

# ► First Ward Creative Arts Academy



## A Message from the Principal

Dear First Ward Creative Arts Academy families:

We are excited to bring parents and community members the annual School Progress Report for Dilworth Elementary for the 2009-2010 school year. As you know, we are in a new location with some new students. This change resulted from the decision to close old First Ward Elementary and move some of its students, as well as students from Dilworth Elementary, to the new First Ward site.

This report is designed to keep you fully informed about our students' academic progress, the continued development of our visual and performing arts magnet program and other important information.

We are celebrating many successes in student achievement for the 2009-2010 school year. For example, on the original administration of the End-of-Grade math test, 65.8 percent of our third- through fifth-grade students demonstrated proficiency, an increase of 5.6 percent from the previous year. After retesting, 74.6 percent of those students demonstrated proficiency.

In reading, 59.6 percent of our students in grades three through five scored at or above grade level, an increase of 10.4 percent from the previous year. That score rose to 70.2 percent after retesting.

Our fifth-grade students demonstrated significant growth in science. On the first administration of the End-of-Grade test, 36 percent of students demonstrated proficiency, an increase of 12.6 percent from 2008-2009. After retesting, their proficiency score rose to 55.1 percent.

Our overall school composite proficiency for the End-of-Grade tests was 58.9 percent on the original administration and 70 percent on retesting. I am excited to report that as a result of our success in all areas, we made High Growth in 2009-2010. While we did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, we came extremely close. We met 16 of 17 (or 94.12 percent) AYP targets.

*(Principal's message continued on next page)*

## 2009-2010 KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2010

### Grades

K - 5

First Ward Creative Arts Academy is a full Visual and Performing Arts magnet.

### School Population

- Students: **520**
- Classroom Teachers: **31**
- Support Staff:
  - 1 Assistant Principal
  - 0.5 English as a Second Language Teachers
  - 0.5 Speech Pathologists
  - 2 Exceptional Children Teachers
  - 2 Academic Facilitators
  - 0.6 Talent Development Teachers
  - 1 Counselor
  - 32 Other

### Student Demographics

- African-American..... **64%**
- White..... **17.3%**
- Hispanic..... **10.4%**
- Asian..... **1%**
- Other..... **7.3%**
- Economically..... **65.4%** disadvantaged students

### Additional Facts\*

- Per-pupil expenditure ..... **\$4,887**
- Teacher-to-pupil ratio ..... **1:18**
- Student-mobility rate ..... **16%**

*\*Click here for more information.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Principal

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### Zone: Northeast

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## First Ward Creative Arts Academy

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Charlotte, NC 28202  
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<http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/firstwardES>



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*(Principal's message continued)*

While we are pleased that our students made academic progress, we know we have more work to do. Our staff is working together to devise ways to improve teaching and learning. We are using data to determine our students' individual needs and provide instruction that will help each student move forward. We continue to use the Guided Reading program, which allows students to read books at their own reading levels and work collaboratively with classmates and teachers to improve comprehension skills. We are also excited to continue using the Math Investigations program, which we believe will help students gain a better understanding of math concepts and skills.

Our arts magnet program continues to flourish. Students participate in weekly dance, drama, visual arts and music classes and have opportunities to participate in arts-related extracurricular clubs. Last year, we also enjoyed partnerships with local arts organizations, which enabled students to work with visiting artists and attend performances.

Our first priority is to maintain the trend of increasing student achievement. As I mentioned above, we will continue to use strategies and programs that boost performance. I am confident, therefore, that we will see further improvement in student achievement this year.

We will also continue our efforts to maintain a safe and orderly environment, increase opportunities for parent and community involvement and provide a strong magnet program in support of increased student achievement.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia L. King  
*Principal*

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

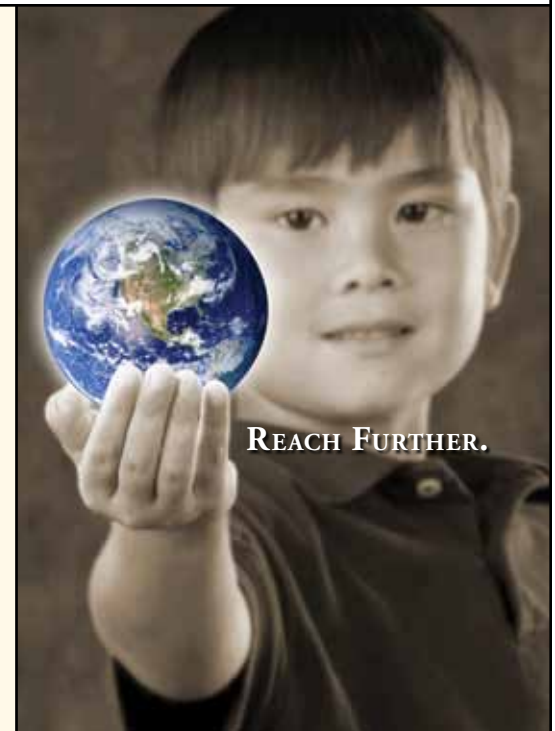
[– Click to view our School Improvement Plan](#)

## 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.



REACH FURTHER.



# ▶ First Ward Creative Arts Academy

## PROGRESS REPORT

CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Elem. Schools 2009 - 2010	Our School 2008 - 2009	Our School 2009 - 2010
<p><b>High Academic Achievement</b></p> <p>▶ 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.</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 8/27/10</i></p>	▶ Students performing at or above grade level overall <sup>1</sup>	—	75.2%	66.8%	<b>70%</b>
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	70.2%	66.5%	<b>70.2%</b>
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	82.3%	74%	<b>74.6%</b>
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	68.6%	44.2%	<b>55.1%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	33.5%	22.1%	<b>38.1%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	22.9%	27%	<b>33.3%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	36.8%	42.6%	<b>19.2%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	31%	3.5%	<b>17.2%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	19.1%	4.1%	<b>14.3%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32.2%	11.3%	<b>20%</b>
<p><b>Effective Educators</b></p> <p><a href="#">Click to view teacher survey results</a></p>	Teachers deemed highly qualified, having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	99%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>
	National Board-certified teachers	18%	15%	3%	<b>3%</b>
	Teachers with graduate degrees	38%	38%	43%	<b>41%</b>
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.1	10.6	7.4	<b>8.3</b>
<p><b>Adequate Resources &amp; Facilities</b></p>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	4:1	5:1	<b>5:1</b>
	Teachers who indicate satisfaction with school facilities	—	72.7%	—	<b>63.6%</b>
<p><b>Safe &amp; Orderly Schools</b></p>	Passed the CMS safe school audit	100%	69%	YES	<b>YES</b>
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school <sup>2</sup>	70%	96.8%	100%	<b>95.8%</b>
	Students who indicate this is a safe school <sup>2</sup>	80%	91.8%	90%	<b>91.4%</b>
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school <sup>1,2</sup>	—	90.4%	77%	<b>75.4%</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions <sup>1,3</sup>	—	0.6	0	<b>0</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions <sup>1,3</sup>	—	7.2	13.4	<b>14.2</b>
<p><b>Freedom &amp; Flexibility with Accountability</b></p>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility <sup>1</sup>	—	56%	NO	<b>NO</b>
<p><b>World-Class Service</b></p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school <sup>2</sup>	80%	88.6%	83.3%	<b>91.1%</b>
<p><b>Strong Parent &amp; Community Connections</b></p> <p><a href="#">Click to view parent survey results</a></p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school <sup>1,2</sup>	—	88.4%	87.1%	<b>83.5%</b>
	Number of volunteer hours <sup>4</sup>	Increase by 25% district-wide	235	23	<b>108</b>
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	580	0	<b>2</b>

<sup>1</sup>Not a CMS 2010 goal

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

<sup>3</sup>Incidents per 100 students

<sup>4</sup>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  
(16 of 17 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](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: **School of Progress (DID meet high growth expectations)**

Proficiency:	2008-09	2009-10
	66.8%	70%

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		78.4	83.9

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: 77.9      **Our School 2009-10: 85.6**

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%		44.9%	64.1%

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.

### ▶ Positive Responses to Student Survey Items

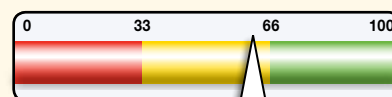
Our School's Results:	2008-09	2009-10
Safety	90%	91.4%
Encouragement	98.1%	100%
Engagement	96.1%	95%

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 Elementary School Index: 50.9      **Our School Index: 62.7**



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>