



2020 Washington State ASCD Whole Child Award



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lacey Elementary School recipient of the 2020 Washington State ASCD Whole Child Award

Olympia, WA May 18, 2020 – Washington State ASCD -WSASCD announced Lacey Elementary School in North Thurston Public Schools, as the recipient of their 2020 WSASCD Whole Child Award. The Whole Child Award is intended to acknowledge and honor a school that has made significant contributions to student learning by creating a school culture with programs that exemplify two or more of the five tenets of The Whole Child Initiative: **Healthy, Safe, Engaged, Supported, and Challenged**; as well as serve as models for all educators across the state. In addition to the Whole Child Award, Lacey Elementary School will also receive \$500, sponsored by SHAPE Washington. Read on to learn the mission at Lacey Elementary School and their efforts to develop systems and programs which support and engage the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for all students.

The mission at Lacey Elementary School, *we partner with students, families, and the community to develop capable, compassionate, and culturally- responsible lifelong learners.*

- **Live up to our capabilities**
- **Love with compassion**
- **Learn to be culturally responsible**

For the past 2-3 years Lacey Elementary has worked intentionally to support the Whole Child. Lacey Elementary serves a population of high poverty as well as students who have been impacted by trauma. Staff members have engaged in many trainings and book studies to really understand their students. Lacey has hovered around 60% free and reduced lunch percentage for over a decade and have generated scores equivalent to schools with 1/2 the poverty. While Lacey Elementary reaches high academic achievement in comparison to schools with significantly different demographics, the teachers and administrators continued to seek more tools and an additional focus on the Whole Child to continue their journey to 100% student success. Their work has included numerous initiatives that supports the Whole Child and Social Emotional Learning to provide students the additional skills necessary to be successful emotionally and academically.

Those initiatives include:

- School Wide PBIS implementation to reinforce and reward positive student behavior.
- “Husky Huddle”- Morning Gathering where students meet in the Gym to start the school day off in a positive manner.
- School Wide Morning Greeting structure to promote classroom peer interactions (where students can choose how they are greeted) and SEL instruction.
- Partner with Thurston County Food bank during the school year and summer with an emphasis on fresh and healthy food choices.
- Trauma Sensitive School Action Plan to provide professional development to staff to best support students and families where they are at academically and emotionally.
- MTSS structure to review student outcomes in a data driven fashion to guide decisions and monitor progress.

Each of these elements that have been implemented in your classrooms have created authentic relationships between students, teachers, and their peers. The collaborative efforts allow for students to feel a sense of safety, belonging, they have a voice and that they are supported. Students have been taught how to express their emotions in a positive way, as well as, skills for calming down. Each classroom has a break spot that allows students a safe place to feel secure and process their emotions.

The staff at Lacey Elementary meets regularly as a whole and in small groups to differentiate supports for students that need more than just the connection from the morning meeting. Plans are created from these meetings that might allow a student to go to a social group, lunch support, lunch buddies, or many other resources that they have in place at Lacey to meet the child's needs.

Lacey Elementary has sought community partnerships with SnapEd and Intercity Transit- to support the healthy and welling being of their students. SnapEd comes in to teach lessons on healthy eating while Intercity Transit promotes biking and walking to school.

Washington State ASCD is honored to recognize Lacey Elementary School as the recipient of the 2020 WSASCD Whole Child Award for creating a sustainable school-wide culture with community partnerships in effort to support the Whole Child. Congratulations Lacey Elementary School!

Founded in 1956, as Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, now known as Washington State ASCD, is a community of all educators committed to promoting promising practices to ensure ALL students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged. For additional information, please contact Executive Coordinator, Carrie Lam.

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The 2020 Washington State ASCD Whole Child Award is sponsored by [SHAPE Washington](http://SHAPE.Washington).