

# OREGON Small Schools INITIATIVE

## Discovery

815 South Oakdale Ave., Medford, OR 97501 (541) 842-3680

<http://www.medford.k12.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=2529>

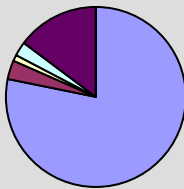
Principal: Beth Hauser

Discovery School strives to develop students as independent thinkers and problem solvers with the knowledge and experiences needed to sustain and improve the social, cultural and ecological integrity of our community. Students experience a challenging curriculum that extends beyond the classroom into the community. Students experience the natural world in order to enhance their physical and mental well-being and to stimulate their creativity. Critical thinking about social, economic, and environmental issues is the core of the curriculum. Discovery school students gain a true understanding of what our community can provide for them, as well as what they can give back to their community by being active participants in a democratic society.

The following data reflects 2008-2009, unless otherwise noted

### Student Population

Total Enrollment	294
Low-income students	43.5%
English language learners	5.8%

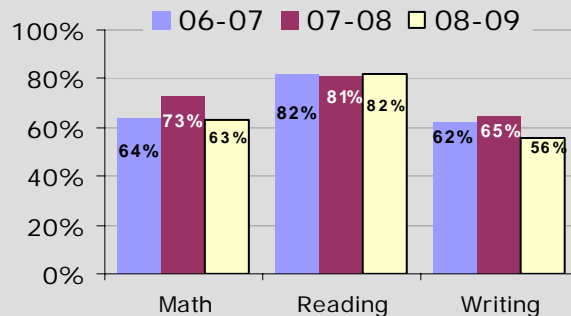


2007-08

European American	- 78%
Asian/Pacific Islander	- 3%
African American	- 1%
American Indian	- 3%
Latino, Hispanic	- 15%
Other	- 0%

### Student Achievement

10<sup>th</sup> grade students meeting or exceeding state benchmarks



Sources: Oregon Department of Education and Discovery at South Medford

### A Tradition of Innovation

South Medford High School has enthusiastically pursued innovation for more than a decade. All decisions at South Medford focus on student success. Teachers and support staff insist on high expectations while providing high support for all students. Freshman houses, implemented in 1999, were designed to help 9th graders transition successfully into high school. While continuing to grapple with high dropout rates and math performance below state averages, South Medford took steps toward breaking the large student body into smaller learning communities in 2006. Each community has implemented hands-on, collaborative, project based learning, common reading/writing strategies, and a focus on implementing research-based best practices in instruction.