

SCHOOL PROGRESS REPORT 2008-2009

▶ J.H. Gunn Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

To our J.H. Gunn Elementary School families:

Our second School Progress Report is part of our efforts to keep you informed about our students' academic success, our staff and our school environment.

At J.H. Gunn Elementary, we always emphasize high academic success. The tremendous growth we achieved in the 2008-2009 school year is a direct result of the hard work of our students and staff.

On the state End-of-Grade tests, J.H. Gunn's composite proficiency rate was 62.3 percent, an increase of 4.2 points (without retests) over the previous year. In 2008-2009, the state allowed schools to include retesting results in the End-of-Grade scores.

Our school achieved High Growth, which means that our students exceeded expectations set by the state. We did not make Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act. We did, however, meet 26 of our 27 targets, which is also an improvement from last year.

Through our School Improvement Plan, we continue to address specific areas to increase academic performance. We use a variety of teaching practices to support our students' needs. Most importantly, we use data to determine the students' present academic status and to identify strategies that promote growth. For example, we have adopted the K-3 Intensive Reading Model. Students in kindergarten through third grade are regularly assessed by classroom teachers. Those students identified as struggling readers receive extended reading instruction focusing on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Students will stay in this intensive curriculum until they perform consistently at grade level. Those who are performing at or above grade

(Principal's message continued on back)

KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2009

Principal

Ivy R. Gill
email: ivy.gill@cms.k12.nc.us

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- 755 Students
- 52 Teachers
- 1 Assistant Principal
- 2 Student Services Specialists
- 40 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 44.9% African American
- 13.0% White
- 31.3% Hispanic
- 2.3% Asian
- 8.6% Other
- 78.8% 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

J.H. Gunn Elementary School

7400 Harrisburg Road
Charlotte, NC 28215
980-343-6477

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



CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Result 2008 - 2009	School Result 2008 - 2009
<p>High Academic Achievement</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 ¹	—	72%	62.3%
	Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	68%	57.5%
	Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	80%	72.4%
	Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	60%	46.9%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	34%	25.6%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	26%	24.3%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	44%	44.5%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	28%	5.2%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	18%	3.3%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32%	13.2%
<p>Effective Educators</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%
	National Board-certified teachers	17%	13%	17%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	36%	35%	31%
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.2	10.3	9.9
<p>Adequate Resources & Facilities</p>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	3:1	4:1
<p>Safe & Orderly Schools</p>	Passed the CMS safe school audit	YES	YES	YES
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school ²	70%	96%	98.0%
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	93%	88.7%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	89%	85.1%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	0
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	10.5
<p>Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability</p>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	—	NO
<p>World-Class Service</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	88%	91.7%
<p>Strong Parent & Community Connections</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	86%	89.6%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	436
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	8

¹Not a CMS 2010 goal

²Based on responses to 2008-09 survey; 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 NOT** make AYP
(26 of 27 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: 62.3%

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: 80%
Our School: 84.4%

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.

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

State Standard: 60%
Our School: 66.7%

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: 83.5%

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

Our School's Results:	Safety	89%
	Encouragement	100%
	Engagement	96%

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

▶ J.H. Gunn Elementary School

(Principal's message continued)

level will receive instruction at the appropriate academic level. In third through fifth grades, we focus on teaching to students' individual levels, flexible groups, research-based assessments and quality teaching practices to increase student achievement.

To help students in reading, math, writing and science, we offer extended-day tutoring from October through May. We are fortunate to have additional tutoring support from Independence High School's Dream Team, a group of outstanding high school students. In addition, many of our parents and community supporters volunteer to tutor students. Our Talent Development program provides an enriching curriculum for students at or above grade level. After-school programs include Math Olympiad, Chess Club and Scouts.

At J.H. Gunn, we stress the importance of attendance, and I am pleased to report that our students made their attendance goal for the 2008-2009 school year.

Our faculty is strong, and all of our teachers are highly qualified. Teachers volunteer to provide after-school tutoring and our support staff provides individualized instruction in small group settings. We are ably supported by our PTA and school leadership team, and their collaboration is essential to the success of our students.

We are committed to raising student achievement. I am confident that the combination of an enriching academic program, effective teachers, parental support and a safe and orderly environment will help us to continue to excel at J.H. Gunn Elementary.

Sincerely,
Ivy Gill
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.

