

# ▶ Joseph W. Grier Academy



## A Message from the Principal

To our Joseph W. Grier Academy families:

We are pleased to bring to you the second School Progress Report for Joseph W. Grier Academy. We are sending this to you so that you may be fully informed about our school's academic progress, our staff accomplishments and our school environment.

We are proud to report that our students made High Growth in math in the 2008-2009 school year, with 76.7 percent of students in grades three through five performing at or above grade level. In reading, 54.7 percent of our third- through fifth-grade students performed at or above grade level.

We are also delighted to report that Joseph W. Grier made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, by meeting all 21 of our targets. Making AYP is evidence of our hard work in meeting the different learning needs of all of our students and furthers our goal of achieving School of Excellence designation.

So what will we do to help our students achieve further academic growth? In the current school year, we are working collaboratively in teams to determine effective teaching strategies. We are also using various assessment data to discover if and how much our students are learning and to guide our instruction. In addition, we continue to research and use best teaching practices and set high standards for all students.

At Joseph W. Grier Academy, we have a team of administrators, faculty and staff that is experienced, innovative and passionate about teaching and learning. Our teachers are highly qualified and experienced. We have three National Board-certified teachers, and 19 of our faculty and staff hold master's degrees.

*(Principal's message continued on back)*

## KEY FACTS

*Data effective as of spring 2009*

### Principal

Celia Brandon-Phelan

email: [c.brandon-phelan@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:c.brandon-phelan@cms.k12.nc.us)

### Grades

K - 5

### School Population

- 862 Students
- 62 Teachers
- 2 Assistant Principals
- 2 Student Services Specialists
- 38 Support Staff

### Student Demographics

- 60.7% African American
- 3.9% White
- 27.4% Hispanic
- 4.3% Asian
- 3.7% Other
- 76.8% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

### Learning Community

East

Area Superintendent: Nancy Bartles

9601 E. Independence Boulevard

Matthews, NC 28105

980-343-1461

email: [nancy.bartles@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:nancy.bartles@cms.k12.nc.us)

## Joseph W. Grier Academy

8330 Grier Road  
Charlotte, NC 28215  
980-343-5671

<http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/grieracad>



CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Result 2008 - 2009	School Result 2008 - 2009
<p><b>High Academic Achievement</b></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 <sup>1</sup>	—	72%	<b>62.4%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	68%	<b>54.7%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	80%	<b>76.7%</b>
	Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	60%	<b>41.6%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	34%	<b>49.0%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	26%	<b>19.2%</b>
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	44%	<b>41.0%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	28%	<b>19.1%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	18%	<b>10.6%</b>
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32%	<b>19.3%</b>
<p><b>Effective Educators</b></p>	Teachers deemed highly qualified, having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	99%	100%	<b>100%</b>
	National Board-certified teachers	17%	13%	<b>5%</b>
	Teachers with graduate degrees	36%	35%	<b>28%</b>
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.2	10.3	<b>10.3</b>
<p><b>Adequate Resources &amp; Facilities</b></p>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	3:1	<b>4:1</b>
<p><b>Safe &amp; Orderly Schools</b></p>	Passed the CMS safe school audit	YES	YES	<b>YES</b>
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school <sup>2</sup>	70%	96%	<b>100%</b>
	Students who indicate this is a safe school <sup>2</sup>	80%	93%	<b>93.7%</b>
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school <sup>1,2</sup>	—	89%	<b>92.9%</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions <sup>1,3</sup>	—	—	<b>0</b>
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions <sup>1,3</sup>	—	—	<b>3.9</b>
<p><b>Freedom &amp; Flexibility with Accountability</b></p>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility <sup>1</sup>	—	—	<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%	<b>95.5%</b>
<p><b>Strong Parent &amp; Community Connections</b></p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school <sup>1,2</sup>	—	86%	<b>95.4%</b>
	Number of volunteer hours <sup>4</sup>	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	<b>422</b>
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	<b>25</b>

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

<sup>2</sup>Based on responses to 2008-09 survey; 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: 62.4%**

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: 82.9%**

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.

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

State Standard: 60%  
**Our School: 62.4%**

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: 82.3%**

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

<b>Our School's Results:</b>	<b>Safety</b>	<b>94%</b>
	<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>97%</b>
	<b>Engagement</b>	<b>96%</b>

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

# ▶ Joseph W. Grier Academy

*(Principal's message continued)*

This school year, Joseph W. Grier has been named a Title I or Targeted Assistance school, which will provide funding for additional staffing and intensive learning support for students.

Our students wear uniforms and are well-behaved. We attribute this to our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program, which has helped us create a unified school discipline plan. Good behavior is reinforced throughout the school day. Those students who exhibit exemplary behavior are recognized each quarter through our Cardinal Kid and GEMS Celebration programs.

At Joseph W. Grier, we enjoy strong ties to the community, and we continue to increase our partnerships with businesses such as Food Lion, Harris Teeter, Chick-fil-A, United Wesleyan Church, Reedy Creek Nature Center, Central Piedmont Community College and The Charleston House. These partners have supported a number of special

school events, and we will continue to solicit support from the local community. We also benefit from mentoring programs such as 100 Dads and Boys of Excellence. Last but not least, we have a very supportive and creative PTA which has worked tirelessly on fundraising projects to supplement our instructional program.

We have an open-door policy at Joseph W. Grier Academy and encourage regular communication through newsletters, conferences and school events.

Sincerely,  
Celia Brandon-Phelan  
*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.



REACH FURTHER.

