

Lourdes Public Charter School

Annual Report

Through
June 2004



Founded in 1899
Chartered in 1999

"Not one way for all learners.....the right way for each"

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June 10, 2004

Lourdes had a new face this year! After seventeen years at Lourdes, Diane Duda retired from her 32 year teaching career. Needless to say, we all miss her and the many big and little things she did 'around the school'. However, Lourdes is blessed with a very qualified replacement---Carol Dowsett. Carol has taught for 17 years, mostly in the local area. She has brought new ideas and charisma to the school.

This year Lourdes has received several grants that have enabled us to broaden our students' experiences in the arts. First, we received an 'Arts in Education Grant' from the Family Ford Foundation. Joyce Greiner, the story teller, provided us with two full weeks of story telling entertainment and instruction. Next year, Terry Inokuma will teach two weeks of Clay and Raku. The Oregon Community Foundation made possible several additional activities. Robin Hummelbaugh provided an art experience for the K-5 grades that combined students' artwork with creative movement. All students were able to attend the Oregon Symphony Youth concerts at Willamette University, and a new Spanish program was purchased. Finally, a former alumnus of Lourdes, provided a concert by Michael Allen Harrison and Julie Ann Johnston at the Star Cinema in Stayton for the benefit and enjoyment of the Lourdes community.

The Lourdes students have supported the troops in Iraq by making cards, and families have donated articles for care packages. This has made our students more aware of the sacrifices made by America's soldiers.

I hope that the following report will give a more detailed explanation of the many educational opportunities that are provided to us by the support of the students, parents, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Duman
Administrator

School Goals 2003-04

1. The card reward system developed last year will be revised to fit the needs of the 5-8 grades. A tally system will be used for inappropriate behaviors, missing or late assignments will only be reflected in the students' grades. Primary students reward system will continue the same as last year.
2. Staff will be more attentive to community service projects such as having students make Thank you, Sympathy, and Get well cards for members of the community.
3. Staff will develop a bulletin board to display positive student behaviors.

Library Goal

1. Our library has increased to 130 patrons.
2. Total volume was increased by 292 books.

This year the Lourdes Charter School will host the Linn Library League Bookmobile and Summer Reading projects. On Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8pm, May through October, the Bookmobile will be at the Lourdes School for use by all Linn County residents. From June 23 to July 28, on Wednesday evenings, the Linn Library League Summer Reading Program will be held at the Lourdes Charter School from 7-8pm. This is an excellent opportunity for the students to continue their reading through the summer months.

Student Performance

2003 State Assessment Results

(Results incorporate all scores from grades three, five and eight)

Reading/Literature 91% of the third, fifth and eighth graders met or exceeded state standards.

Math 100% of the third, fifth and eighth graders met or exceeded state standards.

*CTBS Test Scores Lourdes Charter School

| Grade Equivalency | | National Percentile | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----|
| 2 nd Grade 2002-03 | not tested | | |
| 3 rd Grade 2003-04 | 4.44 | 3 rd Grade 2002-03 | 80 |
| 4 th Grade 2002-03 | 6.32 | 4 th Grade 2002-03 | 72 |
| 5 th Grade 2003-04 | 7.94 | 5 th Grade 2003-04 | 75 |
| 7 th Grade 2002-03 | 11.25 | 7 th Grade 2002-03 | 87 |
| 8 th Grade 2003-04 | Not sufficient enrollment to report test scores | | |

National percentile gives the percent of students who scored lower than our average test score.

Lourdes Public Charter School is reporting the test scores for these grades because they correspond with the grades used for the state assessment tests.

**California Test of Basic Skills*

Curriculum Assessment % of students passing curriculum assessment tests

| | Reading | Math |
|-----------------------|---|------|
| 3 rd Grade | 100% | 100% |
| 5 th Grade | 100% | 100% |
| 8 th | Not sufficient enrollment to report test scores | |

Factual Information

Staff

Linda Duman – Classroom teacher/Administrator, BA, MS, Oregon certified
Carol Dowsett – 4-8 Classroom teacher, BS, MS, Oregon certified
DeAnne Sumpter – K-3 Classroom teacher, BS, Oregon certified
Sue Gerding – K-3 Classroom teacher, BA, MAT, Oregon certified
Katherine Kirsch – Librarian, BA, MA, Ph. D
Darlene Joines – Teacher assistant
Marlinda Stearns – Teacher assistant
Denise Silbernagel – Teacher assistant
Chris Gries – Teacher assistant
Chris Gries – Bookkeeper
Heathre Powell – Janitor

Enrollment

| Grade | Students Enrolled |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| K/1 | 10 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |
| 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 |

As of June 10, 2004 there are 49 students enrolled for the 2003-04 school year and a waiting list of 25 students.

Professional Development

Linda Duman attended the 'Lewis and Clark' workshop for teachers at OMSI, Fun Music Activities for Elementary students at Salem-Keizer school district, and Charter School School Sponsor Conference by NACSA.

DeAnne Sumpter, Carol Dowsett, and Sue Gerding attended a workshop on 'Drawing and Design' presented by the Salem Art Association.

Chris Gries attended a QuickBooks training seminar.

Accreditation

Lourdes Public Charter School was regionally accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and Universities at its annual meeting in Portland for the academic year 2003-04. Accreditation is just one way of ensuring the public that the school meets minimum environmental standards, has a valid school improvement plan, and is engaged in an on-going self-study and on-site evaluation process. When the Northwest Association of Schools and of Colleges and Universities accredits a school, it is certifying that the school has annually met the prescribed quantitative and qualitative standards of the Association, within the terms of the school's own stated mission and beliefs. It is also certifying that the school has undergone a self-study and validation by an outside team of peers.

US Department of Education Visitation

In Eric Earling, a representative from the US Department of Education, spent a day at Lourdes Charter School to research the elements of a successful charter school. The school provided a full day of presentations and discussions.

School Accomplishments

Story Teller: Lourdes Charter School received a Rural Artist Residency Grant from the Oregon Arts Commission. This project is funded through a grant from The Ford Family Foundation administered by the Oregon Arts Commission. The grant funds a portion of the costs of a planned residency for the 2003-04 school year, and will be renewed for two additional residencies. This year Joyce Greiner presented “The Magic of Storytelling”. Students learned storytelling basics, voice projection, body language, how to portray characters, expand their repertoire of stories, and learn about other cultures.

Spanish Program: Lourdes Charter School purchased an Elementary Spanish program through Northern Arizona University. This program familiarizes the students and staff to the Spanish language and the cultures of the people who speak it. This program was funded in part by the Oregon Community Foundation.

Creative Movement: Grades K-5 participated in a mixed media art experience starting with an exploration of some of the earliest art examples from the Lascaux caves in France and finishing with examples of impressionist paintings to provide an environment for two different dance compositions. The goal was to increase an awareness of the use of space, the techniques of earlier artists and better coordination, music appreciation and strength through modern and ballet dance exercise. This project was partially funded by the Oregon Community Foundation.

Oregon Gardens: 7th and 8th grade students spent a day at the Oregon Gardens in the Rediscover Forest Tour. Students explored the 10-acre demonstration forest and learned about tree growth, forest development, forest products, wildlife, the role of management in maintaining forest health, and tree identification. This field trip was made possible by funds from the Association of O&C Counties and National forest Counties.

Symphonies: Students were able to attend the Oregon Symphony Youth concerts at Willamette University: primary grades attended ‘The Colors of Music’ and the upper grades attended ‘Music in Conflict’. This was partially funded by the Oregon Community Foundation and the Parents Club.

Ballet Folklorico: All students at Lourdes Charter School celebrated Cinco de Mayo at the Elsinore Theatre with a performance of Mexican folkloric dance from a variety of regions. This was partially funded by the Oregon Community Foundation and the Parents Club.

Star Cinema: Pianist Michael Allen Harrison with Julianne Johnson, performed a benefit concert for Lourdes Charter School at the Star Cinema in Stayton, Oregon. This concert was made possible through a donation from Leonard Foltz, a Lourdes alumnus.

Playground Improvement: The playground now includes a cushioned area with a Geodome, a new slide, and a Creative Play Structure. This improvement was a project of the Parents Teacher Club. It was funded by several parent fundraisers and grants from Weyerhaeuser Company and JELD-WEN Foundation.

Library Expansion: The school was able to have a part time librarian to purchase, catalog, and review present materials. Books were purchased to replace outdated materials, and the entire collection was increased by nearly 300 volumes. This was made possible by grants from the Autzen Foundation, NCSF Hearts and Hands Program, and Consumers Power.

Writing Awards: Lourdes Charter School had one state winner and two semi-finalists in the Letters about Literature program. This is a national reading and writing promotional program for children. It is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores and in cooperation with the Weekly Reader Corporation.

Lottery: In June four members of the Lourdes Charter School community took part in the Scratch-it for Schools, an Oregon Lottery promotional program in which random selected public schools compete for Lottery cash prizes. Lourdes Charter School received over \$800 in cash winnings for school funding.

Community Survey

This year the Lourdes Charter School surveyed the parents and community members on their reasons for continuing their support for Lourdes Charter School:

“The education is better in smaller schools. If a student has a problem in a subject it can be caught sooner in a smaller school.”

“The greatest assets for Lourdes Charter School are the dedication and flexibility of the staff supported and guided by the community.”

“Lourdes was an established successful school prior to becoming a charter school. This may influence other schools interested.”

“The friendships I will always remember. The classes were small enough you were almost a family.”

“The library is so convenient for the community to use—it should be advertised on the web.”

“Good teachers and volunteers—individual attention to students when needed.”

“The one on one with students. Moral ethics, true caring among the staff, discipline, quality of education.”

“Lourdes Charter School is one of a kind. When we attended an open house it is exceptional what they accomplish.”

“The smaller size of the student body is a definite advantage, but the teaching staff’s willingness to serve –wear many hats- is the main reason the school is so successful. A charter school must have dedicated teachers to succeed. Also the teachers must have the education and necessary training.”

“We are interested in Lourdes Charter School because we like to see the local children receive the best education possible.”

“Learning how to play many different card games during rainy day recesses. I have been able to pass on my love of games to my family.”

“My love of reading comes from many years of reading many, many books during my grade school education. Spelling and memorization has helped out a lot in my job.”

“The best thing about my Lourdes education is that it was an education—not an indoctrination. I learned how to learn, and developed skills that I could use to effectively communicate. At the time I did not realize how lucky I was to not have secular materialism foisted on me at every opportunity. Thank you for your commitment to real education!”

“Involvement of parents in the educational process. Parents were active in many ways: I saw people doing clerical work, acting as assistants, cooking, etc..”

“The children seemed more relaxed and “at home” than in most schools. Teacher interactions surely helped here, very creative.”

“Very low teacher-student ratio with an emphasis on individual skills and a lot of loving, positive reinforcement.”

“The excellent, talented, well-rounded young people I have watched come from Lourdes and excel at Regis. This answer seems clumsy but I can count on Lourdes students to be special as they move through high school.”