

LAWTON

ELEMENTARY



“ Intelligence plus character – ”
is the goal of real education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

WELCOME

to Lawton

We are a neighborhood school with a focus on academic achievement, arts enrichment and a culture of caring. Our students are kind, respectful, responsible, and we believe they can achieve anything! We are very proud to have served this community for over 100 years, offering a solid K - 5 learning experience.

Lawton offers a dynamic program and rich learning environment for all students. Teachers collaborate to develop strategies for working with students across all levels of academic achievement. We offer an inclusion-model school for special-education students, Lawton is proud to be able to meet the needs of all its students.

Our teachers bring varied individual talents to their teaching, while working together toward a set of common goals. Our staff finds many opportunities to team together for field trips, special projects and general classroom instruction. Parents also volunteer in a variety of ways to enrich the learning environment. This spirit of teamwork makes Lawton a special place for students and their families.

Elementary school is not a one-year decision but a six-year investment. We encourage you to become familiar with what the whole school can offer.

LAWTON at a glance

Established in 1908 as a K-5 Community School

By The Numbers

- Enrollment Average: 450 students

Staff Highlights

- High degree of staff stability
- High teacher satisfaction ratings
- 6 National Board Certified Teachers
- High number of teacher leaders involved in both school and district opportunities
- Home of the 2015 Washington State teacher of the Year, and multiple National Board Certified Teachers

Volunteering at Lawton

We estimate that parent and community volunteers donate hours equivalent to the work of 5 full-time staff members annually

Rated #18 in the state on SchoolDigger.com in 2018

Lawton is designated a Level 5 school by SPS for its high growth and high scores on the SBA and MAP tests.

Recipient of state academic achievement award in the 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 school years

LAWTON CARES

Community Involvement: Lawton students are community involved and support a variety of projects with student-driven fundraising efforts

Community Outreach: Lawton families give back by adopting families during the holidays to provide gifts and food

Sister Schools: Students donate school supplies and materials for Ugandan School Children

STUDENT LEADERSHIP FOCUS

Reading Buddies: Cross grade level reading partners

Safety Patrol: 5th graders help create a safe community

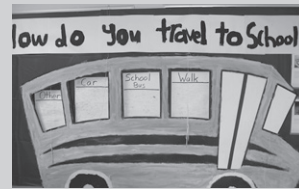
Composting Team: 4th and 5th grade students lead our lunchroom composting efforts

GOING GREEN

"Walking School Buses": Led twice a week by teachers and parents

Green Team: Staff advisors help kids make changes to improve the environment

Extreme Recycling: The Green Team developed a school compost recycling program now being used as a model for the rest of the District



KINDERGARTEN Overview

Kindergarten is a magical time for students as they learn vital social skills, work towards their academic targets and expand their learning environment. We have an excellent team of teachers dedicated and focused on early childhood development, who have built a wonderful kindergarten program and educational experience for children.

In any of our kindergarten classrooms one will see a child-centered, literacy-rich environment, which supports written and oral language development. Individual, small group, and whole group lessons, as well as learning centers, contribute to the daily growth of young students as they are encouraged to work collaboratively as well as independently.

We offer a full-day kindergarten program, but can accommodate students who wish only to attend half-day. Half-day kindergarten is available in the mornings.

Highlights of the Lawton kindergarten program include:

- A positive and engaging year of learning with high expectations for all
- Caring, highly-skilled teachers and support staff
- Individualized learning to meet the needs of each student
- Small group differentiated instruction
- Collaborative Classroom Literacy Curriculum
- Integrated curriculum across subjects
- Strong physical education, music and library programs
- Ongoing student assessment, both informal and formal
- Close communication with parents through conferences, phone, and email
- Field trips to local attractions to enhance classroom learning
- Social skills development in class meetings and through individual interactions
- Arts and enrichment opportunities with local and renowned artists
- School-wide assemblies to celebrate student success
- Participation in all-school community engagement events and activities
- Available after school enrichment clubs (fee-based) hosted by the Lawton PTA

Advanced Learning

Lawton's teachers challenge Advanced Learners who have successfully tested into this program. Teachers collaborate with one another to develop strategies for working with students across academic achievement, including our Advanced Learners.

Inclusion-Model School

Lawton Elementary is an inclusion school where staff is fully committed to meeting the needs of all students. Children with special needs may be served in the general education classroom, special education setting, or in a resource room with individual or small group instruction based on identified goals. Lawton's special education team is comprised of 2 to 3 special education teachers, a full time speech therapist, a part-time occupational therapist, a visiting physical therapist, a psychologist, and 3 to 4 instructional assistants.



Curriculum:

Core Academics

Core academics are the major focus at Lawton. District curriculum is regularly augmented by special programs, additional PTA resources, and community building events to reinforce our students' learning experience.

READING AND WRITING

Since literacy is an essential component to any student's learning, it is one of the core "blocks" in our school day. During that time, we follow our District's adopted, comprehensive Center for the Collaborative Classroom English Language Arts curriculum (CCC) where reading and writing are regarded as complementary processes that promote higher level thinking skills. Elements of the CCC program include:

Reading

- Individualized Daily Reading (IDR)
- Conferring
- Explicit Vocabulary Instruction
- Comprehension Strategies
- Independent Practice
- Shared Reading
- Word Study
- Small Group Reading
- Engaging Literature

Writing

- Individualized Feedback
- Independent Writing Practice
- Modeled Writing
- Language Skills and Conventions
- Conferring
- Shared Exemplary Texts

◆ Classroom Libraries

Every classroom at Lawton has a classroom library with available books for students to read. The focus is for students to find books that spur on their own individual interests and passions and are accessible based on independent reading levels. Lawton also has a book room with class sets of novels to promote reading and literature appreciation.

◆ Literacy Enrichment

Lawton embraces literacy as a community. The PTA and school together annually develop a plan to host different literacy-focused enrichment and community engagement events. Every year is unique to the needs of the community, teacher/student interest, and available resources. In past years these have included the following: Author Workshops with a local or visiting author; Book-It workshops and performances; Poetry readings; Book fairs; and the Global Reading Challenge.



MATHEMATICS

At Lawton we use Math In Focus as our K-5 math curriculum. Math In Focus is a Singapore math curriculum. It draws on best practices from around the world and highlights problem solving as the focus of mathematical learning. The scope and sequence of math follows common core standards utilizing Math in Focus and supplemental materials. There are a number of features that distinguish this program:



Math In Focus Program

- Real-life Problem Solving
- Integrated Technology
- Differentiated Instruction Applications
- Alignment with the common core
- Focus on “how” and “why” to allow routine and non-routine problem solving

As students increase their understanding of mathematical relationships and concepts, they are expected to share their ideas and strategies through verbal and written responses. Using concrete materials and manipulatives in real life experiences, students progress through stages of patterning, sorting, and classifying, as well as traditional algebraic expression, to strengthen their number sense.

◆ Math Outside of School

Through the generous support of the PTA Lawton students and families have access to online math practice through IXL or Reflex based on grade level. In addition, students and families are provided resources for simple ways to incorporate math at home through cooking, card games, chores, and board games.

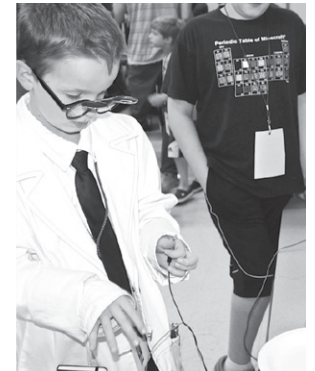


SCIENCE

Lawton’s science education centers on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Seattle Public Schools is transitioning to NGSS with expected transition completion by spring of 2018. However, Lawton has been using NGSS as the guiding set of standards since Fall of 2017 as a high number of teachers requested to be part of the pilot program. Lawton teachers that were part of the pilot learned and implemented the practices of NGSS. Currently Seattle Public School district and the University of Washington Ambitious Science Teaching are collaborating with local organizations, including IslandWood and SP Utilities, to develop curriculum that aligns with the NGSS. Lawton is fortunate to have a teacher leader that is working alongside this group.

◆ Science Events

Science is a year long academic focus in classrooms, however, science week helps spotlight science in the real world and allows the whole school to focus on science collectively by utilizing resources and enrichment opportunities outside the walls of our school. The PTA sponsors science fieldtrips for each grade for unique science-rich opportunities in our own backyard. These may include, Discovery Park, The Tilth, the Burke Museum, and the Arboretum.



◆ Supplemental Science Enrichment

In addition to the science-related field trips and enrichment, the PTA also generously supports curriculum enrichment for the Lawton teachers, such as Mystery Science. Another vital component of our science program is an overnight, outdoor environmental education camp for our 5th graders at IslandWood on Bainbridge Island. The four-day, three-night experience is a capstone and natural extension to the science units introduced in the classrooms. Please visit www.islandwood.org for more information.



Curriculum:

Spotlight Areas



TECHNOLOGY

At Lawton, technology is integrated into student's every day learning. Children have the opportunity to increase their knowledge, skill and comfort level with a variety of technologies while working within the curriculum. Students are using technology at various grade levels to create projects. Elements of our technology program include:

- LCD projectors and color document readers in every classroom
- Multi-media capabilities provided by supplemental PTA funding
- Digital Cameras
- Frontline sound systems for projecting teacher & student voices
- Subscriptions to online learning resources to enhance learning
- iMac computers for student use in the Library
- Type to Learn 4 (web-based program) and district supported keyboarding program
- 5 shared laptop carts
- Two shared iPad carts



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical fitness of our students is a priority, and our Physical Education program is a cornerstone of the Lawton experience. Our students love P.E.! Distinguishing characteristics of this program include:

- A balanced curriculum with an emphasis on cooperation, lifetime health and fitness, and motor skill development.
- Developing a broad foundation of motor skills for all students through curriculum while fostering respect and responsibility for others and self.
- Creating an environment that leads to an understanding of the importance of human wellness, lifetime activity



and personal habits as highlighted in the Washington State Health and Fitness Standards.

- Fun and varied activities including rollerblading, rock climbing, juggling, jumping rope, tumbling, fencing, archery, and unicycling...just to name a few.



MUSIC

Lawton's comprehensive music program includes a full-time teacher and the opportunity to participate in instrumental music for our 5th grade students.

Lawton Learners are guided through choral and instrumental instruction, and the school's hallways and classrooms have never sounded better. Music programs are integrated into other classroom activities so students experience a cohesive, complementary curriculum while they engage the artistic and musical parts of their brains. Lawton's PTA has generously funded musical instruments and we are able to offer all students the experience of playing instruments alone and in ensembles. All grade levels have the opportunity to perform in assemblies and/or evening performances throughout the year.



VISUAL ARTS

Visiting artists provide workshops in mixed media, clay, ceramics and watercolor, augmenting the visual arts curriculum already provided by the creative Lawton staff. The volunteer-led Art Docent Program exposes students to different artists every month and gives students a chance to learn about art techniques and to make art inspired by the works they study. Projects include sculpture, collage, assemblage, photography, painting, drawing and more!



Arts & Enrichment

Lawton has a long tradition of offering the arts to our students with regular assemblies, workshops, school events and artist-in residence programs. Many programs are supported by the PTA, and are woven into the curriculum by Lawton teachers.

◆ Literacy

Each year, Lawton hosts a visiting author to celebrate writing and engage students in writing workshops. The Book-It program is another enrichment program that focuses on literacy. In addition, the 4th and 5th grade students participate in the Global Reading Challenge.

◆ Understanding Our World

Through the K-5 social studies standards students are developing awareness and understanding of their communities. The focus is on understanding where you are and growing that understanding outward from your neighborhood to your city to your country to the global world. In addition students in the upper grades learn about Washington State history, Westward Expansion, the Oregon Trail, and Colonial America. The PTA and Lawton staff collaborate together to develop partnerships with our community. The PTA provides resources for enrichment and community engagement event opportunities that highlight our own Lawton community.

Broader Horizons

Lawton has a culture of caring for not only academics, but also citizenship, the environment, and the individual talents of our staff, parents and students. Here are a few examples of some broader horizons at Lawton.

◆ Social-Emotional Learning

Lawton has school-wide behavior expectations. In addition to the school wide behavior expectations, Lawton uses the district supported R.U.L.E.R. curriculum (Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating). The anchors to this program that are used at Lawton include, class charter, mood meter, metamoments, and the blue print for conflict resolution. The CCC Reading and Writing curriculum has embedded social-emotional learning targets that are incorporated into the classroom, in addition to the R.U.L.E.R. curriculum to support all students social awareness, interaction, and problem solving. The staff with PTA support hosts a RULER night for families to support understanding of the program and promote consistency between home and school.

◆ Environmental Leadership

Lawton develops partnerships with community members to foster environmental stewardship in our students.

Student-led Lunchroom Composting: Our school was the first in SPS to compost lunchroom waste in 2005. Today, our program provides student leadership opportunities that foster student-to-student engagement and decision-making to reduce our school's environmental impact.

Walking School Bus: Lawton launched our community-wide routes in 2009. Parent and teacher volunteers meet at designated stops to walk in groups to school twice a week. This program increases health, reduces our carbon footprint, and strengthens our community.

Lawton's Secret Garden: Teachers and students engage in authentic scientific exploration and inquiry throughout the year in our school garden. Community partnerships provide classroom experiences for gardening, exploring native flora and fauna, and experiences for students to develop their knowledge of urban wildlife.

Salmon in the Schools Program: Lawton has hosted a freshwater salmon tank in our main hallway since 2006. Chum salmon egg, provided by Salmon in the Schools and the Suquamish tribe, hatch and grow into young fry every winter. This program engages our students and community with local conservation partnerships in a unique and memorable way.

◆ Student Charitable Endeavors

Lawton students are community involved and support a variety of projects with student-driven fundraising efforts. Students have organized bake sales for various causes, raised funds for Schools for Salone which builds schools in Sierra Leone, collected new socks for Teen Feed, assembled sandwiches to feed the homeless, and spearheaded food drives for local charities.

Students Helping Students around the Globe

Through the guidance of our classroom teachers, our students have gained an empathy for children around the world who are denied access to education. Students have participated in backpack and school supply donations to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy victims, funds for earthquake victims, uniforms and supplies for students in Nicaragua and Uganda, and Small Business loans to business in Africa.

Before and After School Enrichment

Lawton is buzzing with activities after school, which is truly a sign of healthy, happy student body. Many teachers and parents share their particular skills and passions with the students by leading an enrichment class. The school also brings in specialists to host classes. The offerings change year to year but here is a sampling of some of our offerings in the past 5 years:

Circus Arts	Unicycle	Chess	Debate
Running Club	Rhythmic Gymnastics	Knitting	Piano
Tennis	IPad Animation	Lego Animation	Coding
Zumba	Spanish	Watercolor	Art

Parent Involvement

One of the most amazing aspects of life at Lawton is the incredibly energetic parent body. Parents support their children's education by volunteering in the classroom, chaperoning field trips, helping with PTA events, assisting in fundraising efforts, sharing special skills, leading walking school buses.... It all adds up to an incredible community dedicated to insuring Lawton's continued success.

A History of Giving

Lawton parents also support the school by contributing to our Direct Drive, raising their paddles at Lawton's spring art event and sponsoring additional projects, such as the Lawton Playground Neighborhood project. Examples of enhancements that parent donations have funded in the past few years include:



- Multi-media equipment
- Library and classroom study resources, books for classroom libraries
- An extreme makeover of the school's Commons room which included wiring and hardware for multi-media, an improved stage, a portable sound system, new paint and storage,
- Instruments for our music program New roller skates for our P.E. program
- iPads to support student learning
- The new Lawton playground the summer of 2016

In addition, parents contribute to the PTA's general fund, which supports art, classroom resource materials, technology, music, library, PE, enrichment programs and lunchroom and recess supports.

Lawton PTA

We are parents and teachers of Lawton kids and we...

- Provide financial assistance to the school
- Plan and fund arts, science and enrichment programs
- Keep parents informed about school happenings, Seattle School District policies and available resources
- Build community with events, such as the annual Back to School Night, Bingo Night, Field Day, and the Move-a-thon.



Volunteer Opportunities

Spring Art Auction	Fifth Grade Promotion	Safety Patrol
Bingo Night	Grants	School Pictures
Book Fairs	Fall Festival/Hoedown	School Shirts
Box Tops	Kindergarten Tours	Secret Garden
Classroom Volunteer	Move-A-Thon	Staff Appreciation
Field Day	Music Room Parent	Tutoring
Fifth Grade Camp	Office Support	Walking School Bus
Community Outreach	PTA Membership	Website
Direct Drive	Room Parent	Welcome Back Bash
Enrichment Committee	Safety Kits	Yearbook

Before & After School Care

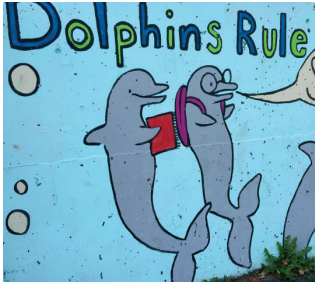
On-Site Care

Lawton has an on-site after school care program, The Lawton Boys & Girls Club. (206) 283-4361.

Other Alternatives

Transportation options to after school activities change and are not guaranteed. During the 2018-2019 school year Seattle Public School bus service was provided to the Ton O' Fun program at the Magnolia Community Center (206-386-4235), Hilltop Childcare on QA (206-283-3100), North Queen Anne Childcare (206-281-2919, and The Makers Club (206-282-2965). In addition, there are local activity-based programs that provide their own bus service. During the 2017-2018 school year the Illuminations Learning Studio in Ballard provided van service for Lawton students that were enrolled in that after school activity program (206-466-1931). Every year the office staff and admin team update the list of currently used local after school providers for families. It is available in the office.

We are very proud of our school, not only for the many accomplishments of our students and staff, but because Lawton is truly a community of caring individuals dedicated to the education and enrichment of our children. We hope to welcome you and your family to Lawton Elementary School! For more information, please visit our school website at www.lawtonelementary.org.



Lawton Elementary School

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