

GREAT OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

MISSION STATEMENT

Great Oaks Elementary School will promote academic excellence in a caring environment.



NORTH CENTRAL ACCREDITATION

Great Oaks Elementary School is proud to be a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Accreditation by the North Central commission assures our community of our commitment to providing quality education to the children in our school.

We completed our second year of the current cycle for School Improvement with our staff defining the three goals that we will be working on. Our NCA goals are:

1. **Students will improve their reading skills** (*comprehension and identifying genres*)
2. **Students will improve their writing skills** (*organization and adding details*)

3. **Students will improve their math skills** (*basic facts and math vocabulary*)

In the 08-09 school year we begin to implement the strategies that we hope will lead to greater student achievement in reading, writing, and math. The staff will be collecting data from assessments to determine the effectiveness of our strategies.

We look forward to continuing our work with NCA in the future as we strive to create the best learning environment for our students.

EDUCATION YES GRADE / ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

This was the sixth year in which the state issued a grade to each school in Michigan. The computation of the grade was based on the schools MEAP results, as well as an assessment of the schools performance in other areas, such as parent involvement, implementation of core curriculum, and student attendance rates. We are proud to report that the grade that Great Oaks Elementary received under Education Yes was an A.

Adequate yearly progress on the math and ELA MEAP tests (under the Federal No Child Left Behind legislation) was also achieved by the students at our school. The target that all schools had to meet for the 2007-2008 year was 48% proficient in ELA and 56% proficient in math. The MEAP scores at Great Oaks were well over these targets. We are proud of the staff and students at Great Oaks for this accomplishment.

PARENT PARTICIPATION DURING PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

All parents were invited to the fall conferences. We had a 99% attendance rate. This time of sharing enabled teachers and parents to share information that helped to build better understanding about the child and assist his or her progress in school. Spring conferences were held as needed with communication between teacher and the parents maintained throughout the year.

Parent Teacher Conferences
99%
participation

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

Anchor Bay school district strives to maintain a class size in all grade levels that will help to achieve the highest degree of student learning. The average class size at Great Oaks for the various grade levels in 2007-08 is listed below:

<i>Kindergarten</i>	<i>20 students</i>
<i>1st and 2nd</i>	<i>23 students</i>
<i>3rd – 5th</i>	<i>26 students</i>

DISTRICT CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Anchor Bay Schools continues to develop our existing curriculum using the State of Michigan's Curriculum Framework and Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) developed by the state. The Michigan Curriculum Framework document and / or GLCE's consist of content standards and benchmarks in each of the four core content areas of Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and English/Language Arts.

Core curriculum sub-committees have been established and they have aligned the district's curriculum standards with those of the State of Michigan, as well as with the district's vision and mission. The purpose of the curriculum

sub-committees is to develop instructional strategies and assessment outcomes for each grade level. In addition, committees review/recommend student materials and textbooks which are necessary in all areas of the curriculum for implementation of the instructional strategies. Curriculum development occurs during school district professional development days, in after-school staff meetings, and in department and grade level meetings.

The curriculum process strives to meet the needs of all students in the Anchor Bay Schools by continually revising and teaching the district core curriculum standards and the extended learning opportunities provided to students at all educational levels.

The Great Oaks Elementary School staff continued using the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP) and DIBELS (dynamic indicators of early literacy success) in their classrooms to assist in assessing student progress in reading.

Language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are taught primarily in self-contained classrooms. Much of the instruction uses the approved textbooks as the primary learning source. Nonfiction reading includes library and other books, and a variety of periodicals. Hands-on materials are used to supplement learning and bring understanding to the concepts. Students are provided additional instruction through the special education teacher, our literacy paraprofessional and literacy tutor, or parent help.

Students are provided with instruction in music, art, technology and physical education. They also have one thirty-minute block of library each week with their teacher and the library paraprofessional. These subjects enrich learning. These are disciplines where students may shine and keep interested for all of life. These affective areas are important to us. Special teachers using national and statewide standards have developed the curriculum.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT DATA

All staff members worked toward preparing children academically using the curriculum set by the district. Providing many hands-on experiences and helping to make it fit their world, teachers provided connections needed to help children gain understanding.

Teachers worked toward providing a variety of assessments for student learning. These included observation, daily assignments, teacher-made tests, tests with approved curriculum, standardized tests, and authentic assessment projects. Our district prepared assessments that would assist us in knowing the reading, writing, and math levels of each student. This year the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) was administered to the third, fourth and fifth grade students in math and English/Language Arts (ELA). The fifth grade also took the science MEAP. 100% of our third, fourth and fifth grade students took the MEAP test in fall of 2007. The chart below shows the test results which you can compare to the chart in the next column showing last year's results.

Fall 2007 MEAP Test Results

% proficient (at level 1 or 2) for Great Oaks, Anchor Bay School District, and the state

TEST	School	District	State
Reading Gr. 3	99%	92%	86%
Writing-Gr. 3	80%	65%	57%
Overall ELA Gr. 3	95%	87%	81%
Math- Gr. 3	100%	96%	90%
Reading Gr. 4	87%	89%	84%
Writing Gr.4	54%	46%	44%
Overall ELA Gr. 4	82%	82%	76%
Math Gr. 4	94%	91%	86%
Reading Gr. 5	90%	84%	82%
Writing Gr. 5	67%	64%	59%
Overall ELA Gr. 5	83%	81%	78%
Math Gr. 5	91%	80%	74%
Science Gr.5	92%	88%	82%

Fall 2006 MEAP Test Results

% proficient (at level 1 or 2) for Great Oaks, Anchor Bay School District, and the state

TEST	School	District	State
Reading Gr. 3	92%	92%	87%
Writing-Gr. 3	58%	53%	52%
Overall ELA Gr. 3	89%	83%	79%
Math- Gr. 3	94%	91%	88%
Reading Gr. 4	95%	90%	85%
Writing Gr.4	54%	43%	45%
Overall ELA Gr. 4	90%	81%	78%
Math Gr. 4	91%	90%	85%
Reading Gr. 5	90%	88%	84%
Writing Gr. 5	62%	56%	57%
Overall ELA Gr. 5	84%	81%	78%
Math Gr. 5	87%	81%	76%
Science Gr.5	94%	88%	83%

Great Oaks Elementary had fewer than 30 students in any of the identified subgroups (economically disadvantaged, limited English proficiency, race, ethnicity, disability, or migrant); therefore disaggregated data for these subgroups was not available.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATES AND DISTRICT RETENTION AND DROPOUT RATES

The average attendance during the 2007-2008 school year at Great Oaks was **96%**.

The retention rate is the percentage of ninth graders who graduate from high school within four years, adjusting for students who move in and out of the district and to alternative programs. Our retention rate was 99%.

<i>Retention Rate 99%</i>
<i>Dropout Rate .97%</i>

The dropout rate means the percentage of students who leave school in any one-year, adjusting for those who move in and out of the

district. Anchor Bay High School reports that few students drop out due to the support in co-taught classes, teacher consultant, and social work services that are available to them.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR OUR STAFF

The staff at Great Oaks has many opportunities to grow as professionals. On the district professional development days that took place throughout the year, teachers had the opportunity to share ideas in round-table sessions, work together with their grade level teachers, learn about new technology to assist them in the classroom, and move forward with their building NCA plans. The special education staff, physical education, art, music, and technology teachers took advantage of these days to meet with their content area colleagues to discuss curriculum and work on areas of concern.

All of our teachers meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation and are highly qualified. We are proud that all of our teachers meet the requirements of this legislation and know they take pride in continually looking for ways to further assist student's success in their classrooms.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

The staff at Great Oaks understands that it is very important to keep our community informed. Our staff has communicated educational needs to parents on a regular basis through notes, phone calls, and newsletters. They have sent home information that would be helpful for parents in gaining an understanding on the changing stages of child development. The office sends out a monthly newsletter, with several memos to update parents throughout the month. The newsletters and other important announcements about upcoming events at Great Oaks are sent to the Anchor Bay School District website so the entire community has access. Information about our school events were also

placed on Channel 6. Internally, announcements and staff bulletins are either e-mailed to staff or placed in their staff mailboxes.

Video and PA announcements are used to help inform staff and students of the events at our school. These announcements also allow us the opportunity to feature the wonderful things that the students in our building are doing. Several articles in our local newspapers featured our students and their activities.

BUILDING GOOD CITIZENS WITH THE HELP OF OUR GREAT OAKS PARENTS

At Great Oaks, we are pleased to use the Positive Behavior Support program for our school. The concept of Positive Behavior Support is to teach students the expected behavior in all areas/ rooms in the school, and acknowledge this behavior continually. Our building PBS team developed a plan that they felt would best teach our students the behavior expectations that we value. Our building adopted the "*Each Of Us Is A Great Oak*" slogan. Our three PBS guides were built off the beginning letters in OAK. We taught the children to be **O**rganized, **A**ct responsibly, and be **K**ind. All staff were helpful in modeling and teaching appropriate behavior. When a child was "caught" exhibiting wonderful behavior (they were organized, acted responsibly, or were kind) they were rewarded with a coin token. Children saved the coins to "shop" at our PBS store which we open on Friday during lunch. Our data shows that the PBS plan continued to help decrease the number of discipline slips and led to outstanding student behavior in our building.

At times, students did break the established school rules. Discipline slips were used to document the nature of the offenses and to give feedback to parents on what occurred and what consequences were used. Helping children to know that school is a safe place to be, and that name calling and put downs will not be tolerated is essential. This year 42 discipline slips were

given when needed in the classroom or office for various reasons. Students who were not able to behave at recess or in the classroom were generally given a lunch detention, meaning they stayed in the office for lunch and wrote apologies or thought about ways they could handle the problem better.

Our school has a family environment with many parents present. Parents and other family members were working in the classrooms often, especially in the lower elementary. The children had good models in parents, learning that school was important to others. Our open house was very well attended. There was little place to park on party days because parents flocked to be a part of these special times. Our music programs, talent show, ice cream social, and other times when parents were invited to see students' progress were well extremely attended.

GREAT OAKS PTO

We are so fortunate to have a PTO that plans outstanding events and helps to support our educational programs. In 07-08, our PTO held the following fundraisers or events:

- Coney Night
- Harvest Festival
- Fall Book Fair
- Bingo Night
- Donuts w/ Dad and Muffins w/Mom
- Family Restaurant Nights
- Ladies Night Out
- Market Day
- Mom 2 Mom Sales
- Family Movie Night
- Pizza w/ Santa
- Little Caesar's Pizza kit sales
- Santa Shop
- Scrapbooking night

The money that the PTO raised supported our Accelerated Reader program, technology, purchase of student agendas, field trips, instructional programs, MEAP celebrations, safety patrol, and our 5th grade graduation and party.

The PTO also provided funds to bring in assemblies to our students. This year we had the following assemblies:

- Spoon Man
- Michigan wetlands presentation
- Beth Stanton- Fun w/ Folktales and Fairytales
- Writing is Cool
- Detroit Piston's assembly
- Gemini
- Science Alive

GREAT OAKS HEALTH TEAM

Promoting health and fitness is the goal of our health team. The Great Oaks Health Team was one of 103 in Michigan honored by Michigan Surgeon General Kimberlydawn Wisdom and the Michigan Action for Healthy Kids Coalition as a 2008 First Place School of Outstanding Achievement in the Michigan Healthy School Environment Recognition Program. Our team consisted of 5 parents, Ms. Stoppa, and Mrs. Elias. In addition, a student health team of 6 fifth grade students helped to plan events this year. Some of the highlights of our Health Team are:

- Health Fair
- Teddy Bear Run for kindergarten
- Paper People for kindergarten
- Dental health
- Poison control
- Sun safety
- Pollution Solution
- Healthy Me
- Age simulation
- Walk to School day
- Junior Olympics
- Student health and fitness day
- Staff health and fitness day
- Water safety
- Blast Off to Healthier Choices

GREAT OAKS POINTS OF PRIDE

- The student council held a toy drive at Christmas. Over 300 toys were donated to the Chesterfield Goodfellows.

- Many of our Great Oaks fifth grade students served on the AAA safety patrol, helping to make sure our students arrived to and made it home safely after school.
- Many fourth and fifth grade students helped to raise money for SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) by participating in a math challenge in February. This year they raised \$637.
- We also had many students participate in the Hoops for Heart program organized by Ms. Stoppa, our PE teacher. We raised over \$1100 for the American Heart Association!
- Our students raised \$561 for Children's Hospital to help purchase games and toys.
- A book drive in March collected hundreds of books for Children's Hospital.
- The GO community collected supplies for our troops during our "A Little Piece of Home" campaign.
- Mrs. Sheldrick organized our first International Festival and students were able to learn about other countries.
- 440 pieces of artwork from Great Oaks students were selected to be transformed into tile murals at the new Children's Hospital in Clinton Township.
- Fifth grader Alyssa Lentini was a runner-up in the Chesterfield Township Library contest to design a bookmark.
- Our entire school participated in ACES (all children exercising simultaneously) in May by having a second Walk to School day.
- Our fifth grade students completed DARE education under the guidance of Deputy Nancy Oerman from the Macomb County Sheriff Department.
- Our school continued to operate our own bank, named Squirrel Savings, through the support of Citizen's State Bank. This wonderful banking program helped to teach our children about the

importance of saving as well as providing our fifth grade students with the opportunity to work as bank employees.

- The artwork in the hallways shows the great potential of our students. They have produced some wonderful work. Exceptional artwork was displayed at MacDonald Public Library, Chesterfield Library, Anchor Bay Central Offices, and in our Great Oaks Gallery.
- Our students performed in musicals by grade level throughout the year. We had over 35 fifth grade students in our band. One of our culminating activities was a fabulous talent show with many students participating and showing off their talents. For the final number, staff members performed "*Take Me Out to the ballgame / Put Me in Coach*".
- Miss Pam did an outstanding job organizing our Box Tops for Education collection, raising over \$2400 to support our music, PE, and art programs.
- Thanks to wonderful planning by our Ms. Stoppa and the PTO we enjoyed our Field Day in June. Games were set up on the playground with Ms. Stoppa leading the activities.

*Each of us is a "Great Oak"
Growing in life's garden.
Each of us is a "Great Oak"
We need the sun and rain.*



