

2008-09
Annual Report



Whitmore Lake
Public Schools

8845 Main Street, Whitmore Lake, Michigan 48189 (734) 449-4464 www.wlps.net



WLPS Vision—

Providing each individual the inspiration to dream and the skills to succeed in a global society

WLPS Mission—

Partnering with students, parents, and the community to provide exceptional, personalized education

WLPS Guiding Principles—

*Integrity
Diversity
Innovation
Leadership
Respect
Stewardship
Citizenship*

Whitmore Lake Public Schools, 8845 Main Street, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189, subscribes to equal opportunity in its employment as required by law and does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, familial or marital status, or disability in its programs and activities.



Providing Exceptional, Personalized Education

Whitmore Lake Public Schools' mission is to "partner with students, parents and the community to provide exceptional, personalized education." Since 2005, the WLPS Board of Education has recognized several parents and staff members with EPE awards. Nominations of those observed providing exceptional, personalized education within the district are submitted and evaluated based on an EPE rubric. Recipients are recognized publicly at School Board meetings and presented with framed certificates.

2008/09 recipients included:

Pamela Blount,

Media Technician, for incorporating Spanish into students' library visits and for hours spent on her own time to provide the "Eagle News" in-district TV news program.



Wendy Lemons,

HS Science teacher, for her effectiveness in leading Volunteer Service Days, a new program with 90% of high school students participating.



Tom DeKeyser,

HS Principal, for his creativity in working with students in challenging situations, serving as a role model and providing personalized curricula when needed.



Jean Hoelt,

MS Math teacher, for providing students a unique learning experience combining math and history while on a class trip to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg.



Introduction

The Whitmore Lake Public School District continues to strive to achieve its mission of "partnering with students, parents and the community to provide exceptional, personalized education." This annual report provides a snapshot of various measures of success as well as activities that were pursued at the building level in support of our mission. Although MEAP/MME-ACT data is only one measure of academic achievement, it does provide information for the district to use when evaluating whether the curriculum is addressing the required standards. Working together we will continue to see all students progress. We believe the annual report presents an opportunity to share with the community the ways in which the school district is working to improve achievement for all students. We appreciate the support of parents and the community in the important work of educating our children.

2008-09 Operating Budget

Revenue:	\$ 11,856,367
Expenditures:	\$ 11,754,360
Total Fund Balance*:	\$ 897,884

*Of the total fund balance, \$223,939 is restricted for specific purposes and \$673,945 is unrestricted.

Curriculum

The district curriculum The District Curriculum Committee worked hard during the 2008-09 school year to develop a curriculum review document that will be used to help our teachers focus specifically on the instructional content and best teaching practices in each of the core curriculum areas. The document will help us to narrow the focus of the committee to one or two main subject areas each year.

Our staff members are continually working to develop our curriculum in a way that best meets the needs of our students. In each building, staff members meet regularly to discuss, modify, and realign curriculum. Test scores are reviewed regularly and information from meetings and workshops is shared. The District Curriculum committee meets several times a year to discuss K-12 curriculum issues. Our goal is to provide each student with an exceptional, personalized education.

Points of Pride

- 100% state police school bus inspections for six consecutive years.
- 100% compliance of special education completion dates and counts to the state for three consecutive years.
- 100% on the WISD Fall 2008 student count desk audit.
- LEED® Silver certified high school opened in September 2006 continues to set an example for green school construction.



Testing Data

MEAP scores

MEAP scores are reported as an average of all students who took the exam.

Grade/Subject	WL2006	WL2007	WL2008	State Avg. 2008
3rd Math	89%	96%	98%	91%
Reading	94%	91%	94%	86%
Writing	56%	67%	67%	61%
ELA	86%	90%	92%	83%
4th Math	77%	86%	88%	88%
Reading	86%	95%	88%	83%
Writing	41%	50%	35%	44%
ELA	77%	87%	73%	62%
5th Math	75%	54%	68%	77%
Reading	83%	76%	83%	82%
Writing	44%	54%	62%	63%
ELA	73%	73%	79%	78%
Science	91%	75%	85%	83%
6th Math	59%	64%	68%	80%
Reading	85%	88%	82%	81%
Writing	65%	79%	82%	76%
ELA	75%	85%	81%	80%
Social Studies	76%	73%	74%	74%
7th Math	61%	78%	89%	83%
Reading	84%	84%	85%	80%
Writing	54%	82%	82%	78%
ELA	79%	84%	85%	80%
8th Math	73%	57%	80%	75%
Reading	66%	78%	78%	76%
Writing	59%	70%	74%	74%
ELA	60%	76%	82%	77%
Science	82%	87%	85%	76%
9th Social Studies	61%	71%	83%	72%

Graduation Rates

	WLHS	State Avg.
2007/08	84.62%	76%
2006/07	84.71%	75%
2005/06	78.26%	85.75%
2004/05	87.02%	87.7%
2003/04	89.22%	88.7%
2002/03	85.09%	84.8%
2001/02	84.48%	86.25%

Drop Out Rates

	WLHS	State Avg.
2007/08*	7.69%	14.19%
2006/07*	8.24%	15.09%
2005/06	5.77%	3.79%
2004/05	3.57%	3.3%
2003/04	3.08%	3.0%
2002/03	3.46%	4.1%
2001/02	3.71%	4.14%

*Beginning in 2006/07, the state changed the method of calculation to more accurately reflect district rates and individual student achievement.

Disaggregated MEAP data - Fall 2008

The State requires the MEAP data be broken down, or "disaggregated" into subgroups requiring a report of the average score of only the students who passed.

Grade/Subject	Male	Female	Economically disadvantaged	Non-economically disadvantaged
3rd ELA	90%	93%	91%	92%
Math	98%	98%	94%	100%
4th ELA	63%	82%	67%	79%
Math	86%	89%	75%	98%
5th ELA	73%	84%	76%	81%
Math	70%	66%	62%	71%
Science	85%	84%	86%	83%
6th ELA	74%	85%	64%	88%
Math	64%	70%	57%	72%
Social Studies	77%	72%	61%	80%
7th ELA	97%	84%	77%	90%
Math	84%	93%	80%	93%
8th ELA	78%	86%	86%	79%
Math	86%	73%	71%	85%
Science	84%	86%	60%	88%
9th Social Studies	92%	64%	70%	82%

2009 MME

Grade/Subject	WL 2008	WL2009	State Avg. 2009
11th Reading	66.6%	63%	60%
Writing	40%	51%	43%
ELA	52%	57%	52%
Math	45%	52%	49%
Science	57.5%	71%	56%
Social Studies	87.5%	90%	81%

*ELA—English Language Arts, a combined reading and writing assessment.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Enrollment

September Count

	2008	2007	2006
K-garten	120	106	108
1 st grade	89	93	96
2 nd grade	88	86	83
3 rd grade	89	85	83
4 th grade	84	81	103
Total:	470	451	472

Special Awards

Student awards include:

Attendance Awards, Honor Roll, the Presidential Award, Safety Patrol Recognition, Student Achievement Awards, and individual classroom awards.

Parent Participation

Parent participation is an important part of the educational process at Whitmore Lake Elementary.

100 percent of our students were represented by parents or guardians at conferences during 2008-2009.

Parents regularly participate in the education of their children through volunteering in PTA sponsored activities: North Pole Night, Movie Nights, Rollerama, Fourth Grade Celebration, Talent Show, Drama Club, Chess Club, Science Fair, Family Dance and Family Fun Night. Parents and guardians are invited to attend, volunteer and/or chaperone many school events: Open House, Book Fairs, Pioneer Day, Listening Friends, Portfolio Night, Motor Moms and Dads and Grade Level Music Programs and field trips.

Building Summary

Education YES! Grade—B (Composite score: 89%)

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) - Yes

Highly Qualified Teachers—100%

Attendance Rate—94% (The State objective is 80%.)

School Improvement Plan

The Leadership and Design Team continued to use MAP (Measurements of Academic Progress) assessments, MEAP tests and TestWiz reports more effectively to improve student achievement. Teachers met in grade level teams to review the data and develop plans to improve curriculum. Fourth graders were given a comprehensive summer review packet designed to strengthen the math curriculum. Fourth and fifth grade teachers analyzed specific MEAP test data. This supported our district goal of using assessment data to plan for school improvement.

All teachers completed mapping the math and language arts curriculum online. This provided teachers an opportunity to review the expectations in grade level teams, organize resource materials and provide consistent assessment that addresses grade level content expectations in writing. Teachers focused on developing a more consistent writing curriculum. This goal supports a consistent and coordinated curriculum within and between grade levels.

In addition, the staff worked to develop more consistent math and writing curriculums. All teachers are using 6+1 Traits to teach writing and now use a common writing rubric. Grade level meetings focused on how to use the rubric, common writing prompts and student writing samples. With the focus on math through summer packets, MEAP scores improved in 3rd through 5th grades.

In 2009/10 the School Improvement Team will be participating in a new data assessment project at the WISD. Our purpose will be to learn how to choose data effectively to drive improvement in student achievement.

Curriculum

Our district curriculum is aligned with the state standards and grade level expectations in all content areas. The Elementary School has representatives on the District Curriculum Committee. Teachers continued working in grade level teams on curriculum, resources and assessments in language arts.

Evaluation

Students are assessed using MEAP tests, MAP, pre/post testing in all core content areas, MLPP assessments, portfolios, rubrics, and other authentic classroom assessments.

Professional Development

During the 2007-2008 school year staff development included training new members and learning how to support writing with the Instructional Consultation Team, Assessment review, Atlas curriculum mapping, TestWiz training, Title 1 Reading, non-violent crisis intervention, Power School, Math Learning Cohort, 6=1 Writing/Wee Write, writing rubrics, behavior, classroom visitations, Critical Friends and Brain Gym.

Special Awards

Student Awards include: Attendance, Honor Roll, Presidential, Safety Patrol, Student Achievement, Principal and other individual classroom awards.



MIDDLE SCHOOL



Building Summary

Education YES! Grade—A (Composite score: 86%)

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) - Yes

Highly Qualified Teachers—100%

Attendance Rate—93% (The State objective is 80%.)

School Improvement

In 2007, the School Improvement Committee combined with the building Leadership & Design team to focus our conversations and school improvement efforts. Parents, students, staff and Board of Education members comprise the committee.

The committee focused on the following three goals:

1. **We will increase the reading proficiency for all students in the middle school by 25% each year as shown on their standardized testing data.**
2. **We will improve number sense and operations proficiency by 25% in the middle school as shown on their standardized testing data.**
3. **We will increase proficiency in detailed writing and audience purpose for all students in the middle school by 25% each year as shown on standardized testing data.**

WLMS is committed to closing the achievement gap between general education students and those students who come to us with special needs. We have made great strides in this area. For example, our 6th grade special education students went from 7% proficiency to 53% proficiency for an increase of 657%. Our 7th grade special education students' aggregate scores went from 11% to 40% for an increase of 263%.

Of course, these types of gains were not realized in all areas or grade levels. In fact, our aggregate score in 8th grade math dropped from 73% proficiency to 57%. We will be examining the factors related to this decrease in order to improve.

Curriculum

Our district and school view the curriculum as a fluid document. It is continuously reviewed and updated in response to areas of strength and weakness.

Evaluation

Students are assessed using MEAP, MAP and local assessments. Assessments are varied and include the use of rubrics, portfolios and other best practices.

Professional Development

Staff engaged in a wide variety of professional development opportunities.

In-service training was conducted in the area of formative assessment (Measure of Academic Progress). Teachers attended various trainings and conferences such as: Non-violent crisis intervention, WISD Math Steering Committee, MEAP Assessment, MALDE, MSBOA, MAMSE, Angry Child, Technology Lab training, MACUL, Assistive Tech., Career Cruising, EDP, Reading Apprenticeship, Michigan Education Conference.

Extra/Co-Curricular Opportunities for Students

Model UN, Student Council, Junior National Honor Society, Tech Club, Design by Nature Program – EMU, Athletics, Talent Show, Homework Club, Drama Club, Builders Club, Science Olympiad, Science Fair, Fifth and Eighth Grade DARE Program, Take Your Child to Work Day

Enrollment

September Count

	2008	2007	2006
5 th Grade	73	101	93
6 th grade	94	91	104
7 th grade	89	93	95
8 th grade	94	90	97
Total:	350	375	389

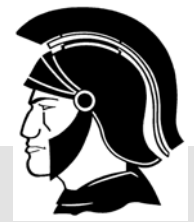
Special Awards

Awards include: Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Perfect Responsibility Code, Presidential Academic Fitness, Awards for RoboFest Competitions, Athletic Awards, Physical Fitness Awards, Behavior/Responsibility Code, Students of the Month, and individual classroom awards are presented to students who earn them.

Parent Participation

We have a Very Interested Persons (VIP) Committee of parents and staff who meet quarterly to discuss issues involving the middle school. Curriculum, MEAP testing, parenting, school improvement and enrichment activities have all been focus areas during the school year. A more comprehensive transition plan for fourth grade students and parents has been developed. We have included parents on our school improvement team and on our human sexuality committee. 56% percent of parents attended parent/teacher conferences.





HIGH SCHOOL

Enrollment

September Count

	2007	2006	2005
9 th grade	124	148	114
10 th grade	119	92	108
11 th grade	84	109	75
12 th grade	90	70	72
Total:	417	419	386

Parent Participation

The staff at WLHS utilizes bi-weekly progress reports, email and websites for communication with parents. In addition, our district hosts a parent-teacher conference in the fall. In 2008 a total of 53% of our parents participated in parent-teacher conferences.

Total represented in 2007	37%
Total represented in 2006	33%
Total represented in 2005	44.7%
Total represented in 2004	38%

Advanced Placement

WLHS offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses to students. These are comparable to entry level college courses and prepare students to take the related AP test in May for possible college credit. In order to receive a passing test score a 3 or a 4 must be earned out of a possible 4 points.

Course	# Tested	# Passed
AP Calculus	3	2
AP Language	11	5
AP Literature	14	4
AP Government	21	13

Building Summary

Education YES! Grade—B (Composite score: 86)

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) - YES

Highly Qualified Teachers—100%

Accreditation Status

North Central Outcomes Accredited

School Improvement

Professional learning communities will be means by which the staff of WLHS continues to meet it school improvement requirements. Our goals are still focused on developing a rigorous and relevant curriculum for all students, improved achievement scores on ACT, PLAN, and EXPLORE tests, and striving toward a 100% graduation rate. WLHS renewed its North Central Outcomes Accreditation last year and will continue to do so in the future.

A Reading Apprenticeship program was utilized in one English class during the 2007/08 school year. In 2008/09, freshman level social studies, English, and science teachers were trained in the Reading Apprenticeship program. In 2009/10 all freshman and sophomore teachers will be trained.

Curriculum

Our core academic curriculum cover grades 9 through 12. It describes what a student will know and be able to do for each core subject area. All WLHS curricula are based upon the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Evaluation

The school's student body is evaluated both formally (unit exams and quizzes, projects, final exams) and informally (oral questioning and answering, discussions, and debates) on a regular basis. Standardized tests (including the MEAP, EXPLORE, PLAN, and MME), along with the curriculum review process are used to evaluate the curriculum and student body.

Professional Development

The staff at WLHS participated in several conferences last year including, but not limited to, MME assessment conferences, language arts and social studies conferences, model school conferences, and curriculum development conferences. Additionally, a curriculum writing program called Atlas has been added and a group of teachers will work with the principal on a year-long Leadership and Design program sponsored by WISD.

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment, an extension of the high school curriculum, allows students to attend courses at local colleges in addition to their high school. During the 2008/09 school year, eleven students enrolled in one or more postsecondary courses.

ACT Scores

The ACT test is taken by most students who will be attending college. It is given at the end of the junior year or at the beginning of the senior year and is used for college admission in the state of Michigan.

Year	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	WL	State	WL	State	WL	State	WL	State	WL	State
06/07	20.3	20.7	20.4	21.3	22.4	21.8	21.0	21.7	21.2	21.5
07/08	19.1	18.7	19.6	19.5	20.1	19.8	20.5	19.9	19.9	19.6
08/09	19.0	18.6	19.1	19.6	20.2	19.6	20.5	20.1	19.8	19.6



