

# Alexander Graham Middle School



## A Message from the Principal

To our Alexander Graham Middle School families:

I am very pleased to present the first School Progress Report for Alexander Graham Middle. This is part of our effort to keep our school community informed about our students' academic progress, our staff and our school environment. We are excited about the 2008-2009 school year and will do whatever it takes to help all of our students reach their full potential.

Alexander Graham Middle achieved High Growth on the End-of-Grade math test with 77.4 percent of our students performing at or above grade level. This is consistent with our results over the past three years. In addition, all of our subgroups met Expected Growth in math. Our performance composite on the End-of-Grade test in algebra and geometry showed that 97.9 percent of our students performed at or above grade level. We are very proud of these achievements.

On the North Carolina seventh-grade writing test, 67.8 percent of our students performed at or above grade level, up from 58.2 percent in 2005-2006. In the North Carolina Computer Skills Competency test, 83.9 percent of our eighth-grade students performed at or above grade level, up from 66.1 percent in 2005-2006.

The state introduced a new reading test in 2007-2008. As a result of more rigorous expectations, reading scores declined across the state, including in CMS. Since the new test covers different material from that covered in the previous test, direct year-over-year comparisons are not necessarily accurate.

We did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act. Because we have a

*(Principal's message continued on back.)*

## KEY FACTS

### Principal

Will Leach

email: [will.leach@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:will.leach@cms.k12.nc.us)

### Grades

6 - 8

### School Population

- 1,077 Students
- 58 Teachers
- 3 Assistant Principals
- 3 Counselors
- 39 Support Staff

### Student Demographics

- 27.3% African American
- 62.4% White
- 6.3% Hispanic
- 4.0% Other
- 29.0% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

### Learning Community

Central

Area Superintendent: Joel Ritchie

324 N. McDowell Street

Suite 100

Charlotte, NC 28204

980-343-1465

email: [j.ritchie@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:j.ritchie@cms.k12.nc.us)

Data effective as of spring 2008.

## Alexander Graham Middle School

1800 Runnymede Lane

Charlotte, NC 28211

980-343-5810

<http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/ag>



CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measurements	CMS 2010 Goal	School Result 2007 - 2008
<b>High Academic Achievement</b>  <i>Disparity between socioeconomic groups is shown as a positive percentage when non-economically-disadvantaged students outscore economically-disadvantaged students; a negative percentage indicates the reverse.</i>	Students performing at or above grade level overall <sup>1</sup>	—	<b>75.4%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in Reading	95%	<b>67.4%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in Math	88%	<b>77.4%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in Writing	80%	<b>67.8%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Reading	10%	<b>52.7%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Math	10%	<b>42.5%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Writing	10%	<b>51.2%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Reading	10%	<b>48.1%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Math	10%	<b>39.8%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Writing	10%	<b>39.1%</b>
<b>Effective Educators</b>	Teachers deemed “highly qualified” having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	96%	<b>92%</b>
	National Board-certified teachers	16%	<b>9%</b>
	Teachers with graduate degrees	35%	<b>24%</b>
	Teachers’ average years of experience	10.4	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Adequate Resources &amp; Facilities</b>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	<b>3:1</b>
<b>Safe &amp; Orderly Schools</b>	Passed the CMS “safe school audit”	YES	<b>YES</b>
	Parents perceive the school as safe <sup>2</sup>	70%	<b>93.8%</b>
	Students perceive the school as safe <sup>3</sup>	80%	<b>90.4%</b>
	Teachers perceive the school as safe <sup>1,4</sup>	—	<b>95.8%</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions <sup>1,5</sup>	—	<b>12.6</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions <sup>1,5</sup>	—	<b>16.6</b>
<b>Freedom &amp; Flexibility with Accountability</b>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility <sup>1</sup>	—	<b>NO</b>
<b>World-Class Service</b>	Parents perceive the school as responsive <sup>2</sup>	80%	<b>87.3%</b>
<b>Strong Parent &amp; Community Connections</b>	Parents that give the school either an A or B grade <sup>1,2</sup>	—	<b>88.8%</b>
	Number of volunteer hours <sup>6</sup>	Increase by 25% district-wide	<b>86.2</b>
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Not a Strategic Plan goal

<sup>2</sup>Based on completed parent surveys

<sup>3</sup>Based on completed student surveys

<sup>4</sup>Based on completed teacher surveys

<sup>5</sup>Incidents per 100 students

<sup>6</sup>Per 100 students

# CMS Accountability Measures

In this section, we are highlighting several key performance indicators for our school and its students.

## ► Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Our school **DID NOT** make AYP  
(21 of 29 goals met)

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that every school make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). State test results are used to set AYP proficiency targets for every grade. Targets are set for the school as a whole, as well as for nine separate subgroups. The subgroups are: white, black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, multiracial, economically disadvantaged students, students with limited English proficiency and students with disabilities. A school's attendance and graduation rates are also measured for AYP.

The subgroup measurements are intended to prevent an overall score from masking poor results by one or more subgroups. Because the number of subgroups can vary depending on a school's diversity, the number of targets varies also. Some schools may have only a few targets to meet; others may have as many as 41.

AYP is an all-or-nothing standard that says every target must be met. No Child Left Behind also requires that every student be proficient by the 2013-2014 school year.

For a more complete overview of AYP, visit [www.dpi.state.nc.us/nclb/abcayp/overview/ayp](http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/nclb/abcayp/overview/ayp)

For details of AYP results for our school and its student groups, visit <http://ayp.ncpublicschools.org>

## ► ABC Designation

Our school's designation: **School of Progress**  
(DID meet growth expectations)

**Proficiency: 75.4%**

The North Carolina ABCs program was introduced more than a decade ago to better target school improvement efforts. Two basic measures determine a school's designation: the Average Growth of students (at right); and the Performance Composite, which measures how well students performed against a set standard of proficiency.

Schools are given one of seven designations (in descending order): Honor School of Excellence; School of Excellence; School of Distinction; School of Progress; No Recognition; Priority School; Low Performing.

For more information about ABCs, visit <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org/abcs>

## ► Average Growth

State Standard: 80%  
**Our School: 82.7%**

Each year, the state sets individual growth expectations for each student. A student is expected to perform as well, or better, on the End-of-Grade (EOG) assessment for the current year as he or she did, on average, during the previous two years. The Average Growth is calculated by comparing *actual* performance versus *expected* performance and then averaging the difference across all students and all subjects. The score above reflects the combined growth rate of all of our students. A school classified as making expected growth would have a score of 80% or higher.

## ► Students Making or Exceeding a Year's Worth of Growth

State Standard: 60%  
**Our School: 63.0%**

This measurement assesses whether students have learned as much as they are expected to learn in one year. Expectations are set for each student based on individual performance for the previous two years. Across the state, about half of students typically meet or exceed their growth expectation. High growth is defined as a score of 60% or higher and having met expected growth.

## ► Amount of Growth for Students in the Lowest Achieving Group

**Our School: 80.6%**

Narrowing the achievement gap is widely recognized as one of the biggest challenges in public education. The lowest achieving group for CMS includes certain minority groups and those receiving free or reduced-price lunch. If lower-achieving students grow at a faster rate than better-achieving students, the achievement gap is narrowed. When the above percentage is higher than the Average Growth for the school (see Average Growth above), the school is closing the achievement gap.

## ► Positive Responses to Student Surveys

**Our School: 85.5%**

Student feedback is a subjective, but essential, component of the measure of our school's performance. We want all of our students to have a caring, supportive environment at school. This is a measure of the positive reaction from our students covering the areas of school safety, engagement and encouragement.

For more information on our school's performance, visit <http://pmd.cms.k12.nc.us>

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

REACH FURTHER. **Global competitiveness starts here.**

# ▶ Alexander Graham Middle School

*(Principal's message continued.)*

diverse student population, we have many targets to meet for AYP—29 in all, and we met 21 of them. We will continue to focus our instruction on the specific needs of each child while ensuring that all students are held to high expectations.

The safety of our students and staff is a priority and we are proud to report that we received a perfect score on last year's safe-school audit. Survey results complement this achievement with 92.3 percent of parents and 90.4 percent of students reporting a safe and orderly environment.

A large part of our success can be attributed to our qualified, dedicated and caring staff and their commitment to meeting the academic and social needs of our students. Although we have had some teacher turnover in recent years, we are attracting and retaining many outstanding teachers who are devoted to the future success of Alexander Graham Middle.

We also applaud our PTA for its involvement. This group enhances the sense of community on our campus by providing its time and financial support for many school activities.

I am confident we will continue to make great strides at Alexander Graham Middle School, and we are putting in place our school improvement plan for the school year. Together, we will do whatever it takes to meet the needs of the students we serve. I look forward to working with all of you during the 2008-2009 school year.

Sincerely,  
Will Leach  
*Principal*

## What is the School Progress Report?

In 2006, we introduced the *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Strategic Plan 2010* outlining our vision and strategy to educate our students to compete locally, nationally and internationally.

The plan outlines seven areas of concentration: high academic achievement; effective educators; adequate resources and facilities; safe and orderly schools; freedom and flexibility with accountability; world-class service, and strong parent and community connections.

In this report, you will notice how our school performed in the 2007-2008 school year compared to the stated 2010 goals. On page 3, you will also find an explanation of federal and state accountability measures with a specific emphasis on growth.

As educators and parents, we have a common goal of preparing our children to compete in an ever-growing global community. This goal requires constant dialogue between school and parents, so please feel free to contact the principal or any staff member at our school with your questions, concerns or suggestions.

