



Our students will lead and shape the future

## News release

April 21, 2016

### ***Five schools earn Washington Achievement Awards***

*Board will honor these schools and staff on May 10 at 4:30 p.m.*

Five of the district's 26 schools qualify as among the state's top performing schools, based upon statewide assessment data for the past three consecutive years – 2015, 2014, and 2013. Most of this year's winners have earned an achievement award before. Because the award is based upon continuous student learning measured over consecutive years, earning successive honors becomes more challenging over time.

#### **Schools**

Cedar Wood Elementary  
Gateway Middle  
Mill Creek Elementary

Monroe Elementary  
Whittier Elementary

#### **2015 Award category**

*Overall Excellence and English Language Arts Growth*  
*English Language Arts Growth*  
*English Language Arts Growth and English Language Acquisition*  
*High Progress*  
*High Progress*

Cedar Wood Elementary has earned this award six previous times. Mill Creek Elementary and Gateway Middle have each been state *Achievement Award* winners five times before this year.

In an email to staff, Cedar Wood Elementary School Principal Dr. David Jones wrote, "As I am in and out of our intermediate classrooms and observe our students going up against the rigorous SBA assessments, I see students who were SO less prepared emotionally and intellectually when they first stepped onto our campus as five year olds.



*Mill Creek Elementary students have their hands on learning.*

"The work we do every day, in every encounter with a child, as a team, is what builds the confidence and competence represented in our students' high achievement and perseverance.

"Know that when you go that extra mile (or two) to take time to puzzle out what is going on with a specific student or recognize growth in another ... it makes a difference. In fact, those one-on-one relationships with students and parents is the most important thing we can do to help a child develop into a capable student."

(more)

Across the state, only 258 (out of almost 2,000) elementary, middle and high schools earned an achievement award in one of the possible seven categories:

- Overall Excellence
- High Progress
- Math Growth
- English Language Arts Growth
- Extended Graduation Rate (only for high schools)
- English Language Acquisition
- Achievement Gap



The state has 295 school districts. Only 45 of those districts had multiple schools earn Washington Achievement Awards for 2015.

Since 2005, when the district began tracking these and other state and national awards, district schools have earned such recognition 85 times.

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**For more information:**  
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*Peering into the future? Gateway Middle School students toured the universe on a Google virtual expedition in February and earned their sixth Washington Achievement Award in April.*