



PlainwellCommunitySchools
Today's Learners Tomorrow's Leaders

Annual Report ***2007-2008***



No Child Left Behind

Assessment Data and Adequate Yearly Progress

The Federal *No Child Left Behind Act* requires all schools to make adequate yearly progress in English language arts and mathematics on state tests. This requirement applies to students as a whole and for a variety of subgroups, provided these groups total 30 or more students. To demonstrate adequate yearly progress, schools must have state test scores higher than the "Annual State Objective," assess at least 95% of its students, and have an adequate attendance and graduation rate.

Highly Qualified Teacher Status

Schools are required to assure that all teachers are "highly qualified" in the subjects they teach as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Secondary special education teachers must demonstrate "highly qualified" status by June, 2009. As of June 2008, all Plainwell teachers are "highly qualified" except for six secondary special education teachers who will work during the 2008-2009 school year to gain that status by June, 2009.

School	MET Achievement Target	95% Tested	Attendance/ Graduation Rate	Economically Disadvantaged Subgroup	Special Education Subgroup	Made Adequate Yearly Progress	MI School Report Card Grade
Cooper Elementary	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	A
Gilkey Elementary	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	A
Starr Elementary	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	A
Middle School	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	A
High School	YES	YES	YES	NO (did not meet achievement target)	YES	NO (Economically disadvantaged subgroup)	B

Five-Year District Goals

Overall Goal for 2006-2011

All children at grade level in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Accomplished through:

- ♦ **A common, guaranteed, and viable curriculum**
Teachers work in grade level and department teams to analyze Michigan curriculum documents and develop a curriculum containing the knowledge and skills students need to learn in each grade and subject.
- ♦ **Common district assessments**
In grade level and department teams, teachers use and develop assessments of the important learnings in each subject—from MEAP to teacher-created assessments.



- ♦ **Data management and reporting system**
Teachers and administrators use databases that handle the assessment data needed to make instructional decisions—from the Pinnacle on-line grade book, to the DIBELS and NWEA databases at elementary, to the District Data Analyzer program to handle all district data.
- ♦ **Teacher collaboration and results-based school improvement**
Teachers of common courses and grade levels meet regularly to analyze their students' achievements, plan improvement initiatives, and share techniques and strategies that work to improve student success.

District Overview

Plainwell Community Schools is a suburban/rural district located in southwest Michigan just north of Kalamazoo. Its main school complex, which includes the district's Class B high school, middle school, one of three elementary schools and a new Board of Education/Administration Building, is located in the City of Plainwell, twelve miles north of Kalamazoo and thirty-five miles south of Grand Rapids.

Also located within Plainwell's city limits is another elementary school on 90 acres bordering the Kalamazoo River. A large portion of this acreage has been developed as an outdoor environmental laboratory for student learning. The third elementary school has a Kalamazoo address and is located in Cooper Township in the southern tip of the district.

In addition to its five school buildings, the district provides an Early Education Center and maintains Hicks Gymnasium for community use. Community Education offices and the Renaissance Adult and Alternative High School are located in a new building in Plainwell's Industrial Park which is rented by the school district. Plainwell's transportation garage houses a fleet of 20 school buses.

All of Plainwell's schools have been remodeled and expanded over recent years. These major capital improvements have been funded by two school bond issues approved by voters and totaling over \$45 million dollars. Student enrollment is approximately 3,000 and employees total about 360.

Plainwell is a typical small town of 2.1 square miles and 4,500 population. The Plainwell Community School District, however, encompasses 75 square miles that includes portions of Allegan, Kalamazoo and Barry Counties.

The district's population includes long-time residents employed in local business, industry, recreation and farming. According to recent data, the largest employers within the district are Smithfield Meat-Packing with approximately 1,000 employees and Borgess-Pipp Health Center with 200 employees. Plainwell's Industrial Park houses about 38 smaller businesses. Some residents are employed in nearby urban areas. Professionals who value quality education, yet seek a small town or country atmosphere in which to raise their children, are vocal about moving to the area for these reasons.

The district's proximity to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids provides many of the educational, cultural and recreational advantages of metropolitan centers. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Davenport University are all within easy driving access.

Core Curriculum

Plainwell Community Schools provides all students with a core curriculum developed from the *Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations* and the Michigan High School Course Expectations. This curriculum defines what students should know and be able to do in the disciplines of mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts. We also provide a solid curriculum to all students in other critical areas such as music, the arts, physical education, health, technology, character education, and career and employability skills.

At Plainwell High School, students in the Class of 2008, 2009, and 2010 must earn 26.5 units of credit for graduation including 11 credits of English, math, science, and social studies [with a minimum of 3 credits of social studies, 3 credits of English and 2 credits in each of the other academic areas]; 1 credit of physical education, health or consumer home economics; 1 credit in fine arts, practical arts or vocational education; and 1/2 credit of computer education. Classes are 70 minutes long in a trimester schedule. Students in the Class of 2011 and beyond must meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum of 4 credits of English, 4 credits of math, 3 credits of science, 3 credits of social studies, 1 credit of health/physical education, and 1 credit of visual and performing arts.

At Plainwell Middle School students receive a core curriculum of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. They also are offered experiences in physical education, health, art, industrial arts, life skills, foreign language, computers, vocal music, instrumental music, and career exploration.

Plainwell's elementary students receive a core curriculum of reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, science, spelling, handwriting, and health. They also enjoy instruction in art, music, physical education, growth and development, career exploration, and computer technology.

2007-2008

Board of Education

Phil Robertson, President
Dave Meert, Vice President
John Nyberg, Secretary
Karen Gustafson, Treasurer
Jennifer Loftus, Trustee
Bill Bomar, Trustee
Susan Root, Trustee

Board Mission Statement

The mission of the Plainwell Board of Education, acting in the public trust, is to cultivate a responsive educational system which will develop citizens who are capable of contributing to society and realizing lifelong personal growth.

Budget

**Operating Budget
\$23,300,086**

**Operating Expenditure
Per Pupil
\$8,026**

School Millage Rates:

**Operating:
6 mills homestead
17.9442 mills non-homestead**

**Debt:
7 mills homestead
7 mills non-homestead**

District Staff Development

Intensive training and coaching is provided for all new teachers in their first three years in the Plainwell School District. Topics include classroom management, effective instructional practices, differentiating instruction for gifted and special education students, and content-based workshops.

Teachers worked, learned, and collaborated by subject area and grade level to determine a common, guaranteed, and viable curriculum for all students; how to assess students' progress, and how to use assessment information to plan improvements to our curriculum and instruction.

Gifted/Talented Program

The District's *Visions Program for Academic Enrichment* provides a variety of opportunities to meet the needs of high-ability students in grades K-12. Before-school enrichment classes for 3rd-5th grade cluster students were held for 20 weeks per grade level. Leaders for these groups include staff members, as well as community volunteers. Classes included science curriculum extensions, Jr. Great Books, a simulation involving research and problem-solving skills, creative problem-solving skills, and creative writing with dramatic presentations. Testing facilitators work with teachers in grades 3-6 to conduct assessments of students for the cluster program. The *Visions Program* has also provided Jr. Great Books pull-out groups and Creative Thinking classes for students in Kindergarten-2nd grade in all three elementary buildings.

Academic/enrichment activities at the middle school covered a wide variety of curriculum topics including academic/enrichment presentations, guest speakers, curriculum-related competitions, field trips, and participation in *Midwest Talent Search*. High school activities included support for National Honor Society, Literary Soiree, AP scholarships, and student participation in accelerated classes through *ATYP (Academically Talented Youth Program)*.

Plainwell Schools continue to provide training for all new teachers in differentiating curriculum to meet the needs of high-ability students in the classroom. The district administration and Board of Education has committed district resources to continue support for enrichment opportunities for the *Visions Program* in the 2008-09 school year.

S.A.F.E. - School Age Fun and Enrichment

The *School Age Fun and Enrichment (SAFE) Program* is a self-funded, licensed, school-age childcare program for children K-5 that was begun in 1986. *SAFE* is provided before and after school at all three elementary buildings. *Kinder-SAFE*, located in the Early in the Early Childhood Education Center next to Hicks gym, is designed for kindergartners during the half of the school day that they don't have class. *SAFE Summer Fun Camp* offers approximately 12 weeks of planned recreational and enrichment activities for children in 1st through 5th grade.

Early Education Services

Plainwell Community Schools works in partnership with the *Early Education Services Department* of the Allegan County Intermediate School District to provide high quality services to all families with preschoolers. All EES programs, including playgroups, are available to Plainwell families and are offered to all families in Allegan County. Last year 77 playgroups were offered county-wide including seven held at Starr elementary school in Plainwell.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) – Highly trained parent educators conduct regularly scheduled home visits with parents whose children are under the age of three. Using the *Parents as Teachers* curriculum, parent educators support and guide parents so that they are more likely to provide their child with a safe, nurturing, enriching environment that will lead to school readiness. Frequency of visits is based upon the needs of the family. Currently 760 children and their parents are receiving PAT services county-wide, of which 63 are in the Plainwell School District.

Allegan County Even Start (ACES) – *Even Start* is a family literacy program. *ACES* serves low literacy families which have at least one child under the age of eight. Most client families attend one of three *ACES* centers, although occasionally a family is served in the home. Day care, preschool, and adult education are all provided at the center. Currently 63 families are enrolled in the *ACES* program, with ten of them being residents of the Plainwell School District.

Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP) – This is a state funded preschool program for four-year olds. Children attend classes, each staffed with a certified teacher and assistant, four half-days a week from October through May. *MSRP* provides an enriched, developmentally appropriate environment focused on preparing the students for success in kindergarten. Currently, 152 students from five school districts attend the five *MSRP* centers including 32 from Plainwell.

Technical & Education Center

The Allegan County Area Technical and Education Center (ACATEC) offers one-year and two-year programs in a variety of vocational/technical areas. All programs require students to master several skills or competencies before earning their certificate. Programs are designed to prepare students for immediate employment and/or further education. Enrollment at the Tech/Ed Center is arranged through the Plainwell High School counseling department in cooperation with the students' teachers and parents.

Last year over 40% of the ACATEC graduates went on to post-secondary education. The Technical and Education Center has articulation agreements with Baker College, Davenport College, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Kellogg Community College. Eligible students can earn college credit while at the center. While attending the center, students are encouraged to participate in student organizations. Students also participate in competition at local, regional, state, and/or national levels. This past year 64 students from Plainwell participated in programs at the Tech/Ed Center. In addition, special education students and those with special needs also participated.

Students, parents, community members, and guests are always welcome at Plainwell Community Schools.

This report has been compiled and printed by the Plainwell Board of Education as required by law in the State of Michigan's Public Act 25 of 1990.

Plainwell Community Schools
600 School Drive
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
269-685-5823

Visit us at: www.plainwellschools.org

Cooper Elementary

Principal: Brad Wyant
 7559 N. 14th Street,
 Kalamazoo, MI 49009
 (269) 349-2674

ACCREDITATION STATUS

Cooper Elementary School has made the required *Adequate Yearly Progress* on the MEAP tests in reading and math for the 2007—2008 school year. Our composite score for last year was 94% and 96.3% respectively, with a grade equivalent of an "A". We are working to meet, all state accreditation standards.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-2008

Cooper Elementary is fully accredited by the State of Michigan under Education Yes! and continues to meet all requirements for a public school. The goal for all students at Cooper Elementary is that they read at grade level, that they demonstrate grade level skills in writing, and that they perform mathematics computation and problem solving at grade level.

3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The school improvement plan for meeting these goals includes: 1) district-wide grade level meetings that review district goals in curriculum, pacing, and assessment, 2) analysis of student work in writing and corresponding rubrics used for evaluation, 3) analysis of student performance on curriculum based common assessment, 4) discussion of ideas and lessons that work based on classrooms instructional strategies proven to be effective in improving student performance, and 5) follow up lesson discussions with decisions to incorporate these effective lesson plans in all classrooms at a given grade level.

In addition, monthly building grade level meetings were used to 1) review district goals in curriculum, pacing, and assessment; 2) analyze student work in writing and corresponding rubrics used for evaluation; 3) analyze student performance on curriculum based common assessments; 4) discuss ideas and lessons that work based on classrooms instructional strategies proven to be effective in improving student performance; 5) review and support the implementation of the 90 minute guaranteed reading curriculum; 6) review and support the implementation of the 75 minute guaranteed math curriculum; and 7) monitor and discuss the implementation of the tier model of reading intervention.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCORES

Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Tests—Percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards.	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
3rd Grade Reading	95	98	100
3rd Grade Writing	72	64	79
3rd Grade Total English Language Arts	93	96	94
3rd Grade Math	95	98	96
4th Grade Reading	82	91	98
4th Grade Writing	51	55	60
4th Grade Total English Language Arts	77	91	95
4th Grade Math	88	95	98
5th Grade Reading	80	89	89
5th Grade Writing	50	78	72
5th Grade English Language Arts	72	87	85
5th Grade Math	85	94	96
5th Grade Science	85	98	91
5th/6th Grade Social Studies	93	86	88

Standardized Test Results Grade Equivalent of Average Score:	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Reading-Grade 1 (expect 1.8)	2.3	2.7	2.7
Reading-Grade 2 (expect 2.8)	3.7	3.7	4.3
Reading-Grade 3 (expect 3.8)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reading-Grade 5 (expect 5.8)	6.6	6.7	6.8
Math-Grade 2 (expect 2.8)	3.6	3.7	3.8
Math-Grade 3 (expect 3.8)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Math - Grade 5 (expect 5.8)	6.5	6.8	7.1

PARENT/GUARDIAN
 CONFERENCE
 PARTICIPATION
2007-08
 Fall: 99% boys, 98% girls
 Spring: 99% boys, 99% girls
2006-07
 Fall: 98% boys, 99% girls
 Spring: 99% boys, 99% girls

COOPER STATISTICS
 Grades Served: K-5
 Certified Staff: 16
 Non-Certified Staff: 10
 Student Enrollment: 265
 Parent Group: Cooper Parents' Club

Mission Statement: In partnership with the community, Cooper Cares: Celebrates success, Achieves trust, Reinforces strong character, Excels in education, Secures a safe and caring environment.

Gilkey Elementary

Principal: Beth Green
707 South Woodhams
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 685-2424

ACCREDITATION STATUS

Gilkey Elementary School has made the required *Adequate Yearly Progress* on the MEAP tests in reading and math for the 2007-2008 school year. We are working to meet all state accreditation standards. Gilkey earned an "A" on the Michigan School Report Card.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-2008

Gilkey Elementary is fully accredited by the State of Michigan under Education Yes! and continues to meet all requirements for a public school. The goal for all students at Gilkey Elementary School is that they read at grade level, that they demonstrate grade level skills in writing, and that they perform mathematics computation and problem solving at grade level. Gilkey established a building leadership team to study data and lead school improvement goal setting.

3 - 5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The school improvement plan for meeting these goals includes: 1) district-wide grade level meetings that review district goals in curriculum, pacing, and assessment; 2) analysis of student work in writing and corresponding rubrics used for evaluation; 3) analysis of student performance on curriculum based common assessment; 4) discussion of ideas and lessons that work based on classrooms instructional strategies proven to be effective in improving student performance; and 5) follow up lesson discussions with decisions to incorporate these effective lessons plans in all classrooms at a given grade level.

In addition, monthly building grade level meetings were used to 1) review district goals in curriculum, pacing, and assessment; 2) analyze student work in writing and corresponding rubrics used for evaluation; 3) analyze student performance on curriculum based common assessments; 4) discuss ideas and lessons that work based on classrooms instructional strategies proven to be effective in improving student performance; 5) review and support the implementation of the 90 minute guaranteed reading curriculum; 6) review and support the implementation of the 75 minute guaranteed math curriculum; and 7) monitor and discuss the implementation of the tier model of reading intervention.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCORES

Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Tests—Percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards.	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
3rd Grade Reading	88	99	88
3rd Grade Writing	72	69	79
3rd Grade Total English Language Arts	88	97	87
3rd Grade Math	89	95	98
4th Grade Reading	92	94	94
4th Grade Writing	68	49	56
4th Grade Total English Language Arts	91	87	89
4th Grade Math	89	95	97
5th Grade Reading	85	87	89
5th Grade Writing	74	66	NA
5th Grade Total English Language Arts	85	84	NA
5th Grade Math	77	88	85
5th Grade Science	84	90	93
5th/6th Grade Social Studies	82	87	88

Standardized Test Results Grade Equivalent of Average Score:	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Reading-Grade 1 (expect 1.8)	2.4	2.0	2.2
Reading-Grade 2 (expect 2.8)	3.6	3.5	3.5
Reading-Grade 3 (expect 3.8)	N/A	N/A	NA
Reading-Grade 5 (expect 5.8)	6.3	7.1	6.3
Math-Grade 2 (expect 2.8)	3.3	3.3	3.3
Math-Grade 3 (expect 3.8)	N/A	N/A	NA
Math - Grade 5 (expect 5.8)	6.8	6.9	6.4

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION
2007-08 Fall: 98% boys, 99% girls Spring: 96% boys, 97% girls
2006-07 Fall: 97% boys, 99% girls Spring: 95% boys, 96% girls

GILKEY STATISTICS
Grades Served: Pre-K - 5 th
Certified Staff: 27
Non-Certified Staff: 18
Student Enrollment: 425
Name of Parent Group: Gilkey Parents' Club

Mission Statement: The community of Gilkey Elementary School provides a nurturing and inspiring educational environment for all students to grow in academic and personal excellence.

Starr Elementary

Principal: Laurie Lanphear
601 School Drive
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 685-5835

ACCREDITATION STATUS

For statewide accreditation, Starr Elementary School has made the required *Adequate Yearly Progress* on the MEAP tests in reading and math and has met or is working toward all other state accreditation standards. Starr earned an "A" on the Michigan School Report Card.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-08 AND 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Starr Elementary staff has been actively involved in evaluation of student profiles and establishing goals that will further enhance academic achievement for our students. Our building school improvement team has led our efforts in developing and implementing strategies to improve learning in all academic subjects through the use of Professional Learning Communities. For the 2007-08 school year, grade level teams have worked together to focus on our primary goal of improving writing skills across the curriculum. Through the use of the Six Traits + 1 Model teachers have assessed student writing and made instructional adjustments to enhance our curriculum delivery.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCORES

Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Tests—Percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards.	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
3rd Grade Reading	77	87	84
3rd Grade Writing	44	48	55
3rd Grade Total English Language Arts	66	78	80
3rd Grade Math	83	90	95
4th Grade Reading	93	81	87
4th Grade Writing	48	48	53
4th Grade Total English Language Arts	85	77	81
4th Grade Math	90	81	87
5th Grade Reading	80	91	81
5th Grade Writing	64	56	56
5th Grade Total English Language Arts	77	86	76
5th Grade Math	82	92	79
5th Grade Science	82	94	87
5th/6th Grade Social Studies	90	85	87

Standardized Test Results Grade Equivalent of Average Score:	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Reading-Grade 1 (expect 1.8)	2.1	2.3	2.3
Reading-Grade 2 (expect 2.8)	3.1	3.3	3.3
Reading-Grade 3 (expect 3.8)	N/A	N/A	NA
Reading-Grade 5 (expect 5.8)	6.1	6.6	6.4
Math-Grade 2 (expect 2.8)	2.0	3.3	3.2
Math-Grade 3 (expect 3.8)	3.2	N/A	NA
Math – Grade 5 (expect 5.8)	6.2	6.7	6.4

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION
2007-2008 Fall: 96% boys, 95% girls Spring: 92% boys, 94% girls
2006-2007 Fall: 95% boys, 97% girls Spring: 93% boys, 95% girls

STARR STATISTICS
Grades Served: K-5
Certified Staff: 39
Non-Certified Staff: 24
Student Enrollment: 571
Name of Parent Group: Starr Parents' Association

Mission Statement: Starr Elementary encourages a positive environment where staff, parents, students, and community work together to develop lifelong learners.

Middle School

Principal: William Willett
 Assistant Principal: Christopher Macklin
 720 Brigham St.
 Plainwell, MI 49080
 (269) 685-5813

ACCREDITATION STATUS

For statewide accreditation, Plainwell Middle School has made the required *Adequate Yearly Progress* on the MEAP in reading and math and has met or is working toward all other state accreditation requirements. PMS earned an "A" on the Michigan School Report Card.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-2008 AND 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our school improvement efforts this year have been undertaken in our department groups. Our math, English, science, and social studies departments have met at least monthly to revise their courses to align with the new Grade Level Content Expectations and to write common unit assessments. The results of these assessments will be used by each grade and department to find strengths and weaknesses in their curriculum and instructional delivery. The departments are continuing to make adjustments and set improvement goals by grade and subject. Our unified arts department revamped their three year program to allow for six-week exploratory courses, to expand foreign language, and to assure that all students receive physical education at some point in their middle school years.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCORES

Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Tests—Percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards.	2005-06	2006-07	2008-09
6th Grade Reading	86	92.8	90
6th Grade Writing	73	75.7	80
6th Grade Math	85	82	88
6th Grade Social Studies	N/A	85.6	87
7th Grade Reading	83	88.9	81
7th Grade Writing	72	80.5	82
7th Grade Math	75	81	83
8th Grade Reading	85	83.5	83
8th Grade Writing	77	70	77
8th Grade Math	80	79.5	82
8th Grade Science	85	83.1	89
8th/9th Grade Social Studies	89	N/A	N/A

MIDDLE SCHOOL STATISTICS

Grades Served: 6-8
 Student Enrollment: 649
 Certified Staff: 40
 Non-Certified Staff: 8
 Name of Parent Group:
 Plainwell Middle School
 Parent Group

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2007-2008
 Fall: 67% boys, 63% girls
 Spring: 61% boys, 52% girls

2006-2007
 Fall: 94% boys, 96% girls
 Spring: 94% boys, 95% girls

Mission Statement: Plainwell Middle School Preparing for Today and Tomorrow: Plainwell Middle School is a safe environment where everyone cooperates to become life-long learners and responsible community members.

Plainwell High School

Principal: Ron Faurot
 Asst. Principal: Gary Shepich
 684 Starr Road
 Plainwell, MI 49080
 (269)685-9554

COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The staff at Plainwell High School is actively involved in continuous improvement of our academic programs. We are in the trimester schedule which provides students with more opportunities to take classes. All areas of curriculum are standardized based upon benchmarks and curriculum maps. Goals and objectives were prioritized and instructional calendars are followed in each department. Additionally each department administers common final exams for all students in each course. This past year, staff has worked on aligning existing maps to the expectations set forth in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. It is our goal in the upcoming year to use test data to indicate best targets for continuous improvement.

IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

This past year Plainwell High School outscored all other schools in Southwest Michigan on composite MEAP scores. Results like these indicate that we are headed in the right direction.

POST-SECONDARY AND COLLEGE EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT

During the 2007-2008 school year, six Plainwell High School students received credit for nine college courses at Kalamazoo Valley Community College or Western Michigan University through Dual Enrollment. Plainwell High School offered seven advanced placement courses and 111 of our students took a total of 164 Advance Placement Exams during national testing dates in May.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCORES

MEAP Test Results: Percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests (MEAP):	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Reading	86	77	65
Writing	69	46	40
English Language Arts	NA	66	53
Mathematics	71	58	47
Science	76	71	64
Social Studies	77	97	86

Scores are reported for the junior class. The number of 2008 graduates who earned a Michigan Merit Scholarship Award: 233 seniors out of a class of 233.

ACT Results Average scores on the American College Testing Program (ACT) for Plainwell H.S.	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Number of Students	121	113	TBA
English	21.5	21.7	TBA
Math	22	22.6	TBA
Reading	22.4	23.3	TBA
Science	22.8	23.4	TBA
Composite	22.3	22.9	TBA

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2007-2008

Fall: 33% (133 girls, 171 boys)
 Winter: 39% (196 girls, 164 boys)
 Spring: 23% (105 girls, 105 boys)

2006-2007

Fall: 32% (164 girls, 124 boys)
 Winter: 38% (174 girls, 166 boys)
 Spring: 25% (115 girls, 109 boys)

HIGH SCHOOL STATISTICS

Grades Served: 9-12
 Certified Staff: 51
 Non-Certified Staff 7.5
 Enrolled: 918
 Parent Groups:
 Athletic Boosters
 Band Boosters

The mission of Plainwell High School is to provide students with opportunities to become responsible, productive, critically thinking citizens with the capacity to learn in a changing society.

Renaissance High School

An alternative education program

Debra Burle;
Director of Adult, Alternative and
Community Education
422 Acorn Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 685-1573

MISSION STATEMENT

Another Choice. Another Chance.

To provide students with the opportunity to obtain high school credentials so they can be competitive in the job market and become contributing community members.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

Renaissance High School is an offsite school of Plainwell Community Schools. Renaissance High School provides its own curriculum and graduation. We are endorsed by and registered with the State of Michigan and by the Plainwell Board of Education. We participate in all school improvement activities, MEAP testing, and ACT/MME.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-2008

Curriculum Success

- The school doubled its capacity for students to take courses via NovaNET, the computerized HS curriculum.
- Implemented NovaNET pilot program at Allegan County Even Start in Otsego.
- English Language Arts off-line assignments were added to the ELA curriculum.
- Junior Achievement partnered in offering a pre-business course.
- Students experienced a 1 1/2 grade level jump from beginning to the end of the school year.
- 16 out of 17 eligible students took the Michigan Merit Exam.
- The school added the following new courses: Math Prep (Pre-Algebra) and Notetaking.

Renaissance High School Other Successes:

- ▶ The school continued its resiliency conflict training with Communications Concepts, a Grand Rapids based program led by an experienced sports therapist.
- ▶ More students participated in the Life Skills, Job Shadowing and Co-Op programs coordinated by the school's Life Skills Instructor.
- ▶ A sports fitness time period for basketball was continued and a softball intramural league.

Renaissance High School Advisory Board

The Renaissance High School Advisory Board consists of nine members (school and city officials, local business owners, a parent and staff). The purpose of the group is to advise and offer student opportunities in the areas of academics and job improvement. The group met three times and worked on improving school policy and procedures. For information on becoming an advisory board member, please call 685-1573.

RENAISSANCE ADULT & ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL STATISTICS

Enrollment

- 170 students were served by Renaissance High School
- Programs available: First and second shift Alternative High School Completion, Credit Recovery, Even Start and GED preparation
- Grades served: 8-12 & Adult Education classes
- 2008 graduates: 21 students
- Classroom attendance continues to average at 71%.

Staffing

- Three full time staff members: director, teacher and instructional aide
- One part-time secretary
- One part-time life skills instructor
- Three part-time evening Adult Education teachers
- One part-time recreation director

Community Education

422 Acorn Street
Plainwell, MI 49080

The Community Education office coordinates youth recreation, enrichment workshops, and family events which are advertised in *School Matters* three times per year. Programs which demonstrate a sufficient number of participants are retained each year. These include:

- Father/Daughter Valentine Dance
- Mother/Son Sports Event
- Youth Recreation Camps
- Kindermusik* classes
- Jr. Hoopsters
- Indoor Soccer
- Summer Youth Ball
- Line Dancing
- Computer Classes
- Indoor Walking for Adults and Families
- Senior Citizen Holiday Breakfast & Program
- Senior Fitness Classes
- Senior Citizen Cards—Euchre
- KVCC Courses

Several office improvements were made including: tighter audit controls for processing money, reduced paper use, processing charge card payments online, and tracking registrations through Microsoft Excel.

School Improvement Plan and Accreditation

Each Plainwell school is accredited by the State of Michigan through the Education YES! Accreditation program. The schools' accreditation status and plans are included in the individual building reports on pages 6-11.

Each school has a school improvement structure, either made up of a school improvement team, a results team, or subject area department teams. These teams set their individual improvement goals based on analyzing student assessment data and student work, develop strategies for accomplishing their improvement goals, and meet regularly all year to assess progress.

Parent and Community

One of the most important factors in a child's educational success is the commitment of parents or guardians, which comes in many forms, and actively involves many Plainwell parents. Parent participation in kindergarten and pre-school parenting activities increased this year. Participation in elementary parent-teacher conferences approached 100%. It is important for parents, teachers, and students to discuss each student's progress on a regular basis. To encourage and measure parental participation, records are maintained and reported on the number and percentage of students whose parents or guardians participate in the scheduled fall and spring parent-teacher conferences. Each school's individual Annual Report (printed on earlier pages) includes these numbers and percentages.

Hundreds of parents serve as volunteers in Plainwell classrooms, media centers and gyms. Parents also provide excellent leadership and support in individual building parent clubs, booster clubs in support of band and athletics, and as active members of district-wide school committees and the Plainwell Education Foundation, a non-profit organization working to enhance education in Plainwell schools.

Plainwell District Vision

Plainwell Community Schools exist to prepare our students for a changing society by developing their intellectual abilities and skills while promoting good character, health, and civic responsibility. While recognizing a shared responsibility with the home and community, we will be guided in our pursuit of excellence by the following values:

Knowledge

We will teach our students what they need to know based on a foundation of sound educational research.

Challenge

We will set high curriculum and assessment standards for all students.

Respect

We will recognize and honor the dignity, diversity, and worth of all individuals.

Integrity

We will be honest and follow through on our commitments to each other, our students, and the community.

Nurturing Environment

We will foster the development of each individual's self-worth.



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. 2007-2008

Central Office

Superintendent
Susan Wakefield

Director of Accounting Services
Patricia Carr

Director of Curriculum
& Instruction
Bob Van Dis

Director of Operations
& Facilities
Greg Smith

Director of Technology
Jeff McNutt

Communication & Information
Holly Harrington

Principals

High School Principal
Ron Faurot

High School Asst. Principal
Gary Shepich

Middle School Principal
Bill Willett

Middle School Asst. Principal
Chris Macklin

Cooper Elementary Principal
Brad Wyant

Gilkey Elementary Principal
Beth Green

Starr Elementary Principal
Laurie Lanphear

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Adult, Alternative
& Community Education
Debra Burley

Athletic Director
William Andrew

Food Services
Jason Russell

Gifted & Talented Program
Beth Green

SAFE Child Care
Nancy Gregory

Transportation Services
Myra Atkinson