



Mark E. Marshall, Ed.D.
Principal

Thomas Jefferson High School

Federal Way School District 210
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Activities Director

October 21, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am proud of how hard our staff and students have worked to meet our achievement goals over the past few years. Their hard work, coupled with the district's targeted academic support, has produced substantial gains in Thomas Jefferson's WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) scores.

Our successes:

WASL 2008 results show:

- 91% our students passed the Reading Section of the WASL, which is higher than district (87%) and the State (81%) averages.
- 93% our students passed the Writing Section of the WASL, which is up 3 percentage points from last year and higher than the district (92%) and the State (86%) averages.
- 58% our students passed the Math Section of the WASL, which is higher than district (51%) and the State (49%) averages.
- 53% our students passed the Science Section of the WASL, which is up 3 percentage points from last year and higher than the district (45%) and the State (39%) averages.

With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA (also known as "No Child Left Behind"), federal law requires that schools meet improvement goals in 37 separate categories. Some of those categories include specific groups of students and how they score on the WASL tests.

Where we missed our goals:

In 2007 and 2008, Thomas Jefferson did not meet its goals in all 37 ESEA-required categories and ultimately did not meet the benchmarks for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

WASL 2008 results show:

- We missed AYP in Reading for Special Education students.
- We missed AYP in Math for Black, Hispanic, Low Income, and Special Education students.

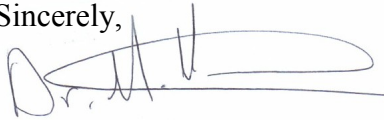
Because we did not meet our goals in the above areas, Thomas Jefferson High School did not meet the federal definition of Adequate Yearly Progress. Because we did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress for the two years before (2007 and 2008), either, we are now in Step 3 in the 'school improvement' designation.

We take our achievement results seriously, and we will use all local, state and federal resources available to address our school improvement needs so we can help all of our students meet Washington's Essential Academic Learning Requirements. A few of the recent measures the district has implemented in all of our schools include:

- The district's Student Support Service and Teaching for Learning Departments are providing substantial staff training and strategies to address the learning needs of all our students.
- Algebraic Thinking curriculum has been added at all five middle schools to ensure that all students entering high school are better prepared to take higher-level math classes.
- The Equity and Achievement that staff receives gives them a better understanding of how cultural backgrounds impact student learning and provides the tools to enhance instructional techniques.

Building and maintaining high-quality schools is a job for the entire community, and we appreciate your assistance in reaching our academic achievement goals. We encourage you to become active participants in our school improvement efforts. For more information, please contact me at 253-945-5600. You can also go to the Federal Way Public Schools website, www.fwps.org/cur/assess/ to see district-wide scores and read more about ESEA and its academic goals and requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Marshall", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark E. Marshall, Ed.D.
Principal