



Governor Chris Gregoire visits with students in Sarah Erickson's mathematics class during a stop at the school to learn more about efforts to improve student learning.

Governor Gregoire highlights improvements at Dimmitt Middle School

Gov. and state schools chief Randy Dorn to use Dimmitt success to apply for federal education grant

November 10, 2009—Washington Governor Chris Gregoire visited Dimmitt Middle School today to highlight the school's effective teaching that has led to gains in student achievement.

Teamed with the state's Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn and Washington Education Association President Mary Lindquist, the governor praised Dimmitt staff for their work to create a school environment that embraces a team approach to teaching and a commitment to the educational excellence of every child.

"I am enthused and excited about the course that Dimmitt Middle School is taking to improve student achievement," said

"I am enthused and excited about the course Dimmitt Middle School is taking to improve student learning."

—Gov. Chris Gregoire

Gov. Gregoire.
“Dimmitt Middle School has the spirit of innovation and is an example of what we can do at every school in the state of Washington.”

The Governor’s team is collecting evidence of schools that are making marked improvements in student achievement to include in the state’s application for President Barak Obama’s Race to the Top grant, which will be offered to states that are working to close the education achievement gap and are getting more kids into college.



Gov. Gregoire listens to Dimmitt 6th-grader Thalia Beed (l) and Nadine Rillo. Principal John Schmitz looks on.

Effective teaching at Dimmitt is helping students improve their grades in the classroom and on standardized tests. Dimmitt staff also has committed to help for students beyond regular education programs, including advanced

classes in mathematics, language arts and social studies, and programs for English Language Learners and students with disabilities. Additionally, the school provides a variety of elective classes and after-school academic assistance, club activities and athletics.

Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel said the governor’s visit is evidence that the district’s systematic approach to student improvement is making a difference in the lives of students and is a model for what districts throughout the state can accomplish through a collaborative approach to teaching. Heuschel, who was the state’s deputy superintendent before becoming Renton schools superintendent, has worked with all of the state’s nearly 300 school districts and sees the education strategies used at Dimmitt and in all Renton schools among the state’s most innovative and effective.

“ I am honored to have the governor select Renton as the district to represent progress and student achievement gains for the state.”

—Renton Schools Superintendent
Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel