

# Cascades Elementary

Annual Report 2008-2009



## **Cascades Elementary**

1200 S Wisner St.  
Jackson, MI 49203

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Principal:  
Edward D Principal  
Students: 298  
Grades: K-2

Goals for 2008-09

Mission Statement

Student

Achievement

### **Mission Statement:**

We, the Cascades School Community, are dedicated to the educational development of each child. We hold that ALL students will learn the essential academic and social skills necessary for success in the world.

*Adopted 2003-04*

### **Working Together to Improve Student Achievement**

Cascades staff is committed to doing whatever it takes to help our students achieve. We have been working on collaborative teams over the past six years to better meet the academic needs of our Kindergarten through Second Grade students. Each teacher addresses the importance of learning styles, social and emotional development, and curriculum integration. This approach has allowed teachers to focus on the important district objectives and State outcomes in each core academic area.

Literacy is a major priority at Cascades. Our staff has worked to incorporate a variety of strategies in their instruction to improve the ability of our students to construct meaning from both narrative and expository text. Narrative text is the type of writing in story format that has characters, settings, problems and solutions. Expository text is the type of writing students read in social studies and science books. It is factual information. We also work to improve each student's ability to write in variety information. We also work to improve each student's ability to write in a variety of formats. The importance we also place on Mathematics has been demonstrated by the success of our students. The students have demonstrated consistent success as measured by the MEAP assessments. We focus our attention to helping students develop a deeper understanding to the

mathematics concepts and be able to apply that knowledge

in a variety of ways. We are addressing the gap that exists between our subpopulations as measured on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade MEAP assessments. The discrepancies between genders have improved significantly. We still need to continue to reduce the gap that exists in ethnicity. Our staff will continue to implement strategies to address the needs of all students at the Cascades.

The entire staff at Cascades will continue to work collaboratively to provide outstanding learning experiences for the students we serve. We are proud of the improvements we have made and recognize the challenges we face to continue to improve.

### **Goals 2008-2009**

- All students will be explicitly taught the skills and strategies of effective writing and qualities of good writing.
- All students will demonstrate an ability to use mathematical processes and develop deeper understanding of all mathematics strands, standards and benchmarks.
- All students will develop an improved ability to recognize, organize and interpret sounds clearing a better auditory processing, learning and social interaction.

**School Development Plan**

Our main focus is to improve student achievement. We are committed to improving our students' ability to read narrative and expository text, and become more proficient on important math and science objectives. We have placed a special emphasis on helping our students better understand how informational text is organized. We are working hard to improve the academic progress of students at Cascades. Our School Development Plan identifies specific language arts, math, social studies, science and writing strategies that Cascades teachers will utilize to meet the needs of our students. We will continue to work together so that our students achieve the State's performance standards.

**Our Curriculum and Evaluation Process**

At Cascades, we believe that we can continually improve only that which we can continually assess. Our instructional focus is based on the Jackson Public Schools objectives and the State of Michigan grade level content expectations (G.L.C.E.). These instructional objectives are addressed on criteria-referenced tests as measured on the MEAP assessments.

Each teacher evaluates his or her students using out-comes assessments in core academic areas. This data is used as formative assessments to guide instruction. Our educational process focuses on many facets of education. Our primary focus is improving student achievement. Other important areas we evaluate include student attendance, safety and student discipline.

**Staff Development Activities in 2007-2008**

The district and staff development for 2007-2008 focused on our School Development goals and Instructional strategies. The

following is a list of topics addressed:

- Differentiating Instructional Strategies
- Bullying, harassment, and emotional violence
- Rethinking "Urban" Public Schools
- Understanding the culture of poverty strategies to meet the needs of students and generational poverty
- No Child Left Behind
- Everyday Mathematics, curriculum training
- Social Studies Alive curriculum training
- Customer Service

**Parent/Teacher Conferences**

One of the most important factors in a child's educational success is the involvement of parents and guardians. Each year, Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled to ensure that success. Each year, we have an outstanding response from parents attending Fall Conferences. Teachers contact parents by phone or note to schedule additional opportunities for those unable to attend the regularly scheduled sessions. Spring conferences are held to address serious concerns by either the parent or teacher.

Each month we conduct ASSIST meetings to identify strategies for the classroom teacher and parent to use in an attempt to improve the academic and social success of the student.



**Accreditation Status**

Cascades has met AYP in both Reading and Mathematics based on the State of Michigan standards. The composite grade for Cascades was a B. The following is the School Report Card for the 2007-08

school year.

English Language Arts	
C	
Mathematics	
C	
Achievement Subtotal	
C	
Indicators of School Performance	
A	
Preliminary Grade	
B	
AYP Status	Met
AYP	
(Adequate Yearly Progress)	
Composite Grade	
B	

**Student Achievement**

A wide variety of ways are used to measure and report student progress and achievement levels. No one measure can capture the full range of a student's learning and achievement, therefore, a variety of measures are used at Cascades. Teachers work with students individually, in small groups, and as an entire class. Some assessments are informal, others formal. A number of assessments are used to guide the teachers in their instruction. Other assessments, such as MEAP scores of Frost 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that attended Cascades are given for measuring the success the school is having in meeting State Content Level Expectations.

Cascades is proud of its teachers who prepared the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students (now at Frost) to succeed on the MEAP in October 2007.

Subject	School	Year	Performance Levels
Reading	Cascades	2007	91%*
	Cascades	2006	80%
Reading	JPS	2007	81%
	JPS	2006	76%
Writing	Cascades	2007	59%*
	Cascades	2006	36%
Total ELA	Cascades	2007	81%*
	Cascades	2006	66%
Math	Cascades	2007	89%*
	Cascades	2006	82%
Math	JPS	2007	84%
	JPS	2006	84%
*Proficient or advanced			

