

# ► Nations Ford Elementary School



## A Message from the Principal

To our Nations Ford Elementary School families:

The annual School Progress Report for Nations Ford Elementary allows me the opportunity to give you information about where we have been and a vision for where we plan to go. The report also provides a snapshot of our academic progress, the accomplishments of the faculty and staff and our school environment.

The greatest schools are not necessarily those with the highest test scores, but rather those that enable students to achieve their potential and beyond. In our efforts to make this a distinct characteristic of Nations Ford Elementary, we must first realize the importance of nurturing relationships with every student—relationships that are built on genuine interest, trust, honesty, integrity and empathy.

Turning to academic achievement, our 2009-2010 composite proficiency score of 60 percent on the End-of-Grade tests showed a slight increase over the previous school year. In addition, we made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, by meeting all of our 21 goals. This was the third consecutive year that we made AYP.

We regularly use a variety of data to make instructional decisions that meet the needs of our students. The staff meets each day to plan relevant, meaningful and engaging lessons for the students. Creative teaching techniques include new wireless technology, SMART Boards (interactive white boards) and direct instruction based on research. Teachers are constantly engaged in professional development to strengthen their understanding of teaching, research and practice and the social issues facing our students. For students who may be struggling, our teachers use a flexible approach and differentiated instruction (teaching to individual

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

## 2009-2010 KEY FACTS

*Data effective as of spring 2010*

### Grades

K - 5

### School Population

- Students: **570**
- Classroom Teachers: **37**
- Support Staff:
  - 1 Assistant Principal
  - 4.0 English as a Second Language Teachers
  - 1 Speech Pathologist
  - 2 Exceptional Children Teachers
  - 0.5 Social Workers
  - 2 Academic Facilitators
- 0.4 Talent Development Teachers
  - 1 Counselor
  - 29 Other

### Student Demographics

- African-American..... **41.4%**
- White..... **2.1%**
- Hispanic..... **53%**
- Asian..... **0.5%**
- Other..... **3%**
- Economically..... **94.1%**  
disadvantaged students

### Additional Facts\*

- Per-pupil expenditure ..... **\$5,889**
- Teacher-to-pupil ratio ..... **1:19**
- Student-mobility rate ..... **28%**

*\*Click here for more information.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Principal

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### Zone: Central Elementary

Zone Superintendent: Tyler Ream  
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## Nations Ford Elementary School

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980-343-5838

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*(Principal's message continued)*

learning levels); for those with high levels of learning, teachers may need to undertake intricate research with students.

We will continue to offer a variety of interventions for students who need additional support in the classroom. Our 21st Century Collaboration Grant from In Time of Need Ministries supports tutoring and enrichment activities for 130 students for an additional two and a half hours a day, four days a week.

Teaching and learning are the core of what we do. As principal, I have been granted Freedom and Flexibility with Accountability. This gives the entire faculty and staff a greater responsibility to challenge our methods and how we choose to meet the needs of the school community. Our staff is highly qualified and experienced, and the number of teachers with advanced degrees is increasing. Their pursuit of additional learning reflects their dedication.

Nations Ford Elementary School has a rich and varied history, both as a neighborhood school and a former magnet school. At Nations Ford, we know the only way we can move to the head of the class is to keep a strong focus on teaching and learning. This focus, along with the core values that are embedded in our school culture, will ensure that the academic achievement of every child will continue to improve. I am confident that we will see continued growth this year at Nations Ford.

Sincerely,  
Gifford K. Lockley  
*Principal*

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

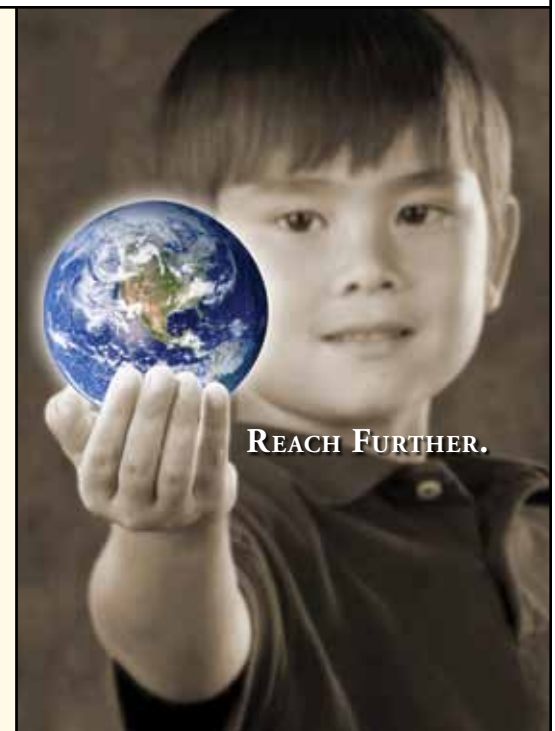
[– Click to view our School Improvement Plan](#)

## 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.



# Nations Ford Elementary School

## 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%	59.1%	<b>60.3%</b>
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	70.2%	46.7%	<b>43.9%</b>
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	82.3%	73%	<b>76.4%</b>
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	68.6%	53.2%	<b>61.3%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	33.5%	39.8%	<b>37%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	22.9%	16.4%	<b>1.5%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	36.8%	0.7%	<b>13.2%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	31%	-2.6%	<b>24.1%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	19.1%	4.9%	<b>10.9%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32.2%	-13.4%	<b>-12.2%</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%	4%	<b>0%</b>
	Teachers with graduate degrees	38%	38%	30%	<b>33%</b>
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.1	10.6	7	<b>6.6</b>
<p><b>Adequate Resources &amp; Facilities</b></p>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	4:1	4:1	<b>4:1</b>
	Teachers who indicate satisfaction with school facilities	—	72.7%	—	<b>43.5%</b>
<p><b>Safe &amp; Orderly Schools</b></p>	Passed the CMS safe school audit	100%	69%	YES	<b>NO</b>
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school <sup>2</sup>	70%	96.8%	98.9%	Insufficient Response
	Students who indicate this is a safe school <sup>2</sup>	80%	91.8%	98.1%	<b>91.6%</b>
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school <sup>1,2</sup>	—	90.4%	93.5%	<b>82.9%</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions <sup>1,3</sup>	—	0.6	0	<b>0.2</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions <sup>1,3</sup>	—	7.2	7.9	<b>5.6</b>
<p><b>Freedom &amp; Flexibility with Accountability</b></p>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility <sup>1</sup>	—	56%	YES	<b>YES</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%	89.3%	Insufficient Response
<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%	88.1%	Insufficient Response
	Number of volunteer hours <sup>4</sup>	Increase by 25% district-wide	235	185	<b>0</b>
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	580	12	<b>0</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** make AYP  
(21 of 21 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
	59.1%	60.3%

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		80.7	82.4

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: 79.9      **Our School 2009-10: 79.1**

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%	60.6%

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	98.1%	91.6%
Encouragement	99.3%	97.5%
Engagement	99.3%	98%

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: 47.6**



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>