

► Highland Creek Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

To our Highland Creek Elementary School families:

This is the first School Progress Report for Highland Creek Elementary, part of our effort to keep families fully informed about our students' academic progress, our staff, and our school environment.

Highland Creek had a composite proficiency rate on the state End-of-Grade math test of 85 percent. This means that 85 percent of our third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students passed the test. We are proud of our students' progress. The test results show that overall, our school exceeded the growth expectation that is set by the state. We also made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act. All subgroups within our school met the federal performance standards.

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.

This year, our focus is to ensure that all students continue learning at high levels. This will be accomplished as teachers work collaboratively to define the essential curriculum, to discuss effective teaching strategies and appropriate assessments, and to use data to help identify which students need remediation or enrichment. Teachers are using differentiated instruction, a flexible teaching approach that adapts the curriculum and teaching strategies to individual learning needs. Additionally, for struggling learners, we are implementing a buddy system, where staff members mentor students to encourage learning. We will offer End-of-Grade blitz sessions and Success Academy to further support student learning. To ensure that our students are receiving rigorous and relevant instruction, we are using several exciting technology initiatives, including Discovery Learning, Study Island, Orchard and Accelerated Reader.

(Principal's message continued on back.)

KEY FACTS

Principal

Dr. Ann Nivens

email: ann.nivens@cms.k12.nc.us

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- 1,064 Students
- 62 Teachers
- 2 Assistant Principals
- 2 Student Services Specialists
- 56 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 26.2% African American
- 58.6% White
- 5.3% Hispanic
- 9.9% Other
- 13.0% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

Learning Community

Northeast

Area Superintendent: Scott Muri
2750 E. W.T. Harris Boulevard
Suite 101

Charlotte, NC 28213

980-343-1459

email: scott.muri@cms.k12.nc.us

Data effective as of spring 2008.

Highland Creek Elementary School

7242 Highland Creek Parkway

Charlotte, NC 28269

980-343-1065

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



CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measurements	CMS 2010 Goal	School Result 2007 - 2008
High Academic Achievement <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 ¹	—	78.6%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Reading	95%	72.6%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Math	88%	85.0%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Writing	80%	72.2%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Reading	10%	25.0%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Math	10%	27.7%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Writing	10%	30.0%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Reading	10%	34.6%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Math	10%	31.9%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Writing	10%	19.9%
Effective Educators	Teachers deemed “highly qualified” having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	99%	97%
	National Board-certified teachers	16%	15%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	34%	30%
	Teachers’ average years of experience	11.2	8.4
Adequate Resources & Facilities	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	5:1
Safe & Orderly Schools	Passed the CMS “safe school audit”	YES	YES
	Parents perceive the school as safe ²	70%	92.4%
	Students perceive the school as safe ³	80%	77.6%
	Teachers perceive the school as safe ^{1,4}	—	95.2%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,5}	—	0
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,5}	—	1.4
Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	YES
World-Class Service	Parents perceive the school as responsive ²	80%	83.1%
Strong Parent & Community Connections	Parents that give the school either an A or B grade ^{1,2}	—	89.7%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁶	Increase by 25% district-wide	43.5
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	0

¹Not a Strategic Plan goal

²Based on completed parent surveys

³Based on completed student surveys

⁴Based on completed teacher surveys

⁵Incidents per 100 students

⁶Per 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** make AYP
(17 of 17 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

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: 78.6%

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: 85.0%

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: 69.5%

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: 84.5%

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: 77.0%

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.**

► Highland Creek Elementary School

(Principal's message continued.)

Our faculty is highly qualified and experienced. We have 32 teachers with master's degrees, one with an educational-specialist degree, and two staff members who have earned doctorates. Eight teachers have gained National Board certification and four are working toward it. In addition, we have a dedicated support staff and a devoted team of teacher assistants. Our turnover rate is low, with just four teachers leaving last year (one went to a middle school and three left for family reasons).

I was one of 50 CMS principals chosen last year to pilot an initiative called Freedom and Flexibility with Accountability. This means that I have been given some additional autonomy to keep Highland Creek, and our students, moving forward.

As a staff, we are committed to providing a safe, caring and inviting environment. We are implementing the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports model that is designed to teach and reward appropriate behavior. We have a strong character-education

program, which builds character traits and helps children respect and value one another.

Highland Creek Elementary parents are involved in their children's education. The school has outstanding support through parent volunteerism and a hard-working PTA. Our PTA provides monetary support for our programs, and special family events to build community. We are fortunate to have more than 12 businesses and organizations that support our school through donations and volunteering.

At Highland Creek Elementary, we are committed to providing the best education available anywhere. By working together, we will ensure the success of each and every student.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ann Nivens
Principal

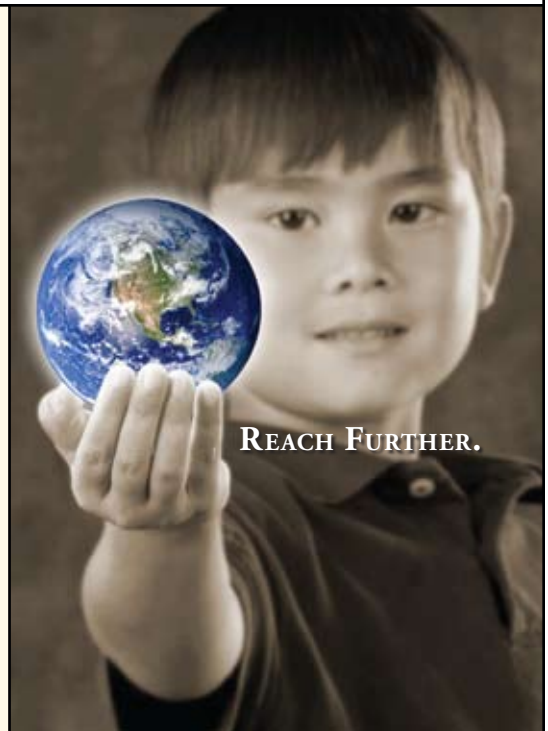
What is the School Progress Report?

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.



REACH FURTHER.

