

River Gate Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

To our River Gate Elementary School families:

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

Our inaugural school year was certainly a successful one. We welcomed more than 650 children, who were ably supported by a group of teachers and staff committed to the success of our school and its students. At River Gate, we believe that children should share responsibility for their academic destinies, and so we adopted an educational plan focused on individual student needs and driven by data analysis.

Our students performed well on the End-of-Grade tests. On the math test, 91.1 percent scored at or above grade level, while 81.8 percent demonstrated proficiency in reading. The science test revealed that 73.1 percent of fifth-grade students scored at or above grade level. We plan to improve our performance in this subject by increasing use of the science lab and integrating vocabulary development into classroom science lessons.

We made Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, by meeting all 21 of our targets. Moreover, we made High Growth in all areas except fourth-grade reading and math.

Our debut year provided a performance benchmark, and we are determined to increase achievement this school year. To keep our students moving forward, we will employ a number of teaching strategies, including differentiated instruction, a flexible method of teaching that adapts the curriculum to individual learning needs. Other strategies will include common assessments, inclusive teaching, flexible groups and, for promising students, the talent development program. Likewise, we will encourage staff development by providing training as necessary.

Our teachers constantly challenge students, and the use of hands-on learning techniques, higher-level questioning and technology clearly paid

(Principal's message continued on next page)

2009-2010 KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2010

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- Students: **666**
- Classroom Teachers: **36**
- Support Staff:
 - 1 Assistant Principal
 - 2 English as a Second Language Teachers
 - 1 Speech Pathologist
 - 3 Exceptional Children Teachers
 - 2 Academic Facilitators
- **0.6** Talent Development Teachers
 - 1 Counselor
 - 32 Other

Student Demographics

- African-American..... **28.5%**
- White..... **41%**
- Hispanic..... **18.3%**
- Asian..... **4.5%**
- Other..... **7.7%**
- Economically..... **40.9%** disadvantaged students

Additional Facts*

- Per-pupil expenditure **\$4,659**
- Teacher-to-pupil ratio **1:18**
- Student-mobility rate **11%**

**Click here for more information.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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▶ River Gate Elementary School

(Principal's message continued)

dividends, as evidenced by the academic successes of our first year. Literacy competence is the foundation of learning and to strengthen students' reading skills, we use the Accelerated Reader program and require students to read grade-appropriate novels. Similarly, we use the Lucy Calkins program to boost writing skills.

The River Gate staff is highly qualified and experienced, with 36 percent of our teachers holding master's degrees and 21 percent with National Board certification. All of our educators hold clear license, and the faculty has an average of nearly 11 years' teaching experience. Staff turnover was minimal during our first year, largely because of a collaborative and positive working environment, wonderful students and strong parental support.

While academic achievement is the priority at River Gate, we also place great importance on character education. Last year, our students rallied willingly to raise funds for the people of Haiti and those suffering from juvenile diabetes. They also participated in Jump Rope for Heart.

Such was their enthusiasm for helping others, the students and their families surpassed every goal they were set. In other extracurricular activities, students enjoyed taking part in Girls on the Run, chess club and TGA golf.

We will continue to work together to help students grow academically, socially and emotionally. With supportive parents, an orderly learning environment, dedicated educators and high expectations, we fully expect our students to flourish.

Sincerely,
Acquanetta Edmond
Principal

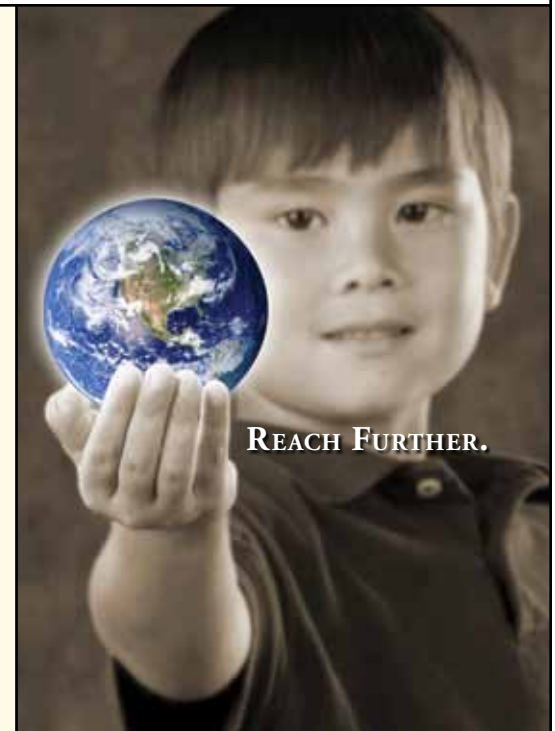
– Click to view our School Improvement Plan

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.



River Gate 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
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	—	75.2%	—	84.6%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	70.2%	—	81.8%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	82.3%	—	91.1%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	68.6%	—	73.1%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	33.5%	—	23%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	22.9%	—	20%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	36.8%	—	40.8%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	31%	—	19%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	19.1%	—	4%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32.2%	—	32.1%
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	99%	100%	—	100%
	National Board-certified teachers	18%	15%	—	21%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	38%	38%	—	36%
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.1	10.6	—	10.1
Adequate Resources & Facilities	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	4:1	—	5:1
	Teachers who indicate satisfaction with school facilities	—	72.7%	—	98.9%
Safe & Orderly Schools	Passed the CMS safe school audit	100%	69%	—	YES
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school ²	70%	96.8%	—	99%
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	91.8%	—	94.4%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	90.4%	—	100%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	0.6	—	0
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	7.2	—	4.8
Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	56%	—	NO
World-Class Service	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	88.6%	—	91.7%
Strong Parent & Community Connections Click to view parent survey results	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	88.4%	—	95%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	235	—	0
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	580	—	0

¹Not a CMS 2010 goal

²Based on responses to surveys; 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
(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

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 high growth expectations)**

Proficiency:	2008-09	2009-10
	—	84.6%

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		—	85.1

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: — **Our School 2009-10: 83.6**

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%		—	69.8%

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

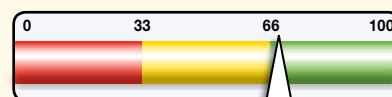
Our School's Results:	2008-09	2009-10
Safety	—	94.4%
Encouragement	—	98.5%
Engagement	—	97.7%

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: 68**



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>