



Bainbridge Island School District

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Volunteer Program Report

May 2012

It is the 43rd year of the district volunteer program, and volunteers continue as integral parts of our schools, affecting operations and positively impacting student learning. However, a significant decrease in tasks and hours has occurred since the height of numbers in 2010. There is no scientific evidence to account for this reversal. Still, volunteers support and enhance the educational experience of our students (see p. 2).

Volunteer Highlights

- ◆ **4,366** approximate volunteer tasks — This is a second notable decrease in the five years of historical data shown in the chart at the bottom of the page.
- ◆ **54,224** approximate volunteer hours — Since a year ago, the 7% decrease in hours given is not proportional to the 17% decrease in the number of tasks/volunteers. The supposition would be that fewer volunteers appear to be giving more time, and/or there are fewer tasks.
- ◆ **Number of volunteers and hours in specified categories:**

	2012 / 2011	2012 / 2011
	<u># of Tasks/Volunteers:</u>	<u>Hours:</u>
Classroom	1,277 / 1,409	21,525 / 18,540
Enrichment	1,127 / 1,183	12,253 / 19,813
Fundraising	463 / 913	7,415 / 8,739
Miscellaneous	877 / 912	6,242 / 4,250
PTO Leadership	63 / 76	4,816 / 3,835
PT(S)O—Mtgs., other	538 / 755	1,440 / 2,757
Site Councils	21 / 16	533 / 388

In the classroom, the number of hours reported has increased since last year. This again supports the idea that fewer people are giving more time. The increase in the miscellaneous and PTO Leaders hours may be accounted for by the variation in interpretation of the officers or tasks associated with the category.

Historical Data Comparison

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Hours	70,168	70,897	74,670	58,322	54,224
Tasks	6,336	6,149	6,396	5,264	4,366

Note: This does not include the number of tasks/volunteers and hours involved in district committees or their subcommittees,, nor does it include many end-of-the-year activities and programs.

Strong minds, strong hearts, strong community

Support of School and District Improvement Plans

New this year is the District Improvement Plan (DIP), which aligns the district's instructional program with school improvement plans (SIP) that include goals in instructional improvement and innovation, as well as in character, climate and community.

The following is a limited list of volunteer activities that sustain DIP and SIP goals:

Instructional Improvement and Innovation

- ◆ HSPE and MSP support
- ◆ Math Olympiad, MathCounts, Math Clubs, Knowledge Masters
- ◆ Art Docent and Art Appreciation events
- ◆ Salmon Release, Nature Mapping
- ◆ Harvest, Science, and Culture Fairs
- ◆ Band and Choir concerts, competitions and outside performances
- ◆ Classroom volunteers

Character, Climate and Community

- ◆ Fitness challenges
- ◆ Lunch buddies
- ◆ Ice Cream Socials, carnivals, auctions
- ◆ Earth Day activities
- ◆ Memory books/yearbooks, school photos
- ◆ Staff appreciation
- ◆ Health screenings
- ◆ Activity and field trip chaperones

Summary

Volunteers continue to positively impact the daily experiences of students and staff. Although accurate statistics are illusive, estimates indicate consistent parent and community involvement helps ensure "that every student is future ready... for the global workplace, ...college and ...personal success."

Communication Highlights

Budget considerations decreased the number of publications, such as *OpenBook* newsletters and principal postcards to non-parent residents, However, a major communication accomplishment was the development and implementation of our new website, paid for by the Technology Levy. Since the website launch in February, anecdotal comments and statistics indicate that communication is more effective and efficient. There is ongoing expansion of the website's visual and interactive applications, along with staff training.

The use of *SchoolMessenger* continues. As the capabilities within voice notification systems change and expand, Community Relations and Technology staff members are reviewing our service contract and capabilities and researching similar services.

Our Listserv continues to provide and is still a preferred means for quick dissemination of information. Email offers a somewhat more personalized interaction as parents and community members respond directly and understanding of issues about which there are concerns is increased.