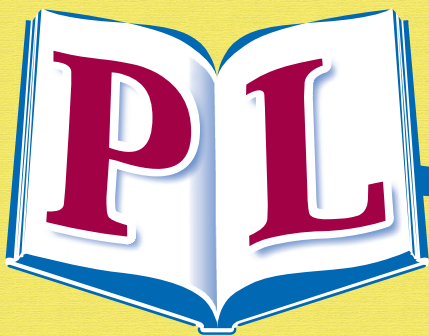




Nurturing **Growth and Inspiring** **Minds!**



Papillion-La Vista School District

Excellence...One Student at a Time

**Report to the Community on Student Progress
Presented January 2009**

www.paplv.org

Our Leadership Nurturing Growth

Superintendent's Message

Dear Papillion-La Vista School District Community,

It is with great excitement that we publish the 2008 annual report to the community on School District progress. In the Papillion-La Vista School District, we nurture growth and inspire minds. Our focus is Excellence... One Student at a Time. This annual report is designed to capture our excellence. It will provide you with examples of how we nurture growth and inspire minds on a daily, weekly, and annual basis. The data in this report, however, can not fully portray the essence of our School District. We are more than numbers. We are teachers, support staff, administrators, parents, volunteers and members of the community working hard every day to provide an excellent education for each and every child.

As your Superintendent, I am so proud to be the leader of your School District. Looking back over the past year, we have accomplished great things, many of which are highlighted in this report. Looking forward, we have great opportunities on the horizons for our students.

I hope you find the information in this annual report helpful. I can assure you that I gain a much better understanding of our District when I visit classrooms and see our outstanding staff working with our students. I am excited for our future, as we begin the 2009 year. I would encourage you to do the same. Feel free to visit our schools and see first-hand what is happening. I promise you too, will be proud to be a part of the Papillion-La Vista School District.



Above: Zach Little, a sixth grade student at Trumble Park, shows Superintendent Dr. Black the country he researched during the Earthology Club's World Fair in February 2008.

Sincerely,

Rick Black, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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.

Meet the 2009 School Board



Deborah Boykin



Patricia
Conway-Boyd



Barry DeJong



Valerie Fisher



Dr. Dan
Flanagan



Bill Gess

Extraordinary Students

Graduation Statistics

- 709 seniors graduated from the PLSD in 2008.
- 2008 graduation rate is 95%.
- A total of 247 students received 824 scholarships totaling approximately \$9.65 million.

Post Graduation Plans

- 81% chose to further their education at...
 - 72% - Four-year College or University
 - 25% - Two-year College
 - 3% - Technical-Vocational School
- 3% - Military Career
- 6% - Work Force
- 8% - Undecided
- 1% - District's Young Adult Transition Program (YATP)
- 1% - Foreign Exchange Students

Student Statistics

- 16% of the elementary students are minority
- 14% of the middle school students are minority
- 12% of the high school students are minority
- 18% of the PLSD students are on free or reduced cost lunch plans.

Below photo: Zach Nixon, a third grade student at Rumsey Station, works on a class writing project.



Above photo: Megan Feldmann, Colton Brown, and Darby Zadina, sixth grade students at Anderson Grove, prepare to look at water samples they took while attending outdoor education.



Inspiring Our Student Minds



Above photo: Justin Kalhorn, a sixth grade student at Trumble Park, participates in outdoor education.

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education is a program for all sixth grade students in the PLSD. The students spend two days and one night staying at a 4-H camp where they learn about the outdoors and acquire greater understanding of nature.



2006 Bond Issue Nears Completion!

New Elementary School Opened!

Patriot Elementary opened in the fall of 2008, serving approximately 370 Kindergarten -6th grade students. Patriot was a part of the 2006 bond issue. It is located in the Grandview subdivision just south of Schram Road near 96th Street.



Above photo: Patriot students celebrate Veterans Day and the dedication of their new school.

Left photo: Emma Ralston, a first grade student at Patriot Elementary, visits the library at the Patriot Elementary Open House.



Nurturing Growth - Prepare, Plan, Build

Bond Issue Update

The Papillion-La Vista School District (PLSD) community takes great pride in the appearance of its schools. On November 7, 2006 the PLSD community passed a \$39,995,000 bond issue. The focus of the bond issue was to accommodate a growing student population, improve facilities for educational needs and preserve neighborhood schools. This bond issue included nine different projects.

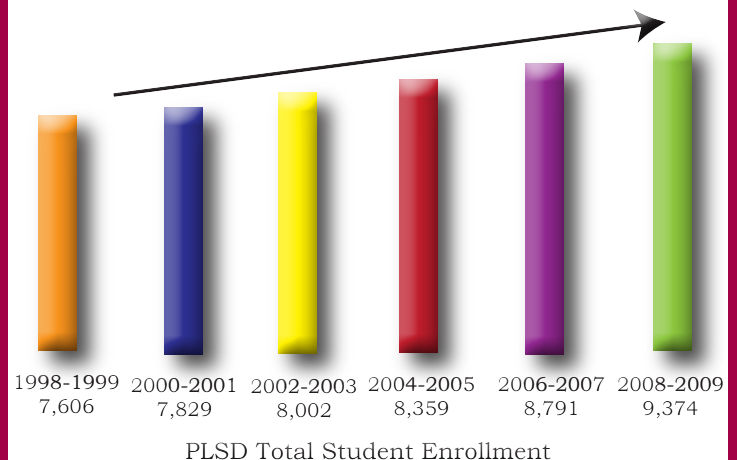
Projects Completed:

- Papillion and La Vista Junior High Schools – air conditioning of gymnasium
- Transportation & Warehouse – parking lot
- Rumsey Station Elementary – classroom addition
- Papillion-La Vista South High – classroom addition
- Patriot Elementary – new school in Grandview subdivision
- Hickory Hill – classroom addition

Projects in Progress:

- Bell Elementary – new school in Shadow Lake subdivision
- Transportation & Warehouse – renovation
- Papillion-La Vista High - renovation

Enrollment Continues to Grow



District Defines Standards All Students Should Know and Be Able to Do...

The ultimate goal of education in the PLSD is to prepare every student for a smooth transition into life after high school. That 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 key learning characteristics all students need to be successful after high school. These characteristics are the PLSD power standards. The power standards are embedded in the curriculum for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. By graduation, students should have fully developed the nine power standards and be prepared to make that smooth transition into the next phase of their life.

High Standards Set to Inspire All Minds

- **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 their learning to new and different situations.



Above Photo: Colleen Young, a ninth grade student at PLHS, works on an art project during class.



Above Photo: Brandon Tiedemann, Sarah Davis, Shaye Steinkamp, and Daytan Vallinch, first grade students at Walnut Creek, perform a song for their parents as they participate in "Characters and Cookies."

- **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.

Student Test Scores

Improvement District Wide!

Improving student learning is the goal of the PLSD. What the District is finding as a result of high standards and challenging assessments is that students at all grade levels are showing improvement. This improvement is seen on the District assessments, statewide writing test, and national standardized tests.

Facts about District Assessments!

In the state of Nebraska each district determines its own standards (what students should know and be able to do) and assessments (measurements of what students know and are able to do). The PLSD has written its own standards which were determined, by the Nebraska Department of Education, to be more rigorous than the state standards. The PLSD also writes its own assessments which measure how well students know the District standards.

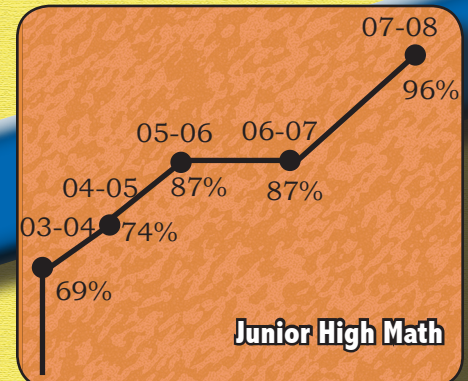
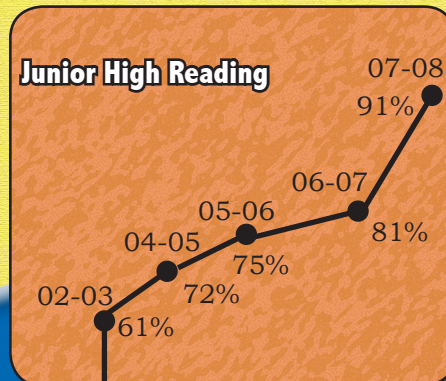
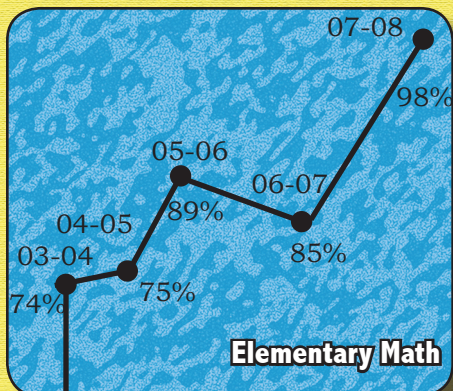
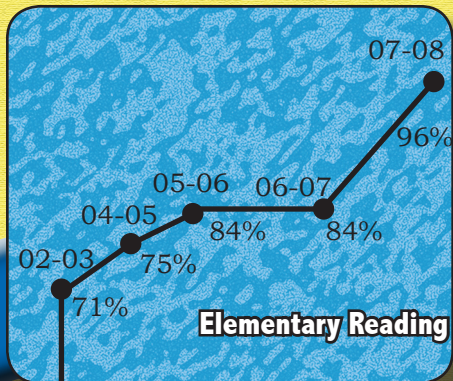
The District assessments are very challenging and go far beyond a simple multiple choice test. Through the assessments, students are asked to actually perform a skill such as reading, figuring a math problem, giving a speech or writing.

Improving student learning is the goal of the PLSD. What the District is finding as a result of high standards and challenging assessments is that students at all grade levels are showing improvement.



District Assessment Scores

The charts indicate the percentages of elementary and junior high students who are proficient in meeting the District's standards for math and reading.



PLSD Students Show Outstanding Performance on District Assessments!

When the PLSD first decided to stay with high standards and challenging assessments, they knew in the long run it would pay off. It was the philosophy of the District to keep the standards high and push students to excel. After five years, one can truly see the results. All students in all subject areas have improved! The District now has approximately 90+% of the students proficient on District assessments. Five years ago this number was closer to 70%. Student achievement is improving from high standards and challenging assessments.

District Assessments Can Not Be Compared Across Districts!

Comparing District assessment results among school districts is wrong. The assessments for each district are different, therefore they can not be compared.

Note: The state did not collect data for reading in the 2003-2004 school year. For additional information, check out the state report card: www.state.ne.us.

Continue to Improve



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.

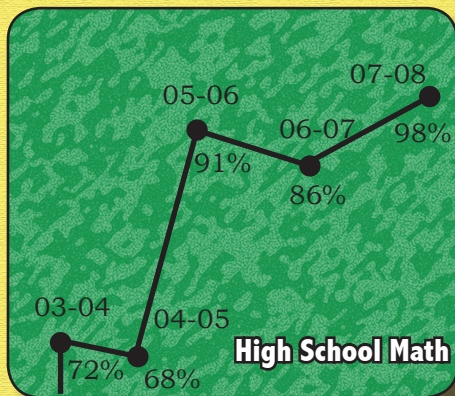
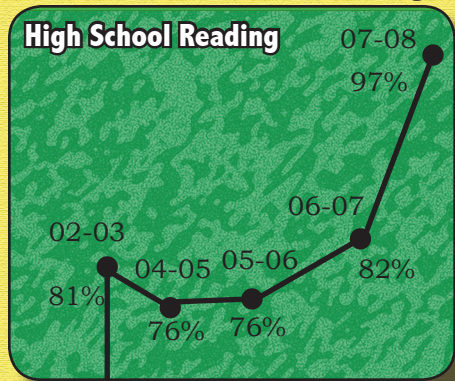
State Writing Assessment Results Can Be Compared!

This is the same state test given to everyone. Therefore, the results can be compared across districts.

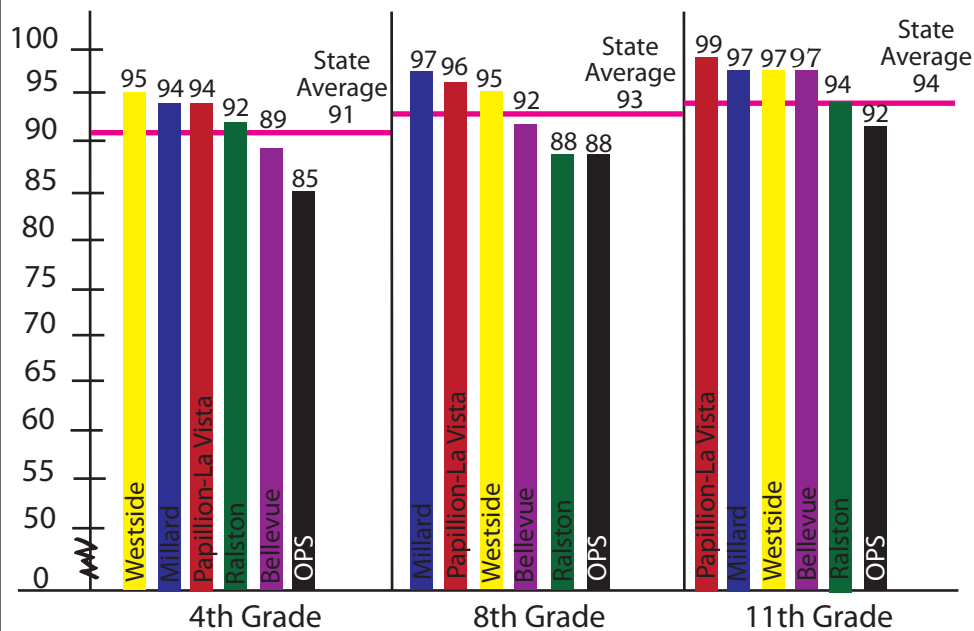
Left photo: Tara Heights teacher Rebecca Waldron works with her student, Madeline Vasquez, on a writing project.

Student Performance Continues to Grow

The charts indicate the percentage of high school students who are proficient in meeting the District's standards for math and reading.



2007-2008 Statewide Writing Scores by School District



Scores indicate percentage of students proficient.

(Westside, Millard, Papillion-La Vista, Ralston, Bellevue, and OPS)

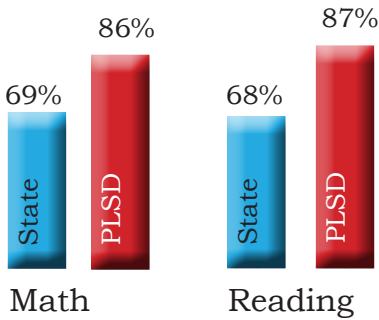
PLSD Students Continue to Improve on State Writing Test!

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.

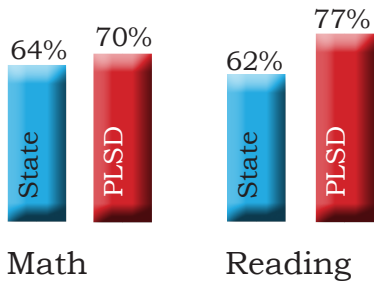
PLSD Students Improve on Standardized Tests

National standardized tests are designed in a multiple-choice format. The purpose of these tests is to compare local students to a national sample of students who took the same multiple-choice test. Scores for Nebraska and many school districts tend to remain flat, showing little change. However, the PLSD has shown steady improvement and continues to score higher than students across Nebraska.

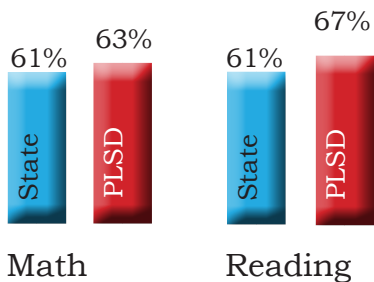
Standardized Test Elementary 2007-2008



Standardized Test Junior High 2007-2008



Standardized Test High School 2007-2008



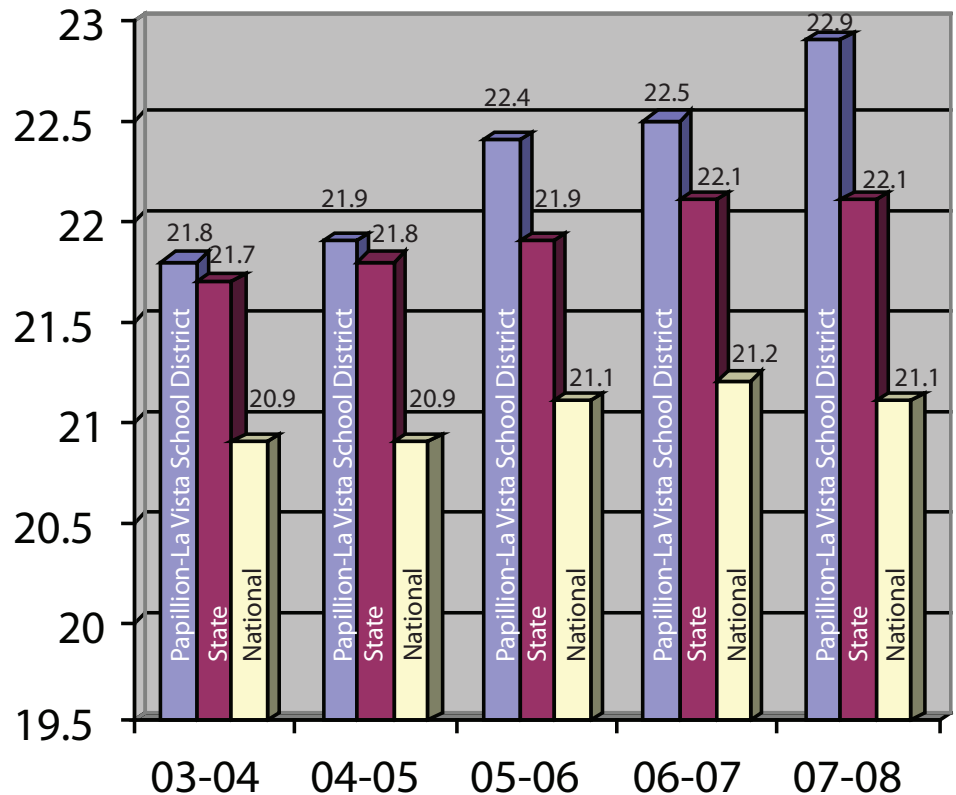
Note: The standardized test scores are the percentage of students above the national average.



Above photo: Tabitha Hanzlik, a seventh grade La Vista Junior High student works with Marissa Barraza, a first grade G. Stanley Hall student, on writing a letter to a soldier stationed overseas.

American College Test (ACT) Scores Improve

Below are the ACT test scores for the PLSD. PLSD students remain above the state and national average while continuing to show improvement.



PLSD Staff Make the Ordinary...Extraordinary

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 inservice days provide opportunities to train staff, 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.

Staff Statistics

- There are 1,439 highly qualified and experienced staff educating students in the PLSD.
- The average PLSD teacher has been with the District for 11.2 years.
- The certified teaching staff has a minimum of a bachelor's degree, 412 have a master's degree, many have acquired additional hours, 14 have education specialist degrees, and 5 have doctorates.



Above photo: Christine Synowiecki, a third grade teacher at La Vista West, provides language arts instruction to her students.

Average Number of Students Per Classroom Teacher

	08-09
Elementary	19.91
Junior High	22.04
High School	21.04

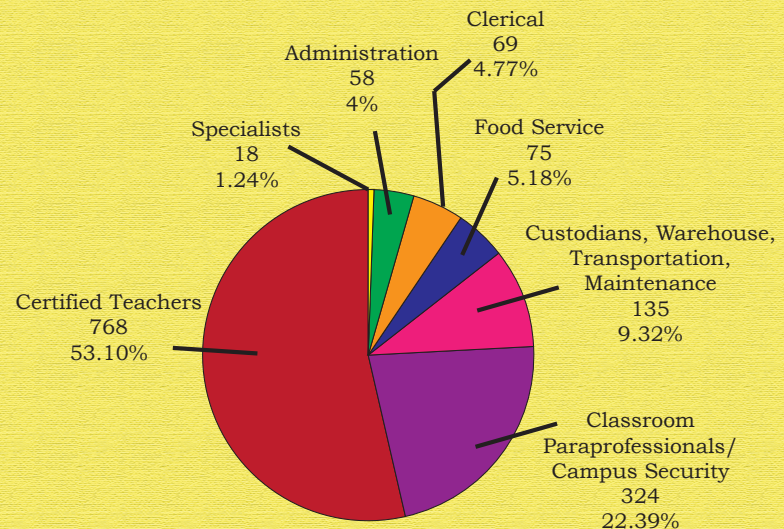


Papillion-La Vista Staff...Nurture, Inspire & Grow



Above photo: Kathleen Wahlquist, a kindergarten teacher at Carriage Hill Elementary, talks with her students.

Breakdown of 08-09 Staff



Note: The breakdown of staff for the 08-09 school year, indicated above, is based on the number of people. Not all employees indicated are full-time.



Finances of PLSD

Financial Statistics

- There are 9,374 students being educated in the 2008-2009 school year.
- The total operating budget for the 2008-2009 school year is \$87,491,284.

Left photo: Makinsey Bodnar and Abby McWilliams, third grade students at Hickory Hill, look at a skeleton of a tiger shark while the zoo academy students give a presentation to their class.

District Finances

Where the Money Comes From...

Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources
\$50,384,274	\$33,712,137	\$3,394,873
57.59%	38.53%	3.88%



Above photo: Ryan Bundy, a senior at Papillion-La Vista South High School, shows Golden Hills third grade students his jersey before reading to them.

2008 - 2009 General Operating Budget Where the Money Goes...

Instruction	Special Education	Support Services	Business Services	Transportation	General & Building Administration	Operations & Maintenance
\$50,300,357	\$10,840,180	\$5,990,831	\$1,054,500	\$1,290,950	\$7,050,016	\$10,964,450
57.49%	12.39%	6.85%	1.21%	1.48%	8.06%	12.53%

Note: The above is the General Operating Budget for 2008-2009, not actual amounts spent.

2008-2009 Tax Facts

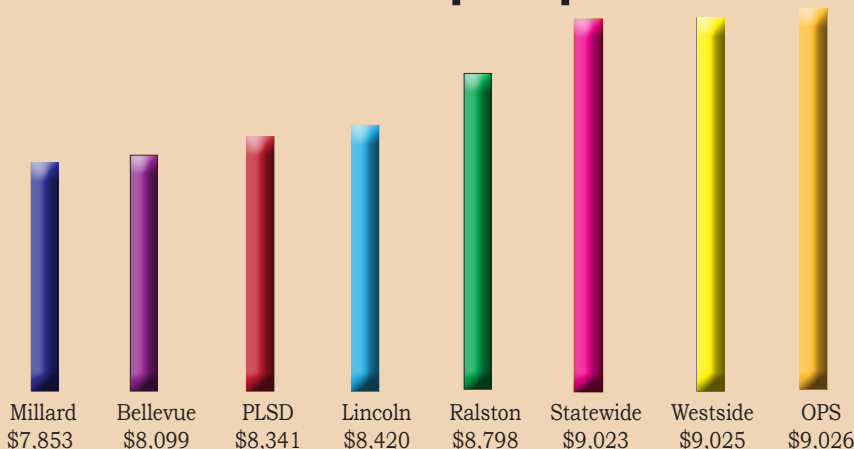
Tax levy/ \$100 assessed value	\$1.23
Taxes/\$100,000 home	\$1,230
Total District assessed valuation	\$3,855,209,412

2008 Tax Rate

General Fund	\$1.0575
Building Fund	\$0.0159
Bond Fund	
Bond Fund One	\$0.0135
Bond Fund Two	\$0.0187
Bond Fund Three	\$0.0946
Bond Fund Four	\$0.0279

Total Tax Rate \$1.23

2006-2007 Per Pupil Expenditure



Note: The per pupil expenditure is based on the 2006-2007 year, the most recent available statistic from the state.

Looking Forward 2009 and Beyond...

Academy Program Expands to Provide More Opportunities



Above photo: Emily Dascalos, a 2008 graduate of Papillion-La Vista South High School, looks at samples during one of her zoo academy classes.

Papillion-La Vista School District is planning to expand the current career academy program for 2009-10 for the purpose of developing a small learning community of teachers, students, and business partners to improve secondary student academic performance and promote postsecondary and college preparation.

The academy program is structured to provide students with a learning environment that helps engage students in rigorous studies and make the connection between what they are learning in school and what they want out of life.

Career academies may be offered at high school campus or at the business or industry with the academy career focus. Students who participate in the academies are immersed into the culture of that business. Students are given the opportunity to receive hands on experiences in their chosen career area, while also learning the academic side of that career. Academy students are also provided a jump-

start on post high school opportunities by obtaining postsecondary education credits or specialized certification in a particular career field. The expansion for the 2009 year includes the Zoo Academy at the Henry Doorly Zoo and the Health Systems Academy at the Alegent Health Midlands hospital. Both programs under the new expansion will provide academic preparation such as language arts, math, science and career studies such as medical, business and marketing, research courses. Additional academy programs are planned for expansion during the 2010-11 and the 2011-12 school years.

Nurturing Endless Opportunities...

Early Childhood Education Services Expanded

Knowing how critical it is that students come to kindergarten ready to learn, the Papillion-La Vista School District is looking at ways to enhance preschool services. Currently, the District is partnering with local day care and preschool programs to assist in the current offerings available. The District is also conducting a community survey to identify the need for preschool programs. Based on the information collected, the District will be developing a plan for enhancing the preschool services currently offered by the PLSD. That expansion could include offerings for birth to 3 children and families within their home, centered based services, or parent training programs.

Right photo: Hayden Bruland, an early childhood student at Walnut Creek Elementary, works on a class project.





**Papillion-La Vista Public Schools
District No. 27
420 S. Washington St.
Papillion, NE 68046**

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The Papillion-La Vista School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, age, disability, or any other legally protected status in admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in its programs and activities. The following person (s) have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination: Employees: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources 420 South Washington Street, Papillion, NE 68046. Phone: (402) 537-6206. Students: Director of Student Services 420 S. Washington Street, Papillion, NE 68046. Phone: (402) 537-6214. Any parents, employees, and students who do not believe their complaints regarding Title IX, Title VI, or Section 504 have been met with resolution at the District level may appeal their grievances to the Regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: Office for Civil Rights 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114. Phone: (816) 268-0550, Fax: (816) 823-1404, and TDD: (800) 437-0833. This publication was published by the Papillion-La Vista School District Communications Department.