

# ► Oaklawn Language Academy



## A Message from the Principal

To our Oaklawn Language Academy families:

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

At Oaklawn Language Academy, we are proud to have remained true to our vision: "A Multilingual Window to the World." We seek to prepare students to excel academically in two languages, while they learn about many different cultures. Our highly qualified, diverse staff comes from all over the United States and the world: North America, Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Europe. Many of our teachers have left their families or have relocated with families to teach our children. Our Dual Language Immersion program is offered in either Spanish or French. Oaklawn provides students with a global, world-class education so that they may be successful and competitive in our ever-expanding international community.

Oaklawn received many accolades last year. Our successful Spanish and French immersion program was the only World Languages program nationally to be selected for the School of Distinction award from the Magnet Schools of America in 2008. A highly popular full magnet school, we were the fastest-growing elementary school in CMS in 2007-2008, and we continue to increase enrollment. Our math results indicate High Growth status, a very pleasing outcome.

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.

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

## KEY FACTS

### Principal

Patricia Moreira-Garcia

email: [p.moreira-garcia@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:p.moreira-garcia@cms.k12.nc.us)

Oaklawn Language Academy is a full Foreign Language Immersion magnet.

### Grades

K - 5

### School Population

- 362 Students
- 28 Teachers
- 1 Assistant Principal
- 1 Student Services Specialist
- 29 Support Staff

### Student Demographics

- 57.5% African American
- 6.4% White
- 27.9% Hispanic
- 8.3% Other
- 63.8% 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.

## Oaklawn Language Academy

1810 Oaklawn Avenue

Charlotte, NC 28216

980-343-0400

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



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>59.0%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in Reading	95%	<b>50.0%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in Math	88%	<b>67.9%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in Writing	80%	<b>44.4%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Reading	10%	<b>43.9%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Math	10%	<b>19.7%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in Writing	10%	<b>22.5%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Reading	10%	<b>18.6%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Math	10%	<b>21.5%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in Writing	10%	<b>-14.3%</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	99%	<b>100%</b>
	National Board-certified teachers	16%	<b>4%</b>
	Teachers with graduate degrees	34%	<b>30%</b>
	Teachers’ average years of experience	11.2	<b>6.2</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>84.6%</b>
	Students perceive the school as safe <sup>3</sup>	80%	<b>90.9%</b>
	Teachers perceive the school as safe <sup>1,4</sup>	—	<b>83.3%</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions <sup>1,5</sup>	—	<b>0</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions <sup>1,5</sup>	—	<b>3.0</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>74.7%</b>
<b>Strong Parent &amp; Community Connections</b>	Parents that give the school either an A or B grade <sup>1,2</sup>	—	<b>66.7%</b>
	Number of volunteer hours <sup>6</sup>	Increase by 25% district-wide	<b>416.9</b>
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	<b>3</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** make AYP  
(13 of 13 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: **Priority School**  
(DID meet growth expectations)

**Proficiency: 59.0%**

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: 84.8%**

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: 73.1%**

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: 83.4%**

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: 77.1%**

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.**

# ► Oaklawn Language Academy

*(Principal's message continued.)*

During the current school year, Oaklawn is introducing several other new initiatives. I am pleased to report that we have been awarded an ArtsTeach grant for a second year. Our newest grant will allow us to continue our work to help expand our students' knowledge of other cultures through an interdisciplinary study of Africa. Last year, our students explored China and Chinese culture through music, storytelling, social studies, art and physical education.

Oaklawn offers before-school tutoring in literacy and math, as well as a chess club. As a team, our staff is committed to providing a variety of learning experiences to broaden our students' knowledge, promote tolerance and respect and encourage mental stimulation and academic growth. The Oaklawn family is also proud of the success of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. The entire staff works as a team to clearly communicate behavioral expectations to students and their families. From data and observation, it is evident

that students are aware of safety and discipline routines as well as procedures.

Although our program has received numerous grants and awards, perhaps our greatest achievement is our ability to maintain a positive, upbeat and family-like environment. The rapport established among faculty, staff and families truly makes us unique. Furthermore, we have an extremely active PTA and have received the district's most prestigious parent/community volunteer distinction, the Sam Hayward Community Involvement Award. Oaklawn Language Academy is truly among the best-kept secrets in CMS.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Moreira-Garcia  
*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.

