

▶ McAlpine Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

Dear McAlpine Elementary School families:

This is the first School Progress Report for McAlpine 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.

Inside our small, charming school, teachers and students are making big things happen. They are making a difference.

Students and teachers are making a difference through their commitment to community projects. They collect thousands of books for schools in need. In addition, the students and teachers participate in Walk a Mile in Someone Else's Shoes to raise awareness for the homeless. Every year, students bring in Coats for Kids as well as collect food for the food bank.

Teachers are making a difference in the classroom. In order for students to improve their critical-thinking skills, teachers create an environment where students feel comfortable asking questions. This kind of participation encourages higher-level thinking, and at the same time, enables students to take an active role in the learning process through discussion and writing. Teachers design rigorous lessons that are relevant to the lives of our students and help them make connections with the real world. Through ongoing assessments, teachers identify students' needs and offer differentiated instruction, a flexible teaching approach that adapts the curriculum to individual learning needs. We work in this way to ensure that every student is successful.

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

(Principal's message continued on back.)

KEY FACTS

Principal

Tonya Kales

email: tonya.kales@cms.k12.nc.us

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- 761 Students
- 52 Teachers
- 1 Assistant Principal
- 1 Student Services Specialist
- 50 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 13.4% African American
- 68.2% White
- 8.4% Hispanic
- 10.0% Other
- 15.8% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

Learning Community

South

Area Superintendent: Robert Avossa

8500 Pineville-Matthews Road

Suites F & G

Charlotte, NC 28226

980-343-1467

email: robert.avossa@cms.k12.nc.us

Data effective as of spring 2008.

McAlpine Elementary School

9100 Carswell Lane

Charlotte, NC 28277

980-343-3750

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



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	—	76.6%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Reading	95%	73.4%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Math	88%	82.5%
	Students performing at or above grade level in Writing	80%	63.2%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Reading	10%	33.9%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Math	10%	40.5%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Writing	10%	33.3%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Reading	10%	18.2%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Math	10%	16.7%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Writing	10%	28.1%
Effective Educators	Teachers deemed “highly qualified” having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	99%	100%
	National Board-certified teachers	16%	8%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	34%	25%
	Teachers’ average years of experience	11.2	9.0
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%	94.0%
	Students perceive the school as safe ³	80%	79.4%
	Teachers perceive the school as safe ^{1,4}	—	98.5%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,5}	—	0.4
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,5}	—	4.7
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%	78.8%
Strong Parent & Community Connections	Parents that give the school either an A or B grade ^{1,2}	—	71.7%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁶	Increase by 25% district-wide	38.9
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	5

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
(18 of 21 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: 76.6%

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: 82.8%

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: 61.3%

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: 79.7%

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: 74.0%

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.**

► McAlpine Elementary School

(Principal's message continued.)

that covered in the previous test, direct year-over-year comparisons are not necessarily accurate.

McAlpine makes a difference by involving parents in their children's learning. Principal coffees are held monthly where parents are invited to chat with the principal about educational topics, such as reading in the primary grades, understanding assessments and preparing children for middle school. In addition, McAlpine invites parents and students to math and science nights. These events expose parents to their children's curriculum. Students and parents interact with the material through creative games and experiments. This shows that while learning is important, it can be fun too. Speaking of fun, McAlpine hosts a Family Fun Night each fall where everyone gets together for a picnic, music, moon bounces and a book fair. We also hold multiple Family Nights Out at restaurants where students, teachers and parents get together to enjoy food and conversation.

McAlpine makes a difference by providing opportunities for students to experience the world. From field trips to guest speakers, the theater to the symphony, students are exposed to important cultural learning, which helps them become well-rounded citizens.

McAlpine makes a difference by teaching the whole child. Character education is integrated throughout the curriculum, and each quarter, a recognition assembly is held to acknowledge students' hard work and dedication. In addition, we offer numerous after-school clubs such as chess, Spanish, art, Girls on the Run, book clubs, the newspaper team and more. There really is something for everyone at McAlpine.

Sincerely,
Tonya Kales
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.

