

▶ Hornets Nest Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

To our Hornets Nest Elementary School families:

This is the first School Progress Report for Hornets Nest Elementary. We are sending this to you so that you may be fully informed about our students' academic progress, our staff and our school environment.

Over the last few years, Hornets Nest has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act. Over the same period, we have not met Expected Growth on the state ABC goals. For the 2007-2008 school year, however, we did attain High Growth, with a composite score of 42.4 percent. We will strive to meet AYP in the 2008-2009 school year.

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.

Hornets Nest is a FOCUS (Finding Opportunities; Creating Unparalleled Success) School serving nearly 1,000 students. Our mission is to improve the academic performance of all students. All teachers follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Students are directly supported in all academic areas, with programs such as Accelerated Reader, Excel Math and the Intensive Reading Model. Students who perform consistently above grade level receive instruction through the William and Mary curriculum.

Hornets Nest is a partial communications arts magnet school. All students benefit from this magnet program, which is enhanced through a technology-rich learning environment. Our school is

(Principal's message continued on back.)

KEY FACTS

Principal

Victoria Hicks
email: v.hicks@cms.k12.nc.us

Hornets Nest Elementary School is a partial Communication Arts magnet.

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- 978 Students
- 67 Teachers
- 3 Assistant Principals
- 1.5 Student Services Specialists
- 53 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 62.0% African American
- 5.9% White
- 25.7% Hispanic
- 6.4% Other
- 77.2% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

Learning Community

North

Area Superintendent:
Monique Gardner-Witherspoon
16630 Northcross Drive
Huntersville, NC 28078
980-343-1457
email: monique.witherspoon@cms.k12.nc.us

Data effective as of spring 2008.

Hornets Nest Elementary School

6700 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216
980-343-6110

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



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	—	42.4%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Reading	95%	35.9%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Math	88%	52.3%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Writing	80%	25.2%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Reading	10%	14.0%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Math	10%	37.2%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Writing	10%	33.3%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Reading	10%	19.3%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Math	10%	20.6%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Writing	10%	6.4%
Effective Educators	Teachers deemed “highly qualified” having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	99%	98%
	National Board-certified teachers	16%	9%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	34%	31%
	Teachers’ average years of experience	11.2	10.2
Adequate Resources & Facilities	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	4:1
Safe & Orderly Schools	Passed the CMS “safe school audit”	YES	YES
	Parents perceive the school as safe ²	70%	78.6%
	Students perceive the school as safe ³	80%	61.1%
	Teachers perceive the school as safe ^{1,4}	—	76.5%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,5}	—	0.5
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,5}	—	16.1
Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	NO
World-Class Service	Parents perceive the school as responsive ²	80%	70.7%
Strong Parent & Community Connections	Parents that give the school either an A or B grade ^{1,2}	—	72.1%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁶	Increase by 25% district-wide	0
	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 NOT** make AYP
(15 of 25 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: **Priority School**
(DID meet growth expectations)

Proficiency: 42.4%

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: 83.6%

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: 62.0%

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: 82.8%

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: 72.4%

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.**

▶ Hornets Nest Elementary School

(Principal's message continued.)

equipped with 25 Promethean Boards (interactive white boards), two computer labs and two laptop carts housing 15 computers each.

This school year we have introduced Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, a program designed to foster student respect, responsibility and cooperation. It includes lessons on following specific school rules in the classroom, halls and cafeteria, and helps us teach and reward students for demonstrating good character and positive behavior.

Our faculty is large and very diverse. For the current school year, we have 51 classroom teachers, 10 special-area teachers, three resource teachers and other support staff, including English as a Second Language teachers, student services specialists, speech therapists, curriculum facilitators and teacher assistants.

I am extremely proud to serve as the leader of Hornets Nest Elementary School. The faculty and staff are dedicated and strive to ensure that every student is prepared and challenged and, ultimately, successful. We believe that our students will achieve their goals by making the right choice to come to school and learn.

At Hornets Nest, staff and students alike believe that hard work pays off. Every child counts.

Sincerely,
Victoria J. Hicks
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.

