

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

Director of Communications: Gregg Herrington, (360) 885-5337

PO Box 200 • Battle Ground, WA 98604-0200 • Office Location: 11104 NE 149th Street • Brush Prairie, WA
District Switchboard: (360) 885-5300

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Amboy honored as a ‘School of Distinction’

Amboy Middle School has been named a Washington state “School of Distinction” for its five-year record of improvement in reading and math test scores. The announcement was made Saturday, Oct. 23, at the regular meeting of the Battle Ground Public Schools Board of Directors, which this month just happened to be at Amboy Middle School.

The award is made annually to the top 5 percent of the state’s schools as measured by improved test scores. This year, 94 schools across Washington were honored: 52 elementary or primary schools, 22 middle or junior high schools and 20 high schools. Only Four schools in Educational Service District 112 (Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Pacific counties) are among this year’s “Schools of Distinction:” Amboy Middle School; Naselle-Grays River Valley Jr.-Sr. High; Toutle Lake High and Yale Elementary in the Woodland School District.

This is the second consecutive year a Battle Ground district school has had a “School of Distinction.” Last year, CAM Jr. - Sr. High School was one of 104 schools to earn the honor.

“This award reflects a lot of hard work by the staff and students over a long period of time, with plenty of support from parents and the community,” said Amboy Principal Shayla Ebner. “It didn’t just happen overnight. We have outstanding community support, hard-working students and dedicated teachers who make good use of collaboration time and work as a team.”

Based on improvement in standardized state math and reading examinations, the annual awards are made by the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE -- www.effectiveness.org), an educational research and data-service organization in Redmond, Wash., and the state chapter of Phi Delta Kappa (PDK), an organization of educators.

Besides the fact the Board meeting was at Amboy, there was another happy coincidence associated with Saturday’s announcement. The state president of ADK

this year is Diana Gilsinger, deputy superintendent of Battle Ground Public Schools. She and Superintendent Shonny Bria beamed as they shared the good news. They joined the Board and audience in applauding Ebner and Assistant Principal Steve Michaelis and, by extension, Amboy Middle School’s entire faculty, staff, student body and community.

Sue Mills, executive director of the CEE, said in a prepared statement, “The students are the real winners of this award. Their success needs to be celebrated and shared to support improvement efforts across Washington to make this difference for all students.”

An award ceremony for winners from throughout Southwest Washington and the Olympic Peninsula will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Battle Ground Public Schools’ district office, 11104 N.E. 149th St. in Brush Prairie. For more information, contact Diana Gilsinger, 885-5338.



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