

Humboldt Elementary School



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Principal: Jamila Williams

Grade levels: PK-6

Middle schools: Tubman Middle School

School guide, facts and test scores on the web: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/>

School-created web pages: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us> <http://www.humboldt.pps.k12.or.us/>

Before and after school programs

Before and After School Programs Chess for Success Chess clubs for grade levels 1st to 8th (includes at least two tournaments) After school homework clubs for most grade levels Chargettes Drill Team for all grade levels (both in school and out of school performances) Self Enhancement Inc (SEI) after school, on campus and off campus programs Gospel Choir for all grade levels Ethos Music Program for grade levels 4th through 8th (students can learn to play various instruments) YMCA before and after school literacy enriched childcare Additional after school activities are possible depending on student, staff and parent interest

Community partnerships

Ongoing partnerships with community organizations, businesses and individuals support school goals and provide expanded learning opportunities for staff and students. Partners include SMART (Start Making A Reader Today), Self Enhancement, the Jefferson Caring Community, Neil Kelly, Humboldt Neighborhood Association, HAP, Portland Trail Blazers, Friends of the Children, Schoolhouse Supplies, Touchstone, University of Portland and Portland State University.

Student learning environment

All of Humboldt's activities are geared toward achieving three primary goals. They are: 1) Improve literacy for all children, focusing on reading, math and writing. 2) Include a rich Art experience for all students. 3) Improve all children's ability to use technology as an effective learning tool.

Humboldt staff work with families and the broader community to help improve student learning. Families are critical to their children's success in school. Staff respect and support parents and families as children's first teachers.

Each morning, students and staff join together in an all-school assembly. We say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Humboldt Pledge in English and in Spanish. Additionally we celebrate success of our students, staff and families. These gatherings are an effective way to focus students on the learning ahead while building a sense of school community.

Multicultural education and cultural awareness are stressed at Humboldt and is taught through social studies, art and literature.

Teachers use a variety of teaching strategies to meet the diverse learning needs of students. Ongoing professional development and in-service opportunities for staff keep staff up-to-date on research-based, proven practices in education.

Humboldt believes that all students can learn and succeed. We believe that learning happens best in a safe and orderly environment. We also believe that past patterns of low student performance must be and can be reversed.

Curriculum components

Reading and Literacy: Humboldt is a Reading First and Early Reading First School. Humboldt adheres to and follows the findings and recommendations of the National Reading Panel, consequently instruction is intentional in the areas of phonemic awareness, alphabetic principals (phonics), fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students are accelerated so that they gain access to grade level difficulty text as soon as possible. Students are placed in reading programs to expedite their progress in reading achievement. The Core Reading is Open Court with intervention program to help students gain access to the Core program, which are Reading Mastery and Corrective Reading. Students receive an uninterrupted 120-minute reading block each day. Close monitoring of students' needs and progress helps ensure all children receive the support they need to become grade level sufficient and accelerated. All of Humboldt's reading programs are supported by major research studies and are considered the most highly effective programs and recognized by researchers.

ESL/Bilingual Instruction: The English as a Second Language teacher and teaching assistants work closely with English Language Learners individually and in groups, in regular classrooms and in pull-out sessions. ESL and regular classroom teachers design instructional activities together so that ESL students can develop English language skills in the context of content-area learning. Teachers assess individual student's learning needs early to identify and plan for any additional assistance necessary.

Mathematics: Math Investigations is used Pre K - 5th grade. The program emphasizes hands-on experience and problem-solving. 6th grade math curriculum is Connected Math, which is a natural progression from the students experiences with Investigations. This program also emphasizes hands-on experiences and problem solving. Throughout the school on a daily basis you will see Every Day Counts calendar being used to enhance various math skills.

Being a Phase I Writing school, Humboldt has a strong researched based writing instructional program for writing instruction throughout the school. We have monthly professional development focused on student work and their achievement. Phase I focuses on grades 3rd - 5th. In the primary grades: Pre K – 2, Kid Writing is implemented. Throughout the school, you will see students writing and sharing their work. Additionally, teachers at Humboldt are trained in the instruction of Step Up to Writing. The Step Up to Writing curriculum and strategies are used as a resource to instruct students in the structure of the writing process. Follow the links below to find more specific information for writing implementation at Humboldt based on the PPS guidelines: Grades Pre K – 2:
http://159.191.14.139/docs/pg/400/rid/11956/f/brochure_engp k2.pdf Grades 3 – 5:
http://159.191.14.139/docs/pg/400/rid/11955/f/brochure_eng3 5.pdf PPS Literacy Philosophy: <http://159.191.14.139/teachers.pps.k12.or.us/literacy/philosophy.html>

Staff

Humboldt has a staff of about 25, which includes art, general education, physical education, English as a Second Language, educational assistants and special education teachers. The staff also includes a family involvement coordinator, and a media assistant. Humboldt teachers communicate with parents regularly to let them know how their child is progressing.

Humboldt staff members use research-based teaching methods to ensure student learning success. In the classroom, we have applied our findings relating to arts education, learning styles, multiple intelligence and systems change. We continue to focus on improving writing, integrating the arts, and strengthening assessment practices and tools.

All Humboldt staff are committed to serving each student and helping individual children learn and succeed. Teachers and staff regularly "go the extra mile" outside of the classroom and help families develop ways to support learning.

Humboldt teachers participate in ongoing professional development, and work in teams to design instruction and meet school goals. Teams have an additional common planning time (one afternoon per week) so that they can coordinate classroom activities and strengthen connections between grade levels and subject areas.

Parent and family support

At Humboldt, parents are an intricate part of our team. Humboldt families are involved in the PTA, Site Council and our weekly Friday Coffee Chats. Many parents also are actively involved in our classrooms and assist on field trips.

Humboldt's community/parent outreach coordinator recruits community and parent volunteers to support Humboldt students. Volunteers focus their efforts with children on help with reading, math and attendance.

Parents serve as classroom volunteers, assist on field trips, tutor students and help run after-school activities.

Humboldt's Family Involvement Coordinator and Touchstone Coordinator provide parent focused workshops and support.

Special programs and features

Student progress is monitored regularly so that parents and children know where they are in relation to learning goals and benchmarks. Authentic assessments are used, including displays of student work, portfolios, public demonstrations and student-led conferences.

Art instruction is featured at Humboldt for students and staff.

TESA online state testing.

The latest test scores, school progress report, demographics, and more are available at:
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/>

To determine which school your child will attend, see:
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/boundaries/>

If you do not have internet access, you may obtain this information by calling Portland Public Schools Department of Communications and Community Involvement, at 503-916-3304