

Alexander Graham Middle School



A Message from the Principal

To our Alexander Graham Middle School families:

I am very pleased to present the second 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 2009-2010 school year and will do whatever it takes to help all of our students reach their full potential.

Our staff values the opportunity to work with young adolescents during this critical period of development. We strive to help our students develop socially as well as academically and have worked hard to establish an inviting, supportive and safe school environment. We have very high expectations for every member of the Alexander Graham team. All of us engage in active learning and are committed to continuous improvement.

At Alexander Graham, students are assigned to academic teams with two to six teachers. This creates strong student-teacher relationships that make big feel small and promote a sense of community. Teachers and staff work collaboratively to provide a curriculum that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory. We use multiple learning and teaching approaches to meet the diverse needs of our students.

We enhance the middle school experience by offering a variety of electives, including music, fine arts, career and technology and foreign languages. Our Odyssey of the Mind teams routinely shine in regional, state and world competitions. In 2007, one of our teams won the World Finals!

Over the years, Alexander Graham students have consistently performed at high levels on state End-of-Grade and End-of-Course tests. School year 2008-2009 was no exception. We made Expected Growth in

(Principal's message continued on back)

KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2009

Principal

William W. Leach

email: will.leach@cms.k12.nc.us

Grades

6 - 8

School Population

- 1,144 Students
- 65 Teachers
- 2 Assistant Principals
- 3 Counselors
- 30 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 29.0% African American
- 60.1% White
- 5.5% Hispanic
- 1.8% Asian
- 3.5% Other
- 34.4% 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

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 Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Result 2008 - 2009	School Result 2008 - 2009
<p>High Academic Achievement</p> <p>Students in grades three through eight who do not pass the End-of-Grade tests may take the test again. Retests often raise a school's score at least slightly, because some students pass the test on the second try. Retest results were not included in school scores until 2008-2009. Comparing the 2007-2008 scores and the 2008-2009 scores is therefore not valid, because the scores were not calculated the same way.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Data effective as of 7/14/09</i></p>	Students performing at or above grade level overall ¹	—	72%	83.0%
	Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	67%	78.9%
	Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	78%	86.3%
	Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	64%	74.7%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	36%	51.5%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	28%	34.3%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	40%	51.7%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	28%	43.3%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	20%	24.4%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	30%	44.3%
<p>Effective Educators</p>	Teachers deemed highly qualified, having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	96%	97%	97%
	National Board-certified teachers	17%	9%	6%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	35%	32%	30%
	Teachers' average years of experience	10.5	9.6	7.3
<p>Adequate Resources & Facilities</p>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	3:1	3:1
<p>Safe & Orderly Schools</p>	Passed the CMS safe school audit	YES	YES	YES
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school ²	70%	96%	98.7%
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	85%	91.7%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	89%	85.0%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	25.5
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	16.3
<p>Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability</p>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	—	NO
<p>World-Class Service</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	88%	92.0%
<p>Strong Parent & Community Connections</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	86%	89.7%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	394
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	0

¹Not a CMS 2010 goal

²Based on responses to 2008-09 survey; multiple survey items may have been used to create a composite

³Incidents per 100 students

⁴Per 100 students

CMS Accountability Measures

The learning of students in public education is measured in multiple ways. There are assessments given at regular intervals by CMS—tests that we use to measure how students are learning as the school year progresses. Other tests are required by the state and given once or twice a year, such as End-of-Course and End-of-Grade tests. Some of the state test results are also used to calculate district progress on the federal standard of Adequate Yearly Progress for each student. This page provides brief explanations of some of the measures and tests used in CMS.

► Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Our school **DID** make AYP
(29 of 29 goals met)

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that every school make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is an all-or-nothing standard: Every target must be met.

State test results are used to set AYP targets. There are separate targets for the school as a whole and for nine subgroups of students: white, black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, multiracial, economically disadvantaged students, students with limited English proficiency and students with disabilities. Subgroups of students are measured separately so that an overall score for a class or a school does not mask poor results within a subgroup.

Some schools are more diverse than others, so the number of subgroups varies by school. Therefore, the number of AYP targets varies by school, too. Some schools may have only a few targets to meet; others may have the maximum, which is 41. School attendance and graduation rates are also measured for AYP.

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 Distinction**
(DID meet growth expectations)

Proficiency: 83.0%

The North Carolina ABCs program was introduced more than a decade ago to help schools improve. It uses two basic measures to assess a school's performance: the Average Growth of students (at right); and the Performance Composite, which measures how well students performed against a state-set standard of academic achievement.

Schools are given one of seven designations. In descending order, they are: Honor School of Excellence, School of Excellence, School of Distinction, School of Progress, No Recognition, Priority School, and Low Performing.

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

► Average Growth

State Standard: 80%
Our School: 81.7%

Did our students meet the state's expectation for academic growth? Each student is expected to perform as well (or better) on the End-of-Grade assessment as he or she did, on average, during the previous two years. Average Growth for a school is calculated by comparing actual performance to 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. To make expected growth, a school must have a score of 80% or higher.

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

State Standard: 60%
Our School: 58.1%

Did our students learn as much as they were expected to learn this year? As described above, the state sets expectations for each student based on individual performance for the previous two years. Across the state, about half of students typically meet or exceed this growth expectation. To earn the high-growth designation, a school must meet the average-growth standard described above and also have more than 60% of its students make expected growth.

► Amount of Growth for Students in the Lowest Achieving Group

Our School: 80.2%

Are we helping our low achievers catch up? Historically, some poor and minority students have trailed their classmates in academic achievement. This is called the achievement gap, and closing it is one of the biggest challenges in public education. If the lower-achieving students at a school show academic growth at a faster rate than higher-achieving students, the achievement gap is narrowed. When the percentage for this measure is higher than the Average Growth for the school, the school is closing the achievement gap.

► Positive Responses to Multiple Student Survey Items

Our School's Results:	Safety	92%
	Encouragement	94%
	Engagement	95%

Do our students perceive this school as safe and welcoming? This measure is subjective—it is taken from a student survey.

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(Principal's message continued)

reading and High Growth in math. To compare to the previous year's results, we must compare results without retests. In the math test, 79.9 percent of students performed on grade level, up from 77.5 percent the previous year. In reading, 69.8 percent of students performed on grade level, up from 67.4 percent. Our eighth-grade science proficiency rate rose from 60 percent the previous year to 67.2 percent last year. In addition, 100 percent of our students demonstrated proficiency on End-of-Course algebra.

For the first time in our history, we made Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act. We are very proud of our results.

We are committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment, and we received a score of 100 percent on last year's safe-school audit. Survey results reveal that parents, students and staff feel our school is safe and run efficiently.

Our PTA plays a huge role in the success of our school by providing financial support, volunteer hours, staff appreciation, sponsorship of school activities and much more.

At Alexander Graham Middle School, we are focused on student learning and providing the social support that our students need during these difficult middle school years. I encourage dialogue with our school community on how we can better prepare our students for an ever-changing global community. Please feel free to contact me or any staff member with questions, concerns or suggestions. I look forward to working with all of you during the 2009-2010 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. This report summarizes how our school performed in the 2008-09 school year in making progress on these seven goals. On page 3, you will also find an explanation of federal and state accountability measures.

Educators and parents have a common goal of preparing our children to compete in an ever-growing global community. Working together requires frequent dialogue between school and parents, so please feel free to contact the principal or any staff member at our school.

