

▶ Newell Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

Dear parents and friends of Newell Elementary School:

This is the annual School Progress Report for Newell 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.

Located in a diverse community, Newell families represent nearly 40 countries. We are a Title I school, with 84 percent of the students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch last year and 38 percent designated English Language Learners.

We have much to be proud of at Newell. Our students demonstrated outstanding academic progress last year and, once again, achieved High Growth in math, reading and science. On the End-of-Grade math test, 76 percent of our students were at or above grade level, and 64 percent were proficient overall. We increased math proficiency by 11 points from the previous year, reading proficiency by seven points and science proficiency by 19 points, all without retests.

We did make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, by meeting all 21 of our targets. Well done, Newell staff and students!

So what are we doing to increase student achievement? We have formed single-gender classes, as well as a third-grade class with 16 children and two staff members, to address student needs more effectively. This flexible teaching approach better adapts the curriculum to individual learning styles. We have added a new approach to reading and continue to provide a critical-thinking math program. We have also incorporated more technology into our classrooms. In all cases, student data drives instruction at Newell.

Our entire staff and support personnel are highly qualified, as required of all Title I schools. Of our current 36 teachers, one is new to the

(Principal's message continued on back)

KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2009

Principal

Diana Evans

email: diana.evans@cms.k12.nc.us

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- 829 Students
- 68 Teachers
- 2 Assistant Principals
- 2 Student Services Specialists
- 1 Social Worker
- 42 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 45.6% African American
- 7.8% White
- 38.1% Hispanic
- 3.7% Asian
- 4.7% Other
- 84.3% 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

Newell Elementary School

8601 Old Concord Road
Charlotte, NC 28213
980-343-6820

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



CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Result 2008 - 2009	School Result 2008 - 2009
High Academic Achievement 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. 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 7/14/09</i>	Students performing at or above grade level overall ¹	—	72%	63.8%
	Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	68%	56.2%
	Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	80%	75.7%
	Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	60%	50.0%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	34%	27.1%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	26%	22.7%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	44%	37.5%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	28%	12.5%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	18%	-0.5%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32%	17.9%
Effective Educators	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%	9%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	36%	35%	27%
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.2	10.3	8.2
Adequate Resources & Facilities	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	3:1	3:1
Safe & Orderly Schools	Passed the CMS safe school audit	YES	YES	YES
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school ²	70%	96%	97.1%
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	93%	93.3%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	89%	98.2%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	0
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	2.4
Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	—	YES
World-Class Service	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	88%	87.5%
Strong Parent & Community Connections	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	86%	75.9%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	81
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	12

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
(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 Progress**
(DID meet high growth expectations)

Proficiency: 63.8%

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: 84.0%

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: 66.4%

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: 84.1%

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	93%
	Encouragement	99%
	Engagement	96%

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)

profession this year and six are National Board-certified. Our teacher-retention rate has helped us continue to keep expectations high for children, both academically and behaviorally.

I am one of the CMS principals to be awarded Freedom and Flexibility with Accountability. As a result, I was given some additional autonomy to introduce strategies and a curriculum that will keep our children moving forward and help us attain AYP. The Newell academic program is distinguished by the staff's strong commitment to collaboration and assessment of student performance data. Recognizing the strengths and potential of our students, the staff has taken full advantage of the extra freedom I was granted to effect appropriate improvements at the school.

We are embarking on a year-long project that uses technology to allow our students to communicate with their peers around the world. Sharing cultural, linguistic and school experiences will make global learning a reality for our students.

Together, we will work on raising student achievement. We will offer tutoring and extended-day programs and curriculum nights for parents. We will also host evening and day English classes for parents who wish to improve their English language skills. Additionally, Family Math Night, Pajama Reading Night, Family Science Night and End-of-Grade Night will bring the family and school together with a common goal of increasing student achievement.

Our supportive, nurturing and safe environment will continue. We value mutual respect and know that making good choices will yield greater student achievement. We are committed to improving student achievement through a stronger, more rigorous approach to teaching and learning.

Sincerely,
Diana Evans
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.

