

Cochrane Middle School



A Message from the Principal

Dear Cochrane Middle School families:

It is our pleasure to share with you the annual School Progress Report for Cochrane Middle. We are sending this to you so that you may be fully informed about our students' academic performance, our staff and our school environment.

In the 2009-2010 school year, our students showed tremendous growth in all areas. On the state End-of-Grade tests, the number of students scoring at or above grade level increased by 10.5 percent from the previous year to a new high of 60 percent. This represents an outstanding gain of 12.8 points (without retests) over the last two years! Last year, we missed making Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, meeting 23 of our 25 targets. The two areas where we missed out have been targeted as areas for improvement.

As a direct result of the hard work of students and staff, Cochrane Middle achieved High Growth status and the designation of School of Progress as defined by the state. We attribute this success to our family-oriented environment, high expectations, common assessments and project-based learning.

Two years ago, we restructured our school into three small, theme-based learning communities. Last year, we consolidated into two communities: Math, Science and Environmental Studies and Global Business and Technology. Our purpose was to create an atmosphere where excellence is promoted and demonstrated by teachers and embraced by students. Each program emphasizes personalized, project-based learning where students are challenged to meet high expectations. The development of these programs is the premise for bold educational reforms that will equip our students to compete in

(Principal's message continued on next page)

2009-2010 KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2010

Grades

6 - 8

Cochrane Middle School is a partial Math/Science and Environmental Studies magnet.

School Population

- Students: **607**
- Classroom Teachers: **38**
- Support Staff:
 - 1 Assistant Principal
 - 1.5 English as a Second Language Teachers
 - 0.2 Speech Pathologists
 - 7 Exceptional Children Teachers
 - 0.5 Social Workers
 - 1.3 Academic Facilitators
 - 3.2 Counselors
 - 27 Other

Student Demographics

- African-American..... **65.1%**
- White.....**3.3%**
- Hispanic.....**25.2%**
- Asian.....**3.5%**
- Other.....**3%**
- Economically.....**90.6%**
disadvantaged students

Additional Facts*

- Per-pupil expenditure **\$6,133**
- Teacher-to-pupil ratio **1:15**
- Student-mobility rate **28%**

**Click here for more information.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/cochraneMS>



▶ Cochrane Middle School

(Principal's message continued)

the global marketplace. Not only did this improve academic performance, we also saw a decrease in suspensions.

Global Business and Technology provides students with the skills and knowledge to install, configure and maintain business and technological solutions on a global scale. This program has several aims: to increase the number of students in math, science and technology-based courses; to ensure that students are technologically and socially prepared to live and work productively, and to incorporate technology and internationalism into all areas of the curriculum.

Math, Science and Environmental Studies emphasizes constructivist teaching (where the students actively construct knowledge rather than passively receive it) and problem-based learning. Special features of the program include an outdoor classroom that serves as a central hub for environmental studies; standards-based

math thematic units; integration of technology; parent and community involvement in school events designed to showcase our successes; community-service projects, such as Earth Day, and different learning environments centered around these themes.

As we progress through the 2010-2011 school year, we are committed to achieving high growth for all students. We look forward to our continued partnerships with local businesses, universities and, most importantly, you, the parents.

Sincerely,
Joshua Bishop
Principal

[– Click to view our School Quality Review](#)

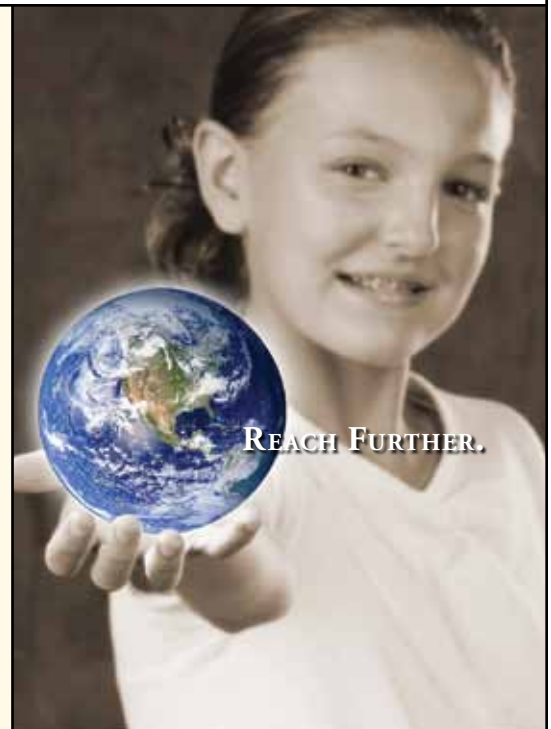
[– Click to view our School Improvement Plan](#)

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 2009-10 school year in making progress on these seven goals. On the final page, 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.



Cochrane Middle School

PROGRESS REPORT

CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Middle Schools 2009 - 2010	Our School 2008 - 2009	Our School 2009 - 2010
High Academic Achievement ▶ Because of federal privacy regulations, the actual values for these measures are not shown if the percentage is greater than 95 percent or less than 5 percent. 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>Data effective as of 8/27/10</i>	▶ Students performing at or above grade level overall ¹	—	75.5%	49.5%	60%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	69.9%	47.1%	51.5%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	81%	54.7%	66.9%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in Algebra 1 ¹	—	>95%	—	>95%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	70.3%	35.3%	61.1%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	33.8%	24.4%	24%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	24.2%	15.4%	27.3%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	37.8%	37.4%	24.2%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	31%	7.4%	14.5%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	20.7%	8%	11.7%
Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	31.4%	3.7%	-5.2%	
Effective Educators Click to view teacher survey results	Teachers deemed highly qualified, having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	98%	99%	100%	100%
	National Board-certified teachers	17%	10%	0%	0%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	37%	35%	26%	23%
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.1	10	8.7	7.7
Adequate Resources & Facilities	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	3:1	1:1	1:1
	Teachers who indicate satisfaction with school facilities	—	70.7%	—	72.5%
Safe & Orderly Schools	Passed the CMS safe school audit	100%	97%	YES	YES
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school ²	70%	93.4%	Insufficient Response	Insufficient Response
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	85.3%	82.3%	86%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	84.1%	78%	67.9%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	33.6	39.8	23.2
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	42	48.8	29.2
Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	64%	NO	NO
World-Class Service	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	79.5%	Insufficient Response	Insufficient Response
Strong Parent & Community Connections Click to view parent survey results	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	78.2%	Insufficient Response	Insufficient Response
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	204	149	81
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	87	7	8

¹ Not a CMS 2010 goal

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

³ Incidents per 100 students

⁴ Per 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 NOT** make AYP
(23 of 25 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 Progress (DID meet high growth expectations)**

Proficiency:	2008-09	2009-10
	49.5%	60%

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	Our School:	2008-09	2009-10
80		81.1	84.6

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.

▶ Amount of Growth for Students in the Lowest-Achieving Group

Our School 2008-09: 80.5 **Our School 2009-10: 81.1**

Are we helping our low achievers catch up? Historically, some economically disadvantaged 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 score for this measure is higher than the Average Growth for the school, the school is closing the achievement gap.

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

State Standard	Our School:	2008-09	2009-10
60%		54.1%	66.9%

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.

▶ Positive Responses to Student Survey Items

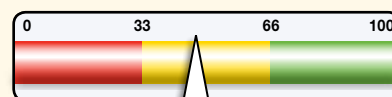
Our School's Results:	2008-09	2009-10
Safety	82.3%	86%
Encouragement	95%	93.9%
Engagement	91.5%	93.9%

Is our school environment conducive to learning? This measure is subjective—it is taken from a student survey.

[Click to view student survey results.](#)

▶ Return-on-Investment Index

CMS Middle School Index: 59.4 **Our School Index: 46.7**



Return on Investment is calculated by comparing students' academic growth to the per-pupil expenditure. This measure is intended to help parents and community members understand how money is spent in our schools. [Click here for more information.](#)

For more information on our school's performance, visit <http://pmd.cms.k12.nc.us>