

▶ Highland Creek Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

To our Highland Creek Elementary School families:

This is the second annual School Progress Report for Highland Creek Elementary, part of our effort to keep families fully informed about our students' academic progress, our staff and our school environment.

Highland Creek had a composite proficiency rate on the state End-of-Grade math test of 93 percent. This means that 93 percent of our third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students passed the test. Our school's composite reading score was 82.8 percent. This year, we also administered the End-of-Grade science test to fifth-grade students, and our composite proficiency rating was 65 percent. We are proud of our students' progress, as the test results show that our school exceeded the growth expectation set by the state. We also made Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, with all of our subgroups meeting federal performance standards.

This year, our focus is to ensure that all students continue learning at high levels. This will be accomplished as teachers work collaboratively to discuss effective teaching strategies and appropriate assessments, and to use data to help identify which students need remediation or enrichment. Teachers are using differentiated instruction, a flexible teaching approach that adapts the curriculum and teaching strategies to individual learning needs. To ensure that our students are receiving rigorous and relevant instruction, we are using several exciting technology initiatives, including Discovery Learning, Orchard, Accelerated Reader and SMART Boards (interactive white boards).

Our faculty is highly qualified and experienced. We have 26 teachers with master's degrees, one with an educational-specialist degree, 12 with National Board certification and two staff members who have earned

(Principal's message continued on back)

KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2009

Principal

Dr. Ann H. Nivens

email: ann.nivens@cms.k12.nc.us

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- 1,162 Students
- 66 Teachers
- 2 Assistant Principals
- 2 Student Services Specialists
- 43 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 27.1% African American
- 56.1% White
- 5.4% Hispanic
- 4.5% Asian
- 6.9% Other
- 15.6% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

Learning Community

Northeast

Area Superintendent: Scott Muri
2750 E. W.T. Harris Boulevard
Suite 101

Charlotte, NC 28213

980-343-1459

email: scott.muri@cms.k12.nc.us

Highland Creek Elementary School

7242 Highland Creek Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28269
980-343-1065

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



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%	85.1%
	Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	68%	82.7%
	Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	80%	93.1%
	Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	60%	64.7%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	34%	22.2%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	26%	15.2%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	44%	27.4%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	28%	20.1%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	18%	12.0%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32%	43.9%
<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%	18%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	36%	35%	40%
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.2	10.3	9.6
<p>Adequate Resources & Facilities</p>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	3:1	5:1
<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%	96.3%
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	93%	95.2%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	89%	91.3%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	0.2
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	1.5
<p>Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability</p>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	—	YES
<p>World-Class Service</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	88%	93.3%
<p>Strong Parent & Community Connections</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	86%	90.8%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	1,030
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	32

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** make AYP
(17 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

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: 85.1%

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: 83.6%

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: 65.1%

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.

► Amount of Growth for Students in the Lowest Achieving Group

Our School: 82.8%

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	95%
	Encouragement	99%
	Engagement	98%

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

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(Principal's message continued)

doctorates. In addition, we have a dedicated support staff and a devoted team of teacher assistants. Our turnover rate is low, with just one teacher leaving at the end of last year.

I am one of 50 CMS principals chosen to participate in an initiative called Freedom and Flexibility with Accountability. This means that I have been given some additional autonomy to keep Highland Creek, and our students, moving forward.

As a staff, we are committed to providing a safe, caring and inviting environment. We are using the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports model that is designed to teach and reward appropriate behavior. We have a strong character-education program, which builds character traits and helps children respect and value one another.

Highland Creek parents are involved in their children's education. The school has outstanding support through

parent volunteerism and a hard-working PTA. Our PTA provides monetary support for our programs and special family events to build community. We are fortunate to have more than 12 businesses and organizations that support our school through donations. This year, we are launching a plan to involve even more community partners through our Friends and Neighbors (FAN) Club. In addition, we will be seeking and using the talents of community volunteers to provide additional support for our students.

At Highland Creek, we are committed to providing the best education available anywhere. By working together, we will ensure the success of each and every student.

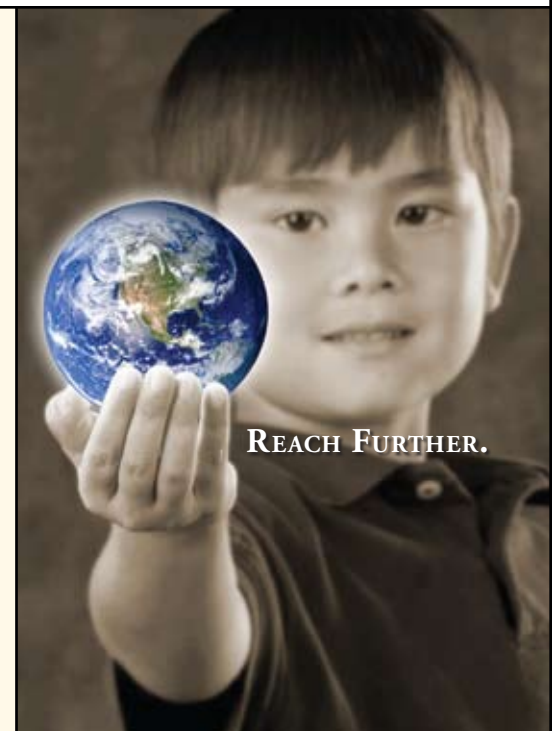
Sincerely,
Dr. Ann Nivens
Principal

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.

