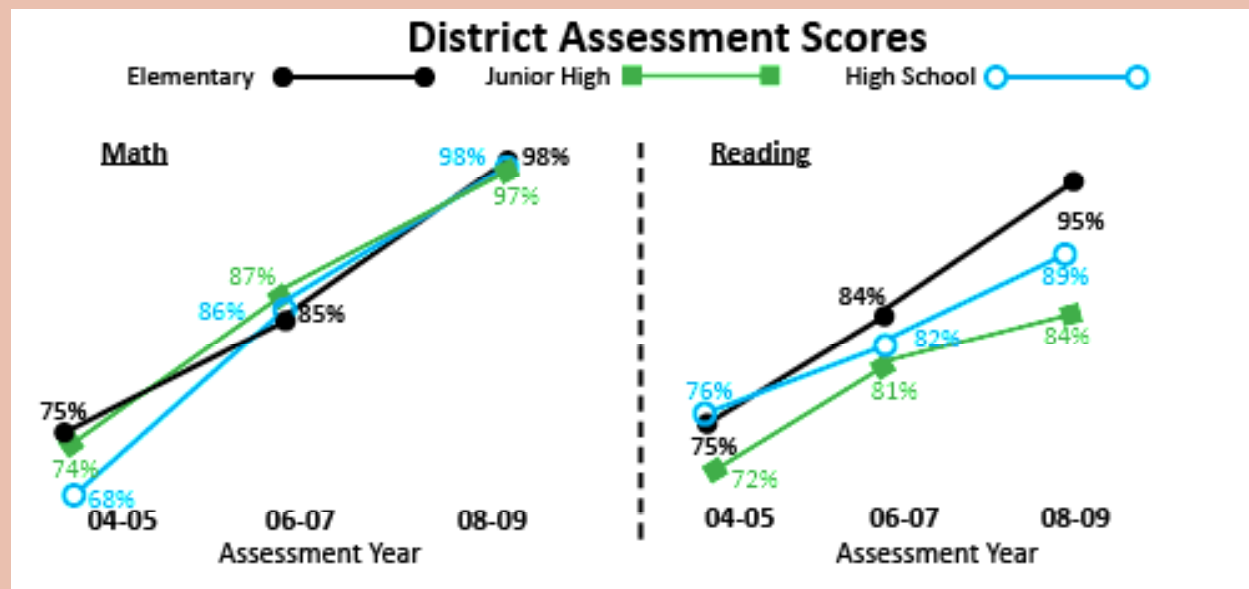
As a result of high standards and challenging assessments, students at all grade levels are showing improvement.



Above photo: Portal Elementary student, Terryen Brunt, works on a writing project during class.

### Improvement Shown Over Five Year Period!

The PLSD is committed to high standards and challenging assessments. It was the philosophy of the District to keep standards high and push students to excel. After five years, one can truly see the results. Students in all subject areas have improved! The District now has approximately 90% of students proficient on District assessments. Five years ago, this number was closer to 70%. Student achievement is improving through high standards and challenging assessments.





**Excellence . . .**

**in Education**





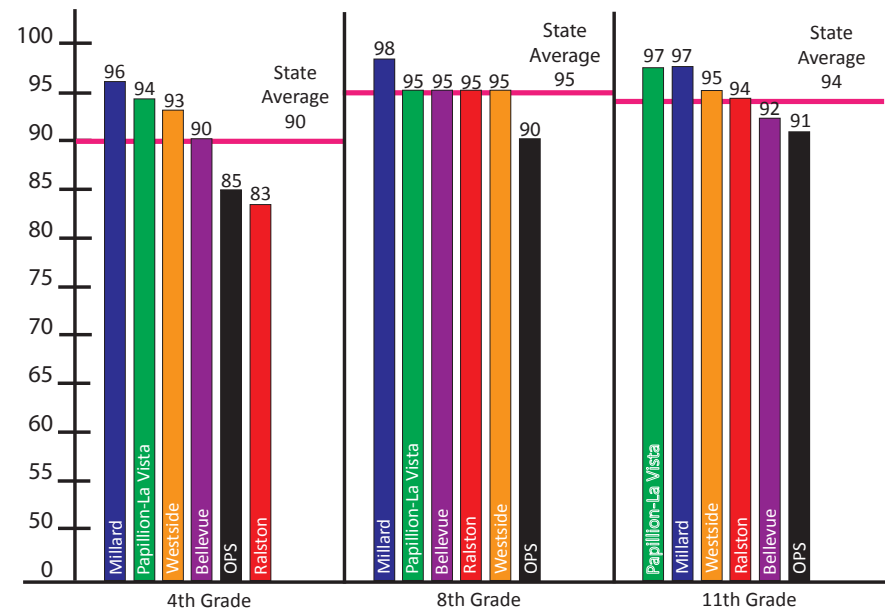
## Students Continue to Perform Near the Top!

Unlike the District assessments, standardized tests and state writing assessment are designed to provide districts, parents and community members an opportunity to compare. The purpose of national standardized tests is to compare local students to a national sample of students who took the same multiple-choice test. The Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) annually ranks at the top when compared to the largest metro schools on comparable tests and remains above the state and national average on standardized tests.

## Facts about State Writing Assessment!

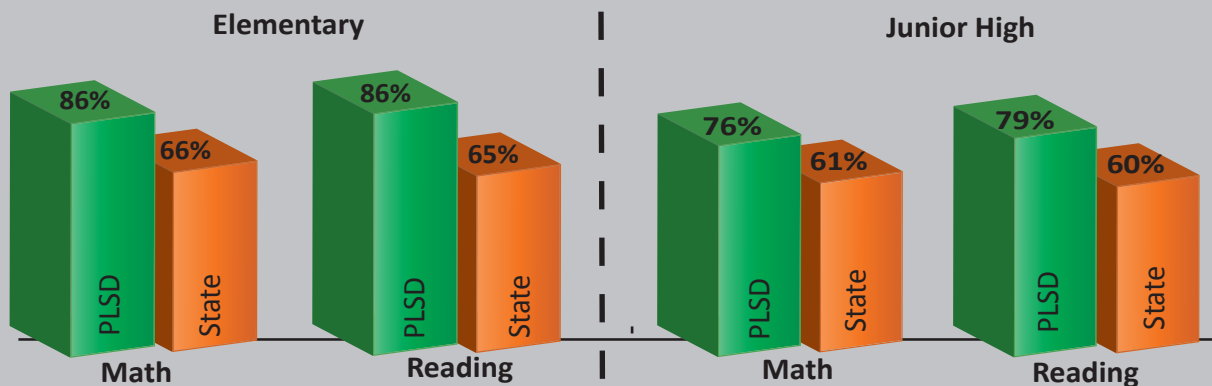
The state writing assessment is given to 4th, 8th, and 11th grade students throughout the state of Nebraska. Students are given an age appropriate writing prompt and asked to write an essay. These papers are then collected by the Nebraska Department of Education and scored at a central site. PLSD students score well above the state average and near the top of the metro area schools on the state writing test. Over the past five years, the percentage of PLSD students proficient in the state writing test has improved nearly 10 percentage points at elementary, middle and high school.

## 2008-2009 Statewide Writing Scores by School District



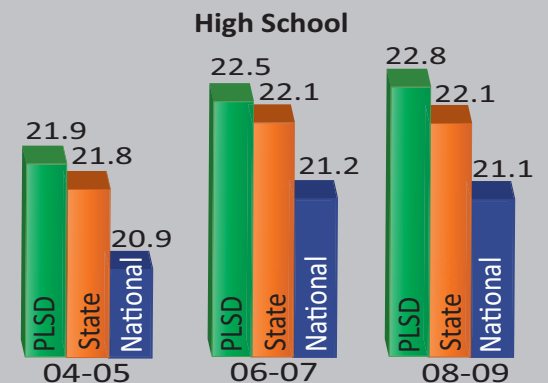
Scores indicate percentage of students proficient. (Bellevue, Millard, OPS, Papillion-La Vista, Ralston, and Westside)

## 2008-2009 Standardized Test Scores



The above scores represent the percentage of students above the national average on the Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT). The elementary scores are 5th grade and the junior high scores are 7th grade.

## ACT Scores by Year



ACT scores for the PLSD remain above the state and national average, while continuing to show improvement over a 5 year period.



# Excellence . . . in Teaching





*“The professional development opportunities at Papillion-La Vista are amazing! I grow as a professional every year and I know our students benefit when their teachers are more aware of current research and practice.”*

*- Dawn Spurck,  
Carriage Hill, Teacher*

## Teacher Training Critical for Student Success!

Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) teachers are committed to providing the best possible instruction for all students. Teachers know to improve student learning one must also improve teaching strategies. The PLSD is committed to identifying the best practices and training all teachers in how they can best meet the needs of all learners.

The PLSD provides regular time for teachers to meet in teams and strategize about student progress. Monthly in-service days provide opportunities to train staff, and additional training occurs before and after school and throughout the school day. It is a commitment of the PLSD that teachers know what is expected and are provided the support and training they need to be successful for all students.



Above photo: La Vista Junior High student Alex Huggins gets assistance from his teacher, Bruce Nissen, on a class project.



**Click us out at [www.paplv.org](http://www.paplv.org)**

### Student Statistics

#### Graduation Statistics

- The 2009 PLSD graduation rate was 97%.
- A total of 272 students received scholarships totaling approximately \$13.2 million.

#### Student Demographics

##### Students in the PLSD are...

- 14.35 percent minority.
- 19.51 percent free and reduced cost lunch plans.
- 8.8 percent military.

#### Average Number of Students Per Classroom Teacher 2009-2010

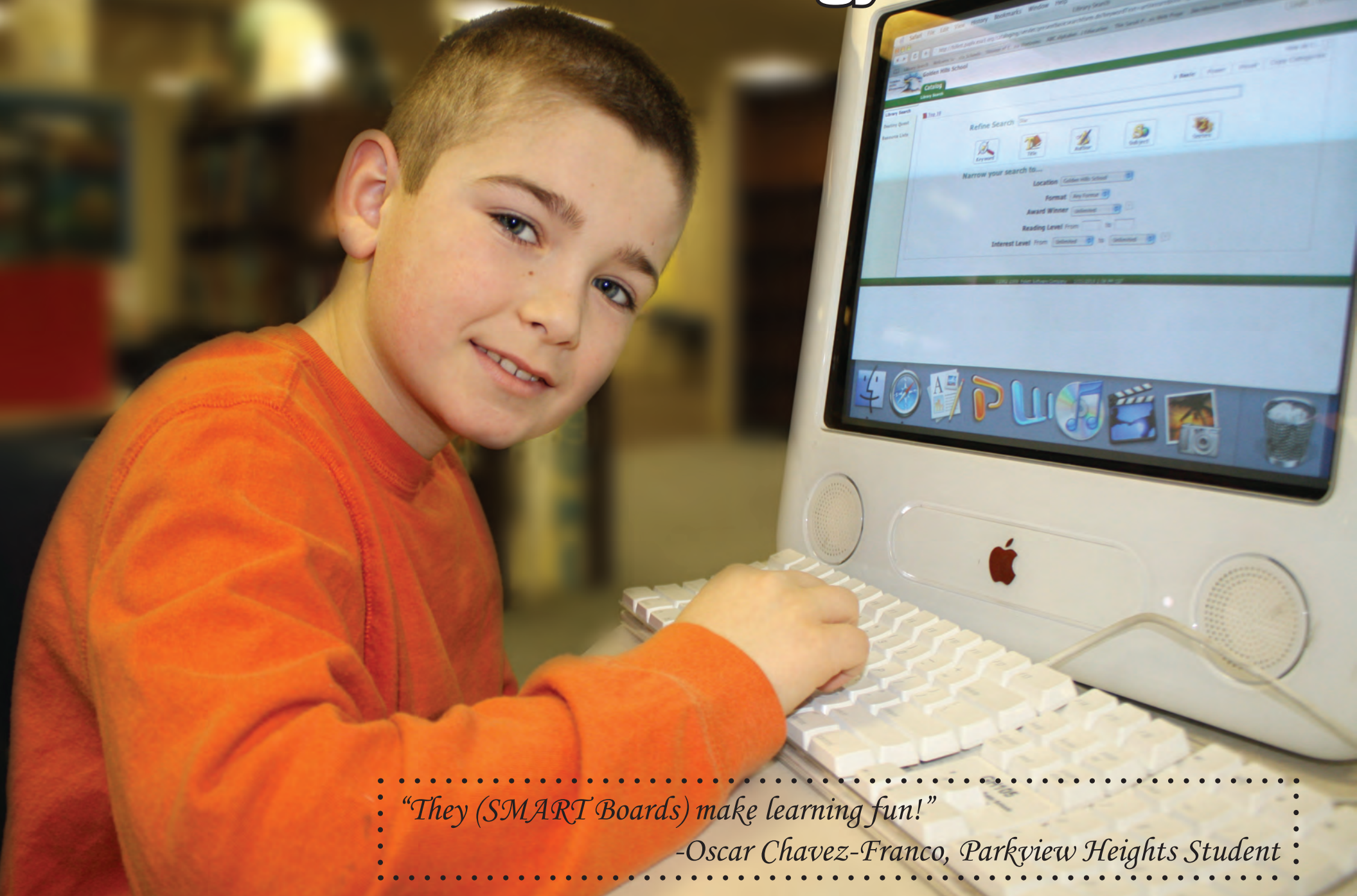
Elementary	20
Junior High	22
High School	21

### Staff Statistics

- There are 1,492 highly qualified and experienced staff educating students in the PLSD.
- The average teacher has been with the District for 17.10 years.
- The certified teaching staff has a minimum of a bachelor's degree, many have acquired additional hours including the 447 that have a master's degree, 15 have education specialist degrees and 5 have doctorates.
- There are six nationally certified teachers in the PLSD.



# Excellence . . . in Technology



.....  
: *"They (SMART Boards) make learning fun!"* :  
: *-Oscar Chavez-Franco, Parkview Heights Student* :  
: .....  
.....





Above photo: PLSHS students skype with Mr. Rosenbaum, the Education Specialist for the National Archives, in Washington D.C. Skype is an online software that allows users to make free phone or video calls, over the internet, to other users that may be in another state or country. During this skype session, students were shown rare national archive documents without ever having to leave their school!

## Technology Enhances 21st Century Education!

The Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) believes that technology enhances the education of all students. Throughout the District, you will see examples of teachers using technology in unique ways to increase the learning opportunities for everyone. Through skyping, students from PLHS have been linked to Spain. Blogs have broadened a classroom discussion to online. SMART Boards, interactive white boards, are utilized in Kindergarten through 12th grade to provide interactive hands-on learning opportunities for all students. These are just a few of the forms of technology that are found throughout the PLSD. Teachers are continually seeking new ways to use the 21st century technology. Computers, which were once viewed as glorified word processors, now open the four walls of the classroom to endless opportunities. Mobile labs, or computers on a cart, are rolled from classroom-to-classroom, allowing every student in the classroom technology at their finger tips. Wireless connections throughout the District allow students and teachers immediate access to the internet. Technology will continue to evolve, and PLSD teachers will continue to capitalize on the new forms of technology to enhance learning for all students.

## Technology Enhances Communication

### Online Grades

The PLSD feels that parents are an important part of a student's success. To enhance communication between home and school, the District offers online grades for high school and junior high parents. The goal with online grades is to give parents easy access to their student's grades and important information regarding their student's achievement.

### Parent Notification System

In a continued effort to enhance communication between the District, school, and parents, the PLSD uses a parent notification system. This system allows designated staff to send a prerecorded phone call and/or e-mail to several parents at one time. This quick form of communication allows schools to keep parents up-to-date on the latest school events.

### District Web site

In May of 2009, the PLSD launched a new Web site. The goal of the new District Web site is to increase communication and the availability of information for parents and community members. Please check out the District Web site at [www.paplv.org](http://www.paplv.org) as features and new information are continually added.

### Technology Facts

- There are 3300 student computers in the District.
- One hundred percent of PLSD teachers have a laptop. This mobility enhances their teaching and collaboration with other teachers.
- Throughout the District there are 230 SMART Boards.



# Excellence . . . in Facilities





*“The renovation of Papillion-La Vista High School, has truly made our school a state of the art facility that offers exciting new features to enhance the learning for all of our students.”*

*- Jim Glover,  
Principal of PLHS*

## New Elementary School Added to Excellent Facilities!

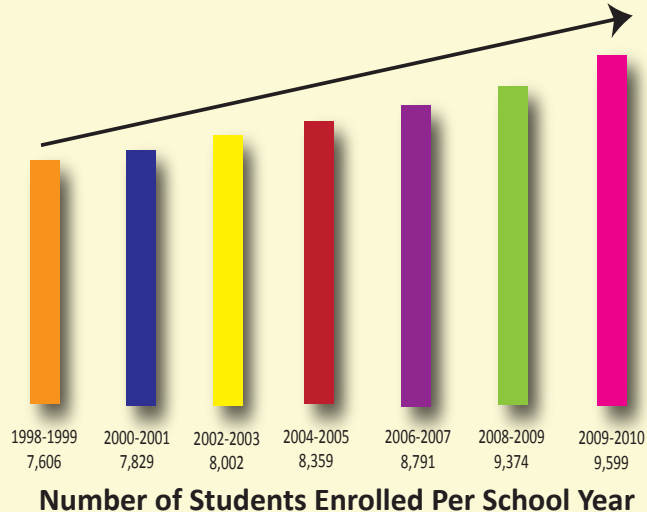
The Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) opened its 14th elementary school in the fall of 2009. Bell Elementary is located south of Midlands Hospital in the Shadow Lake Subdivision. This new elementary school captures the history of the PLSD by being named after a former one room schoolhouse once located in the same area.

The PLSD prides itself on having excellent facilities. In November of 2006, the PLSD community passed a \$40 million bond issue that focused on updating current facilities, building new schools for a growing population and preserving neighborhood schools. The bond issue included eight projects. One of the largest projects was a major renovation of Papillion-La Vista High School. This high school renovation placed PLSD on the map with two state of the art 21st century high schools. For additional information on the excellent facilities in the PLSD, see [www.paplv.org](http://www.paplv.org).



Above photo: Bell Elementary teacher Tiffany Sindelar reads to her kindergarten students.

### PLSD Student Enrollment Grows



### District Studies Long-Range Growth

Valuing the importance of planning and quality facilities, during the 2009 year the PLSD engaged in a long-range facility study conducted by an outside consultant. The long range study investigated growth patterns and potential development areas to determine future facility needs. The study concluded that the District has been and will continue to grow, reaching a final enrollment of over 17,000 students within 30 years. In order to maintain smaller neighborhood schools and adjust to the increase in enrollment, additional facilities will be required at all levels. Future bond issues for additional facilities are certainly on the horizon, with the most immediate needs being one or two new elementary schools and a new middle school. For more details on the facility study, visit the PLSD Web site at [www.paplv.org](http://www.paplv.org).



**Click us out at [www.paplv.org](http://www.paplv.org)**



**Excellence . . .**

**in Fiscal  
Responsibility**

*“Our fiscal resources are more precious than ever. The Board remains ever vigilant in balancing fiscal responsibility with responsibility for the success of our precious children.”*

*- Dr. Dan L. Flanagan,  
Board of Education President*



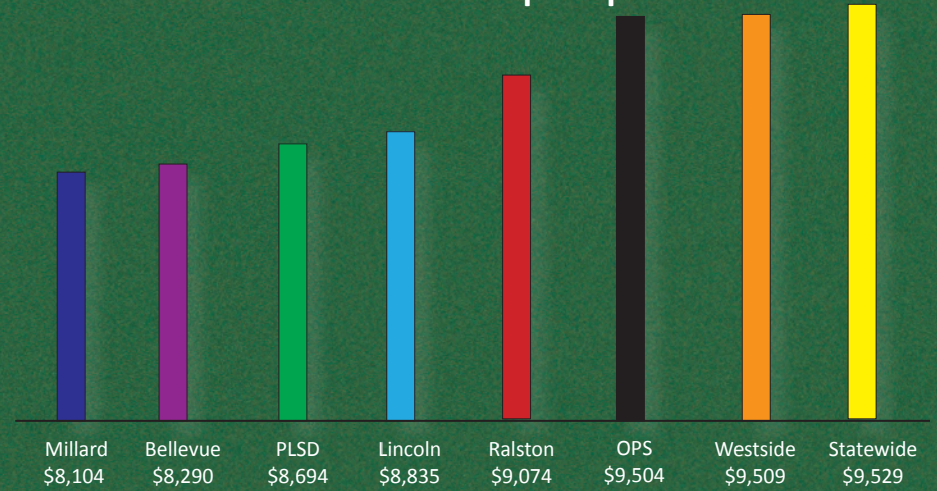
# School Board Maintains Fiscal Responsibility!

The Board of Education continually monitors spending to ensure that the Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) spends efficiently, yet provides the best possible education for all students.

There are 9,599 students being educated in the PLSD during the 2009-2010 school year with a total operating budget of \$94,742,139. The tax rate associated with this budget is now calculated differently due to the implementation of the Learning Community (LC) common levy. The common levy is a tax rate set by the LC for all 11 school districts in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. The money collected from this tax rate is then put in one pool and redistributed among the 11 districts. The LC also sets a common building levy and a new tax known as the capital construction levy. The common building fund levy is redistributed to school districts but the construction fund is not.

For tax payers in the PLSD, the tax rate increased just under two cents. With the implementation of the LC and the common levy, the PLSD has lost control over a large portion of the tax ability. This limited control and flexibility, along with the implementation of a new tax, has resulted in a tax increase for the PLSD.

## 2007-2008 Per Pupil Expenditure



Note: The per pupil expenditure is based on the 2007-2008 school year, the most recent available statistic from the state.



Click us out at [www.paplv.org](http://www.paplv.org)

## 2009-2010 Tax Facts

Tax Levy/\$100 assessed value	\$1.25
Taxes/\$100,000	\$1,250
Total District Assessed Valuation	\$4,009,753,916

### 2009 Tax Rate

General Fund	\$0.09022
Building Fund	\$0.00000
Bond Fund	\$0.19269

**Total PLSD Rate \$0.28291**

+ Learning Community Levy \$0.96500

**Total PLSD and LCC Tax Rate \$1.24791**

## 2009-2010 General Operating Budget

### Where the Money Comes From...



Local Sources \$49,684,010 52.44%	State Sources \$35,858,844 37.85%	Federal Sources \$9,199,286 9.71%
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### Where the Money Goes...

General & Building			
Instruction	Administration	Transportation	
\$49,379,462 52.12%	\$7,287,199 7.69%	\$1,407,241 1.49%	
Special Education \$12,155,329 12.83%	Operations & Maintenance \$11,686,347 12.33%	Support Services \$7,400,275 7.81%	Business Services \$1,090,142 1.15%
			State & Federal Program \$4,336,144 4.58%



**Papillion-La Vista Public Schools  
District #27  
420 S. Washington Street  
Papillion, NE 68046**

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