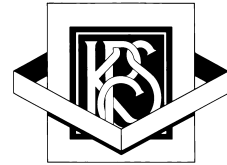


Annual Report: Explorer – 2008-09



Accreditation Status:

Component	Score	Grade
Preliminary Grade	98	A
Indicators of School Performance	100	A
AYP Status	Met AYP	
Composite Grade	A	

Retention Rate:

	Retention
Explorer	90.95%

Information about Explorer Elementary:

In October of 1999 a three person delegation, which included a teacher, the P.T.C. president, and the principal, attended the National Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools award program in Washington D.C. to receive the U.S. Department of Education's "Exemplary School Award". Only ten schools in the State of Michigan were given this award. Explorer is the first Kentwood School to receive this national award. A community event that featured a musical celebration presented by Explorer students, presentations from local and state officials, and a reception was held in the East Kentwood High School Fine Arts Auditorium and Field House when the delegation returned from Washington.

At the primary (K-2) level, students get to know children and teachers in other grades as they participate in multi-age teams. Students stay with the same teacher for first and second grades, a practice called looping, that strengthens friendships and bonds between students, parents, and teachers. Looping makes the second grade year a highly productive one as students and teachers "pick-up" in the fall where they "left-off" in the spring.

At the intermediate (3-5) level, students and teachers work in grade level teams. There is a special emphasis in the third grade to make a positive and smooth transition from the primary to the intermediate grades for students. Fourth and fifth grade teachers work together, and each has strengths that compliment their teams. Fourth grade students participate in an in-depth study of the State of

Michigan and visit our state capitol each fall. Fifth grade students learn from each of the fifth grade teachers who each specialize in a different content area (math, science, and social studies).

Academically talented students in the fourth and fifth grades are invited to participate in a special program developed and taught by the teachers at this level. This program, called "Expeditions", is a unit of study that includes special lessons, speakers, excursions, and projects. The program is funded through grants, district funds, and financial support from the Parent Teacher Council (P.T.C.).

School Improvement:

To determine our school improvement goals and strategies we look at our MEAP data, our district end-of-year test results, our classroom assessments, and report card data. This year we chose writing and reading comprehension as the two major areas in English Language Arts which needed our attention.

We continue implementing the Four Blocks literacy program and the Six Traits of Writing concepts. We are specifically focusing with students on personal narrative. We concentrated on using profundity sets, based around broad themes, to make connections between texts and self and to provide a basis for class discussions and writing. These sessions include fine literature, class discussions, multiple-choice questions, reading comprehension, personal narrative, and connection writing.

Our Professional Development time centered on reading comprehension.

We also studied our data in the other core academic areas of math, science and social studies. Strategies for classroom instruction, helping at-risk students, involving parents, and professional development were identified and put in place. These will be refined during next school year as we become better acquainted with the new format of MEAP testing at 3rd-5th grades.

Most recent MEAP data – Fall 2008

MEAP Demographic Summary - School

KENTWOOD PUBLIC - Explorer Elem
English Language Arts - 3rd Grade
Full Academic Year: Yes

Student Group	School Year	AYP Target	SCHOOL % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	DISTRICT % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	STATE % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	Percent of Students in School at Each Achievement Level			
						Exceeds Level 1	Meets Level 2	Basic Level 3	Apprent. Level 4
All Students	2008-09	59%	88%	89%	83%	18%	70%	12%	0%
Male	2008-09	59%	88%	86%	81%	12%	75%	12%	0%
Female	2008-09	59%	89%	92%	86%	23%	66%	11%	0%
Asian	2008-09	59%	N/A	94%	92%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	2008-09	59%	100%	85%	69%	42%	58%	0%	0%
Hispanic	2008-09	59%	N/A	86%	74%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	2008-09	59%	88%	92%	87%	12%	76%	12%	0%
Multiracial	2008-09	59%	N/A	79%	82%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Economically Disadvantaged	2008-09	59%	83%	85%	74%	20%	63%	17%	0%
Limited English Proficient	2008-09	59%	N/A	76%	69%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students with Disabilities	2008-09	59%	77%	72%	55%	0%	77%	23%	0%

MEAP Demographic Summary - School

KENTWOOD PUBLIC - Explorer Elem
 English Language Arts - 4th Grade
 Full Academic Year: Yes

Student Group	School Year	AYP Target	SCHOOL % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	DISTRICT % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	STATE % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	Percent of Students in School at Each Achievement Level			
						Exceeds Level 1	Meets Level 2	Basic Level 3	Apprent. Level 4
All Students	2008-09	59%	89%	85%	77%	15%	73%	10%	1%
Male	2008-09	59%	79%	82%	74%	12%	68%	18%	3%
Female	2008-09	59%	97%	87%	79%	19%	78%	3%	0%
Asian	2008-09	59%	95%	84%	88%	5%	89%	5%	0%
African American	2008-09	59%	N/A	77%	56%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	2008-09	59%	N/A	89%	64%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	2008-09	59%	90%	89%	83%	26%	65%	10%	0%
Multiracial	2008-09	59%	N/A	83%	77%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Economically Disadvantaged	2008-09	59%	79%	76%	64%	7%	71%	21%	0%
Limited English Proficient	2008-09	59%	N/A	58%	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students with Disabilities	2008-09	59%	40%	51%	44%	0%	40%	50%	10%

MEAP Demographic Summary - School

KENTWOOD PUBLIC - Explorer Elem
 English Language Arts - 5th Grade
 Full Academic Year: Yes

Student Group	School Year	AYP Target	SCHOOL % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	DISTRICT % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	STATE % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	Percent of Students in School at Each Achievement Level			
						Exceeds Level 1	Meets Level 2	Basic Level 3	Apprent. Level 4
All Students	2008-09	59%	81%	84%	78%	28%	53%	19%	0%
Male	2008-09	59%	83%	84%	76%	31%	52%	17%	0%
Female	2008-09	59%	79%	84%	81%	24%	55%	21%	0%
Native American	2008-09	59%	N/A	N/A	77%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian	2008-09	59%	N/A	75%	89%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	2008-09	59%	50%	75%	58%	20%	30%	50%	0%
Hispanic	2008-09	59%	N/A	85%	66%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	2008-09	59%	90%	89%	84%	31%	59%	10%	0%
Multiracial	2008-09	59%	N/A	91%	79%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Economically Disadvantaged	2008-09	59%	71%	75%	66%	12%	58%	29%	0%
Limited English Proficient	2008-09	59%	N/A	52%	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students with Disabilities	2008-09	59%	N/A	56%	42%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

MEAP Demographic Summary - School

KENTWOOD PUBLIC - Explorer Elem
 Mathematics - 3rd Grade
 Full Academic Year: Yes

Student Group	School Year	AYP Target	SCHOOL % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	DISTRICT % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	STATE % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	Percent of Students in School at Each Achievement Level			
						Exceeds Level 1	Meets Level 2	Basic Level 3	Apprent. Level 4
All Students	2008-09	65%	97%	96%	91%	66%	31%	3%	0%
Male	2008-09	65%	97%	96%	92%	69%	28%	3%	0%
Female	2008-09	65%	97%	97%	91%	63%	34%	3%	0%
Asian	2008-09	65%	N/A	100%	96%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	2008-09	65%	100%	92%	79%	67%	33%	0%	0%
Hispanic	2008-09	65%	N/A	95%	87%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	2008-09	65%	97%	99%	95%	76%	21%	3%	0%
Multiracial	2008-09	65%	N/A	94%	92%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Economically Disadvantaged	2008-09	65%	97%	96%	86%	60%	37%	3%	0%
Limited English Proficient	2008-09	65%	N/A	94%	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students with Disabilities	2008-09	65%	100%	92%	80%	54%	46%	0%	0%

MEAP Demographic Summary - School

KENTWOOD PUBLIC - Explorer Elem
 Mathematics - 4th Grade
 Full Academic Year: Yes

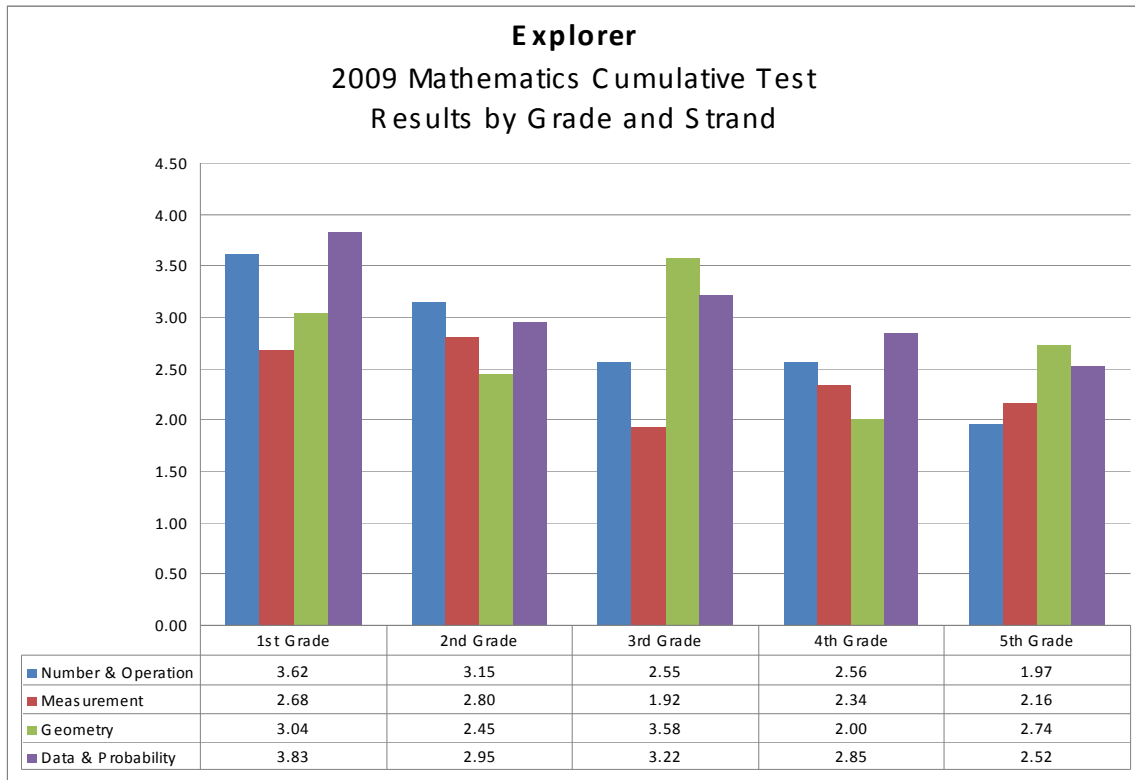
Student Group	School Year	AYP Target	SCHOOL % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	DISTRICT % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	STATE % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	Percent of Students in School at Each Achievement Level			
						Exceeds Level 1	Meets Level 2	Basic Level 3	Apprent. Level 4
All Students	2008-09	65%	99%	93%	88%	65%	33%	0%	1%
Male	2008-09	65%	97%	96%	88%	66%	31%	0%	3%
Female	2008-09	65%	100%	90%	88%	65%	35%	0%	0%
Asian	2008-09	65%	100%	98%	95%	68%	32%	0%	0%
African American	2008-09	65%	N/A	86%	74%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	2008-09	65%	N/A	96%	81%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	2008-09	65%	97%	95%	92%	69%	28%	0%	3%
Multiracial	2008-09	65%	N/A	90%	87%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Economically Disadvantaged	2008-09	65%	97%	90%	80%	52%	45%	0%	3%
Limited English Proficient	2008-09	65%	N/A	89%	76%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students with Disabilities	2008-09	65%	91%	78%	68%	45%	45%	0%	10%

MEAP Demographic Summary - School

KENTWOOD PUBLIC - Explorer Elem
 Mathematics - 5th Grade
 Full Academic Year: Yes

Student Group	School Year	AYP Target	SCHOOL % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	DISTRICT % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	STATE % of students Meets or Exceeds State Standards (Levels 1 & 2)	Percent of Students in School at Each Achievement Level			
						Exceeds Level 1	Meets Level 2	Basic Level 3	Apprent. Level 4
All Students	2008-09	65%	83%	87%	77%	67%	16%	16%	2%
Male	2008-09	65%	86%	90%	78%	72%	14%	14%	0%
Female	2008-09	65%	79%	84%	76%	62%	17%	17%	3%
Native American	2008-09	65%	N/A	N/A	72%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian	2008-09	65%	N/A	91%	92%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	2008-09	65%	70%	82%	55%	60%	10%	20%	10%
Hispanic	2008-09	65%	N/A	86%	66%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	2008-09	65%	90%	91%	83%	72%	17%	10%	0%
Multiracial	2008-09	65%	N/A	77%	77%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Economically Disadvantaged	2008-09	65%	71%	83%	64%	46%	25%	25%	4%
Limited English Proficient	2008-09	65%	N/A	71%	61%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students with Disabilities	2008-09	65%	N/A	65%	47%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2009 End of Year Math Data:



2009 End of Year Reading Data:

SRI data for 1st through 5th grade.

1st Grade: 100% 22/22 are at basic or above

2nd Grade: 79% 68/86 are at basic or above

3rd Grade: 96% 65/68 are at basic or above

4th Grade: 97% 75/77 are at basic or above

5th Grade: 97% 59/61 are at basic or above

Attendance Rate: 95.91%

Parent Involvement:

Explorer's parent involvement is as follows.

Fall 2008 parent teacher conferences: 97%

Spring 2009 parent teacher conferences: 97%

Parent involvement is a strong component in Explorer's success. In the primary grades, we continue to have 50%-70% of parents volunteer in the classrooms on a regular basis to help with various English Language Arts activities.

Parent Involvement Policy: Board Policy GA AE

Board Policy GA AE

The board representatives to each building shall meet upon request for the purpose of providing parents of Title I students an opportunity to participate in the design and implementation of the Title I program. Any parents of title I students within the building shall be invited to this meeting.

The board strongly encourages parental involvement in the district's programs. A program that will encourage parental participation and training will be developed according to Title I Federal guidelines.

Approved April 29, 2002

Core Curriculum:

Process:

Kentwood Public Schools has aligned curriculum in all content areas with the Michigan Curriculum Framework and benchmarks. We are currently working on adjusting our curriculum to incorporate the new Grade Level Content Expectations. Our assessments and report card are also aligned with the curriculum. Classroom instruction is congruent with the curriculum expectations and is monitored consistently by building principals and academic support personnel.

Alignment:

Each grade level on the elementary level and each content area at the secondary levels meet monthly to study curriculum issues and to ensure that all students have common, equitable curricular experiences. A gap analysis is conducted annually with the MEAP testing information and the curriculum is examined for areas of strength and weakness. After this audit, necessary adjustments are made.

Equity:

Excellence and Equity for All is the motto of Kentwood Public Schools. Common assessments with common scoring rubrics, a common curriculum, common core materials, and a common electronic standards-based report card help us work toward our goal of equity. In addition, principals and other evaluators have common instructional expectations that are used to guide teacher evaluation. Professional development, study groups, and constant communication between regular education, special education, and gifted programs also facilitate this process. We are committed to ALL of our students having multiple opportunities to learn and be successful in the core curriculum.

Teacher Qualification:

100% of Explorer teachers are considered highly qualified. They hold the appropriate teaching credentials and/or have advanced degrees in the areas in which they are teaching.

The district has identified all teachers who are not considered highly qualified according to No Child Left Behind guidelines and has required these teachers to develop a plan for becoming highly qualified. In addition, the district has adopted the Michigan Department of Education Portfolio option for teachers. A letter of agreement to support this option has been signed with the local teacher association.

Every parent has the right to know the particular teacher qualifications of his/her child's teacher(s). The district publishes the process in the November issue of the district newsletter. The Human Resources Office is the single point of contact for the dissemination of teacher qualification information.