

**Vashon Island High School
State of the School 2006-2008**

Goal #1: Create a school climate that promotes inclusion and student responsibility.

- Orientation activities for new students were successful. 8th graders toured VHS and were introduced to activity and club leaders. A second tour included receiving new schedules, discussions of expectations and a welcome barbeque, sponsored by ASB.
- Parent meetings for each grade clarified school expectations and answered parental questions.
- Incidents of harassment decreased between 2006 and 2008 from 5 to 2.
- Students collaborated with the administration to reduce the incidence of alcohol use at school events after the first dance of 2006. Students were required to check purses and bags as they entered the dances, and the number of chaperones was increased. Most effective was positive peer pressure. Each event was dependent on the previous event being alcohol free. There were no incidences of alcohol use as school dances for the remainder of 2006-07, or in 2007-08.
- Students met with Site Council and PTSA representatives to outline dance style expectations. The results were more restrictive than students hoped and less restrictive than parents wanted: a classic compromise
- Amnesty/Interact sponsored an orphanage in Nepal as part of their international service. They also sponsored a showing of Guantanamo, a film about the US prison camps in Cuba.
- Homecoming sparked a controversy in 2006, with junior girls running onto the field in shorts and sports bras during half time activities. The 2007 half time was controversy free!
- The number of students disciplined for drug use on campus remained constant: between 8 and 10 students each year.
- PTSA, VIPIT and VHS Site Council co sponsored a parent information evening about drug and alcohol use on the island. Both adults and students in recovery shared their stories.
- Students created a theatre work that dramatized the Healthy Youth Survey data and presented it to the public.

Goal #2: Provide Challenging Curriculum for all students and an expectation of excellence.

- Student achievement in Writing and Reading, as measured by the WASL, continued to far exceed State Standards for both years.
- Student achievement in Math, as measured by the WASL, continued to exceed State averages.
- VHS was awarded a 2007 *State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Award* based on school WASL scores.
- Vashon Island High School was nominated by OSPI for a national NCLB Blue Ribbon School award. Achieving in the top 10% of all schools in the state was the nominating category. Winners of the national award will be announced in September 2008.
- Principal was named Nisqually League Distinguished Principal of the Year, based on school achievement levels.
- Humanities staff collaborated to create a three part World History course for sophomore. Students may select any two sections to meet graduation requirements.
- Humanities staff designed a proposed new freshman elective in World Cultures and Geography for 2008-09. This will bring our social studies offerings more in line with state recommendations.
- Special Education staff maintained 100% compliance with federal and state regulations for service to students with individual education plans.
- Digital Learning Commons, an on line curriculum source, was used for some remediation in the LRC and for students needing credit retrieval.
- Administration, counselors, school psychologist, family advocate, career specialist, and the drug and alcohol counselor met weekly to discuss students of concern and to plan appropriate interventions or supports for them.
- VHS drama department mounted four full scale productions: Drama II performed *The War Plays* and *The Dining Room*; Musical Theatre Production performed *Chicago* and *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Drama produced excellent showcases of student work.
- UW Geology 101 was taught for the first time in spring of 2007. Students earned one VHS credit and five University of Washington science credits.
- Over 300 academic awards were presented to students who excelled in specific courses.

Goal #3: Promote and enhance positive relationships with students, home and community.

- Counselors held information nights for each grade in the fall. All meetings had good turn outs and parents raised thoughtful questions.
- Open House was well attended, both years. We switched the schedule to allow parents to visit classrooms first, then attend a group meeting in the theatre. This allowed staff to leave earlier and prepare for the next day's classes. PTSA, Bus Ridership, and Partners in Education all gave presentations.
- Site Council has been an important part of our school community. Parents, students, staff, and PTSA representatives meet to discuss school wide issues. We have tackled Healthy Youth Survey data, dance styles, discipline code, activity code, cultural assemblies, volunteer opportunities, parking lot safety, and other issues.
- Site Council sponsored Movie Nights both years, featuring films produced by members of the Video Production class. Attendance was larger in 2007.
- Site Council sponsored an open gym night and a bowling party in 2006 to appeal to "non dance attendees." They also conducted a student survey about what activities would appeal to students. Another survey was conducted about dances and dance styles.
- Site Council and PTSA recruited volunteers for Walkie Talkie Team, dance chaperones, office assistance, and sports events.
- The VHS web site provided timely information to the community about activities and achievements.
- Staff web sites, in general, were better maintained and current, providing information about assignments, due dates, grading and class expectations.
- Site Council parents and PTSA organized a flower bed cleanup and planting prior to graduation.
- Site Council and PTSA provided funding for two cultural assemblies: Peruvian Scissor Dancers, and Akoma, and African drum and dance ensemble.
- The Riptide kept the student body and the community informed about school events and personalities.
- Eyes for the Future, a 4H Guide Dogs for the Blind training program meets weekly at VHS, and VHS students and staff train puppies during the school day. We have trained over 40 puppies for the program.
- Seniors prepared scholarship notebooks for the Community Scholarship Program. Over \$100,000 was given to senior participants.
- ASB planned homecoming activities and a winter tolo dance. Seniors planned Prom for students.

Goal #4: Promote effective instructional leadership and professional development with a focus toward improved student achievement.

- Teaching staff set professional goals with supervising administrator at the start of the school year. Each staff member identified a goal in each of the *Standards for Quality Teaching and Learning* identified by the VEA collective bargaining agreement. For 2007-08 those included Instruction and classroom teaching practice, Classroom environment, Lesson planning and design, and Assessment. Progress on those goals was part of each teacher's evaluation.
- Writing standards were completed, rubrics were completed and samples collected to demonstrate "at grade level" or "below grade level" performance.
- Department chairs were trained in the Professional Learning Communities protocols for evaluating student work in order to improve instruction. In 2008-09 they will train the remaining staff and begin to utilize the protocols.
- Science staff members were trained in inquiry teaching methods at the Laser Institute at the OSPI Conference.
- We met in a different teacher's classroom for most staff meetings. Each staff meeting began with the host teacher, or teachers, demonstrating a lesson they were working on, or explaining key information about instruction in their academic discipline. This promotes increased information and collaboration across departments.
- As part of our Safe Schools initiative, staff received professional development in working with students who identified themselves as gay, lesbian, questioning or transgender. This was a partnership with Vashon Youth and Family Services.
- Learning Improvement Team, comprised of department chairs, met monthly to discuss building wide issues and ways to improve student learning.
- Monthly time was allocated for each department to work collaboratively.
- Social Studies completed the state mandated civics classroom based assessment (CBA).
- Visual Arts completed the state mandated arts CBA.
- Principal and assistant principal scheduled regular "walk through's" to visit classrooms.
- Evaluations and informal discussions offered staff suggestions to improve lesson delivery and student learning, as well as celebrating successes.