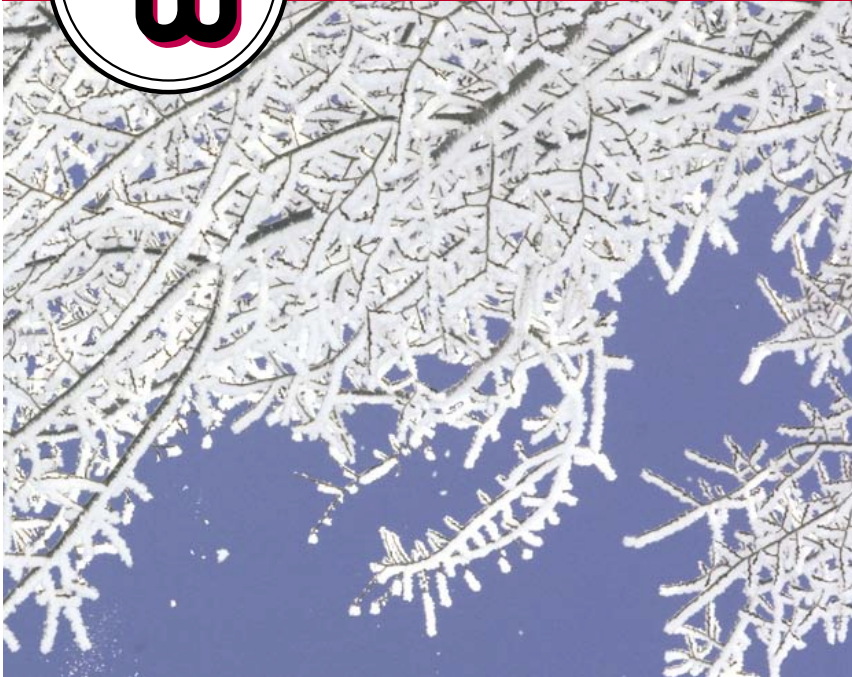




Northwest Community Schools



Annual Report

2008-2009



Board of Education

President

Christopher P. Kelly

Vice President

Connie S. Sayles

Secretary

Kevin Kingsley

Treasurer

Kimberly A. Jayne

Trustees

James A. Lawrie

Robert Sayles

Phillip LaMaire

Administration Office

4000 Van Horn Rd., Jackson, MI 49201

Phone: 817-4710

Superintendent of Schools

Emily Goodwin

817-4710

Director of Operations

Thomas H. Goodwin

817-4710

Transportation

817-4707

Northwest Elementary

3757 Lansing Avenue

817-4704

Valerie Shelters

Principal

Parnall Elementary

3737 Lansing Avenue

817-4705

Lorri McAlpine

Principal

R.W. Kidder Middle School

6700 Rives Junction Road

817-4703

Dan Brooks

Principal

R.W. Kidder Middle School

6700 Rives Junction Road

817-4703

Bryan Gilreath

Assistant Principal

Northwest High School

4200 Van Horn Road

817-4701

Scott Buchler

Principal

Northwest High School

4200 Van Horn Road

817-4701

Chris Galloway

Assistant Principal



Administration Building

Northwest High School

4200 Van Horn Road

817-4701

Damien Hiram

Assistant Principal

Athletic Office

4200 Van Horn Road

817-4701

Alternative/Community Ed.

4100 Van Horn Road

817-4702

Paul Scholz

Principal

Child Care

3737 Lansing Avenue

817-4708

Janice Benedict

Director

Technology Office

4000 Van Horn Road

817-4710

Michael Tucker

Coordinator

Curriculum K-12

4000 Van Horn Road

817-4710

Cari Bushinski

Director

Food Service

4000 Van Horn Road

817-4709

Patti Russell

Director



Northwest Community Schools | Student Achievement

Student achievement is measured in numerous ways in Northwest Community Schools. In addition to state mandated testing (MEAP and MME), students participate in specific classroom assessments, contribute to their language arts (writing) portfolio, have their progress measured according to the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile and share their mastery of the district exit standards during senior portfolio.

Reported scores indicate the percentage of students who are proficient on state assessments. Where available, state scores have been reported alongside Northwest's scores, for comparison. We are very proud of the achievement levels our students have shown.

Fall 2008 MEAP Demographic Report

Third Grade	Reading		Writing		Total ELA		Math	
	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State
All Students	83%	86%	59%	61%	80%	83%	92%	91%
Male	81%	85%	53%	56%	78%	81%	92%	92%
Female	87%	88%	66%	66%	83%	86%	92%	91%
Economically Disadvantaged	76%	79%	48%	48%	70%	74%	89%	86%
Special Education	56%	63%	26%	31%	71%	55%	67%	80%

Fourth Grade	Reading		Writing		Total ELA		Math	
	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State
All Students	91%	83%	44%	44%	84%	77%	95%	88%
Male	87%	81%	36%	39%	84%	74%	96%	88%
Female	93%	85%	52%	50%	84%	79%	93%	88%
Economically Disadvantaged	87%	73%	37%	30%	79%	64%	92%	80%
Special Education	58%	55%	10%	17%	48%	44%	77%	68%

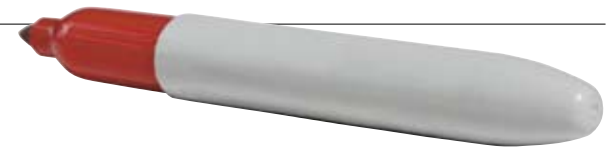
Fifth Grade	Reading		Writing		Total ELA		Math		Science	
	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State
All Students	84%	82%	63%	63%	79%	78%	85%	77%	87%	83%
Male	79%	80%	57%	58%	75%	76%	86%	78%	85%	83%
Female	88%	83%	70%	69%	83%	81%	84%	76%	89%	83%
Economically Disadvantaged	76%	70%	50%	49%	71%	66%	76%	64%	82%	72%
Special Education	36%	49%	14%	26%	23%	42%	35%	47%	52%	64%

Sixth Grade	Reading		Writing		Total ELA		Math		Social Studies	
	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State
All Students	90%	81%	75%	76%	86%	80%	83%	80%	75%	74%
Male	87%	78%	68%	71%	81%	77%	81%	79%	76%	74%
Female	92%	83%	80%	80%	90%	82%	84%	81%	74%	73%
Economically Disadvantaged	86%	69%	62%	64%	82%	68%	77%	69%	63%	59%
Special Education	65%	45%	22%	37%	39%	41%	29%	45%	21%	40%

Seventh Grade	Reading		Writing		Total ELA		Math	
	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State
All Students	81%	80%	82%	78%	83%	80%	86%	83%
Male	82%	77%	76%	72%	83%	76%	84%	81%
Female	81%	83%	87%	84%	83%	84%	88%	84%
Economically Disadvantaged	69%	68%	73%	67%	73%	69%	76%	72%
Special Education	45%	43%	45%	38%	50%	41%	41%	46%

Eighth Grade	Reading		Writing		Total ELA		Math		Science	
	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State	NW	State
All Students	72%	76%	70%	74%	73%	77%	82%	75%	77%	76%
Male	69%	73%	64%	68%	69%	73%	81%	75%	78%	75%
Female	75%	79%	76%	81%	76%	81%	83%	74%	76%	77%
Economically Disadvantaged	51%	63%	53%	62%	51%	64%	77%	62%	58%	62%
Special Education	15%	35%	4%	31%	15%	34%	33%	39%	33%	42%

Ninth Grade	Social Studies	
	NW	State
All Students	66%	72%
Male	63%	73%
Female	69%	72%
Economically Disadvantaged	57%	57%
Special Education	30%	37%



Northwest High School - School Summary Report - MME - Spring 2009

MME Reading					
	Level 4 Apprentice	Level 3 Basic	Level 2 Met Standards	Level 1 Exceeded Standards	Levels 1 & 2
Northwest	16%	29%	53%	1%	54%
State	16%	24%	57%	3%	60%

MME Writing					
	Level 4 Apprentice	Level 3 Basic	Level 2 Met Standards	Level 1 Exceeded Standards	Levels 1 & 2
Northwest	12%	49%	38%	1%	39%
State	10%	47%	40%	4%	43%

MME Total ELA					
	Level 4 Apprentice	Level 3 Basic	Level 2 Met Standards	Level 1 Exceeded Standards	Levels 1 & 2
Northwest	14%	42%	43%	0%	44%
State	12%	36%	49%	3%	52%

MME Mathematics					
	Level 4 Apprentice	Level 3 Basic	Level 2 Met Standards	Level 1 Exceeded Standards	Levels 1 & 2
Northwest	46%	14%	37%	3%	40%
State	36%	15%	37%	12%	49%

MME Science					
	Level 4 Apprentice	Level 3 Basic	Level 2 Met Standards	Level 1 Exceeded Standards	Levels 1 & 2
Northwest	28%	19%	47%	6%	53%
State	29%	15%	48%	8%	56%

MME Social Studies					
	Level 4 Apprentice	Level 3 Basic	Level 2 Met Standards	Level 1 Exceeded Standards	Levels 1 & 2
Northwest	6%	10%	41%	43%	84%
State	8%	11%	39%	42%	81%

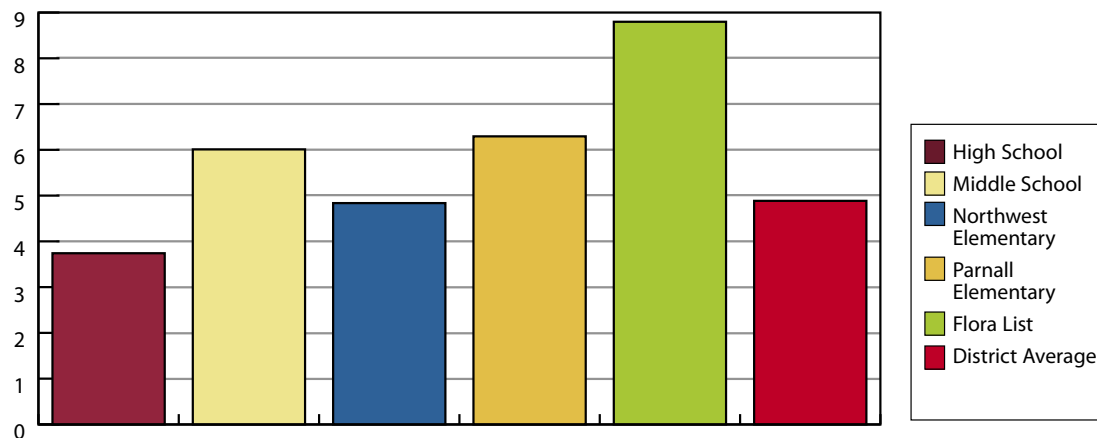


2008-2009 Computer Ratios

Building	Student to Computer Ratio	Student Computers	Feb 2009 Student Count	Total Computers	Laser/Inkjet Printers	Class Rooms	Computer Labs
High School	3.63	265	963	341	25	54	11
Middle School	5.98	124	742	180	30	48	4
Northwest Elementary	4.83	88	425	118	24	21	1
Parnall Elementary	5.34	79	422	95	24	21	1
Flora List Elementary	8.71	49	427	72	21	26	1
Alternative Ed	3.45	20	69	30	3	5	1
Central Office*				22	21		
District Average	4.88	625	3048	858	148	175	19

*Central Office Includes Athletics, Transportation, Curriculum and Technology Offices

2008 - 2009 Student to Computer Ratios



Daily Attendance Rates 2008-2009

Flora List Elementary	86%
Parnall Elementary	96%
Northwest Elementary	98%
R.W. Kidder Middle School	94%
Northwest High School	93%

Parent Participation

The Northwest Community School District staff recognizes that education is a partnership between parent and teachers. It is very important for parents to become actively involved in their child's education. This involvement shows students that parents value their education and promote a positive school experience. Parents are invited to participate in various school activities throughout the school year. These activities include but definitely are not limited to the following: Parent/Teacher conferences, Parent/Teacher organizations, field trips, Family Educational Nights, advising, chaperoning, and classroom volunteering.

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4000 Van Horn Road

Michael Tucker

Coordinator

Food Service

4000 Van Horn Road

Patti Russell

Director





Mission Statement

The mission of Northwest Community Schools, in partnership with the community, is to provide a learning environment which will challenge and inspire all students to become self-sufficient, independent thinkers, and lifelong learners.

Belief Statements

At Northwest Community Schools, We Believe...

- In high student achievement for all students.
- That learning is relevant to the real world.
- That students will become lifelong critical thinkers and problem solvers in a global society.
- In the individual learning needs of all students.
- In using appropriate teaching and learning strategies that are researched and best practices.
- In using integrated technology in all areas of education.
- That interpersonal relationships are vital to increased student learning.
- In multi-way communication with community, parents, staff, and students



Student Exit Outcomes

Communication Skills:

The student will demonstrate effective communication skills through competence in the following areas:

- Reading • Writing • Speaking • Listening

Core Curriculum:

The student will demonstrate competency in the Core Curriculum in the following areas:

- Language Arts • Social Studies • Science
- Mathematics • Technology

Citizenship:

The student will demonstrate understanding of good citizenship through:

- Community Participation
- Participation in Classroom Activities
- Exhibiting Respect, Responsibility, and Reliability

Core Curriculum

The Northwest Community Schools has adopted a comprehensive curriculum development process. This process includes a six-year cycle in which every curriculum area is reviewed extensively and aligned with state model curriculum. Recommendations for improved content and instructional strategies are made to the Board of Education at the completion of each curriculum study. The Northwest Community Schools has adopted a 5 Phase comprehensive curriculum development process. This process includes the following phases: Research and Study, Development and Pilot, Implementation, Evaluation, and Monitoring. Recommendations for improved content and instructional strategies that are aligned to the State Content Expectations are made to the Board of Education prior to the Implementation Phase. During the 2008-2009 school year, Chemistry, Physics, Algebra II and K-5 Science were researched and studied. Biology, Geometry, K-5 Social Studies, American Literature were implemented and are in the Evaluation Phase.

Profile

Northwest Community Schools is one of the largest, and most outstanding school districts in the area. The district includes approximately 143 square miles and serves over 3,500 students in Kindergarten through twelfth grade and another 600 children and adults through an extensive Child Care and Adult & Community Education Program.

The district was among the first five K-12 school districts in the state to have all of its schools fully accredited by North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. North Central requires member schools to meet certain levels of excellence with regard to curriculum, staffing and services. These standards give assurance to the community that the district is doing the very best to offer quality education within the given resources of the community.

Over 350 experienced, dedicated teaching and supportive staff members provide professional learning experiences and services. The large majority of the teaching and administrative staff have obtained advanced degrees and continue to upgrade their professional skills. All staff members are provided opportunities for inservice and self-improvement activities.

The 25,000 residents of the district have selected Northwest Community Schools because of quality programs, exceptional services and expectations for high achievement.

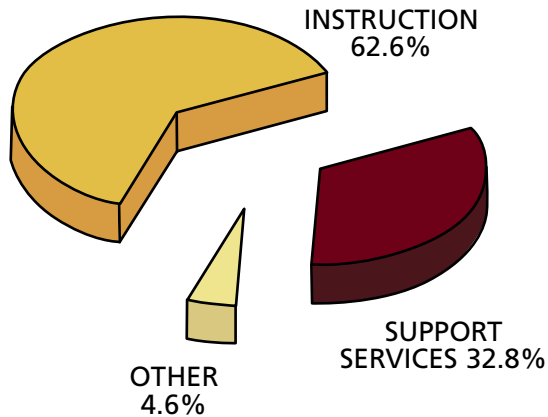
Specialized Schools

Lyle A. Tarrant Center - The Jackson County Intermediate School District operates the Lyle Tarrant Center, a school that provides special education services to students age three to the age of 26 who reside within the county. Eligible Northwest students participate at the center.

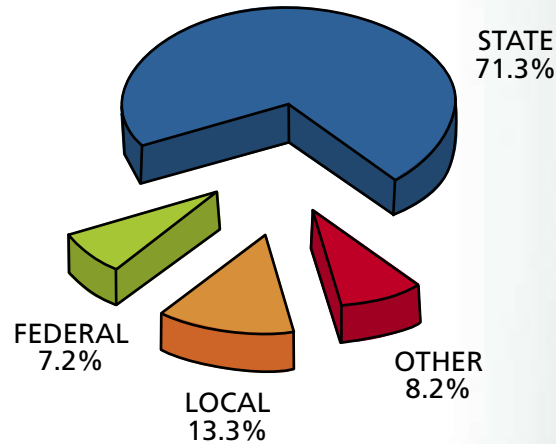
Jackson Area Career Center - The Jackson Area Career Center also provides vocational-technical education programs and services to students and adults from all schools in Jackson County. Northwest High School and Alternative Education students participate at the career center.



Expenditures 08-09



Revenues 08-09



During the 2007-2008 school year, the district continued to provide a sound and comprehensive educational program for the Northwest Community. Services included pre-school, child care, K-12 instruction, extra curricular, adult and alternative education, and community enrichment (including senior citizen programs). Due to the school funding formula, the State provided the major portion of the revenue for the district.

2008-2009 General Fund Budget - ACTUAL

Total Fund Balance (7/1)	3,109,014
Revenues	26,133,444
Expenditures	(26,225,572)
Revenues Over/(Under) Expenditures	(92,128)
Total Fund Balance (6/30)	3,016,886
Amount Reserved For Designated Obligations	(488,500)
(Unreserved) Fund Balance (6/30)	2,528,386



Statement of Purpose

Northwest Community Schools realize the critical role that parent involvement plays in helping students achieve their greatest potential. Parent and community input is invited and encouraged so that the partnership between home and school is strengthened. The partnership between families and Northwest Community Schools will help all Northwest children to be successful.

Through the parent involvement plan, Northwest parents, teachers, students and administrators collaborate to develop and promote strategies that enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents and families. It is acknowledged that when parents are involved:

- Students have higher grades, test scores and graduation rates.
- Students have better attendance.
- Students have increased motivation and better self-esteem.
- Students have decreased use of drugs and alcohol.
- Students have fewer instances of violent behavior.
- Students have lower rates of suspension.

Parent involvement means everything from helping your child with homework on a daily basis to volunteering in your child's school. It is encouraged from preschool through grade 12. The term "parent" represents any individual in a guardianship role for a student.

The development of this parent involvement plan is consistent with Northwest Community Schools Action Plans, III, B, Community Engagement and Communications.

#1 Gaining Northwest Parents' Input in Developing the Plan

The following actions will take place to ensure parent and community involvement in the development and revision of this plan:

- Distribute the parent involvement plan to parents and students in the student-parent handbook, which is distributed annually at the beginning of the school year. Input will be encouraged and invited.
- Communicate information about involvement opportunities in the district newsletter, on the district Web site, and in school building newsletters.

#2 Involving Parents in the Development of Title I Planning Process

The following actions will take place to involve parents in the development of the Title I planning process:

- Distribute surveys to parents to gain parent feedback on the Title I program. (e.g. Do parents see positive results evident in their child's learning? How can we better serve children and families?)
- Conduct Open Forums at beginning of year inviting parents of all eligible Title I students from all three elementary buildings.
- Ask parents to serve on the ECTF/Title I committee.
- Conduct an open meeting at the end of the school year for the purpose of program evaluation and revision.

#3 Providing Assistance & Other Support for Parents

Northwest Community Schools will coordinate technical assistance and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities by:

- Providing yearly brochures created by each classroom teacher that describe teacher qualifications, teacher standards and curriculum.
- Northwest Community Schools will create a "Parent Information" section on the district Web site that provides information and links
 - o Indicated by parent feedback on surveys.
 - o Resources aligned with research based reform efforts.

#4 Parent Opportunities & Other Programs

The Northwest Community Schools will coordinate and integrate opportunities for parent involvement with programs such as:

- Celebrity Reader Program
- Gold Club participation in Bucket Brigade
- FIA Center
- Great Parents, Great Start
- Blackman Township: Fire Safety and Other Programs
- Career Fair

#5 Annual Evaluation of Parent Involvement

The Northwest Community Schools shall conduct an annual evaluation of parent involvement at the end of each school year. The evaluation shall specifically look at barriers to parent involvement, level of parent involvement, and strategies to increase involvement of parents from all population segments. The evaluation shall comprise parent surveys and parent forum discussions. The district shall use information gathered from the evaluations to, for example:

- Evaluate, revise and update the actions and strategies to achieve a greater level of parent involvement.

#6 Involving Parents in School Activities

Northwest Community Schools' parents can be involved in school activities by:

- Helping their child with homework and using resources such as Home Links at the elementary level.
- Contributing specialized skills to the school through opportunities such as the Celebrity Reader program, career fairs, Trucker-Buddy program, etc.
- Volunteerism (e.g. field trips, classroom parents and helpers, book fairs, Parent/Teacher Organizations, Homecoming activities, athletic programs, Project Graduation, Trunk and Treat, etc.)
- Two-way communications through parent/teacher conferences, participating on Title I committees, attending parent meetings, providing input at open community meetings and Board of Education meetings, etc.

#7 Building School Capacity for Parent Involvement to Improve Academic

Northwest Community Schools shall set the groundwork and procedures to facilitate parent involvement in the present and future. To lay this groundwork, the district shall:

- Help educate parents on the state's academic content standards; academic achievement standards; state and local assessments; the requirements of Title I, part A; monitoring their child's progress; and working with educators.
- Provide parents with materials and training to help them work with their child to improve their child's academic achievement.
- Encourage administrators and staff members to reach out, communicate and work with parents as equal partners.
- Coordinate parent involvement activities with other community resources and programs.
- Communicate information about school and parent programs in an understandable format.



Philosophy

The program is designed to meet the developmental needs of young children. It provides experiences that enhance each child's cognitive, language, social, emotional, physical and creative development. Within the Center's daily schedule, each child has opportunities to create, explore the environment, learn problem solving and personal interaction skills, and learn concepts through first hand experiences. Children develop a positive self-concept through a balance of self and teacher directed activities. Opportunities for solitary play as well as group activities are provided. Staff serves as positive role models and provides care that is supportive, nurturing, warm and responsive to each child's individual needs. We respect parents as the primary and most important provider of care and nurturing, and we believe parents and teachers are partners in children's care and education.

Pre-School

The Preschool program is available September through May, with individual programs that are offered for three through five-year-olds. To qualify for any of the pre-school programs the child must be either three or four before December 1 of the calendar year, and live in the Northwest Community School District.

The program emphasizes pre-kindergarten skills, with activities designed to foster discovery and success in the following areas:

- Colors and Numbers
- Socialization
- Language
- Sizes and Shapes
- Rhythm and Movement
- Exploration
- Experimentation

In addition, a state funded Great Start Readiness program for four-year-olds is in its nineteenth year and provides preschool for children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate.

Kindergartern Latch-Key

The Center realizes the needs of working parents. This room accommodates the children that require extended day care. In this room the children are cared for before and after their kindergarten class. Activities are provided that parallel the learning that takes place in their general education classroom.

Youth Care

The Youth Care program for the six to twelve-year-old students operates before school and after school, half days, non-instructional days and vacation periods. The summer program for the youth provides a variety of activities that include:

- Field Trips weekly
- Supervised Sports
- Crafts
- Weekly Swim Program

Breakfast and afternoon snacks are provided. Playground and gym facilities are also available.

Childcare

Very limited spaces are available for children ages two-and-a-half through four years of age, for families that need extended day care after their regular preschool day.





Mission Statement

The Flora List Community strives to be a student-centered environment that encourages children to become life-long learners. To accomplish this, we will:

- Provide a warm and safe environment
- Stimulate natural curiosity
- Enhance creative and intellectual development
- Promote emotional, social, and physical well-being.

Profile

Principal: Lorri LM McAlpine

Grades Served: PreK-1

Enrollment K-1: 420

Attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Fall - 97% Spring - 94%

Flora List Elementary School has a dedicated staff that is committed to helping students succeed in school. An example of this dedication is the intense professional development of our teachers in Comprehensive Literacy to help our children learn to read.

Flora List offers a variety of educational programs to meet the needs of our students. We have five sections of Young Fives, five sections of Kindergarten, three Full Day Kindergarten sections, six sections of First Grade, and two Multiage classrooms.

Our staff works consistently as a team to improve methods of teaching, as well as increase the appreciation and love of learning in our students. The instructional staff includes 17 full time classroom teachers plus a Learning Specialist in Kindergarten and First Grade. All classroom teachers have been trained in Balanced Literacy and MLPP (Michigan Literacy Progress Profile). We also have instructors for music, physical

education, health and a full-time Guidance Counselor. All instructional staff members have a master's degree, a certificate endorsement, or other special training in early childhood beyond their bachelor's degree.

To help with the transition from home to school, Flora List Elementary has established an Early Childhood Task Force. Great Parents, Great Start is a part of this group. This Task Force is responsible for creating a link with children and parents before they reach school by providing reading resources and activities for parents and their children. Our Preschool is an important part of this program.

A Quality Assurance Review Team representing the North Central Association Commission on

Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), a division of AdvancED, visited Flora List

School in Jackson, Michigan on 01/30/2008 - 01/31/2008. The team examined the school's systems and processes in relation to the seven AdvancED standards: Vision and Purpose, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Documenting and Using Results, Resource and Support Systems, Stakeholder Communications and Relationships, and Commitment to Continuous Improvement. A report was given which noted the following strengths:

- We commend the school for their clear commitment to their vision and purpose. Their profile and SAR (Standards Assessment Report) statements came to life as we spent time with the school stakeholders and observed their setting and practice.
- Governance and leadership at the school is a strong model of distributive leadership and innovation at the district and school level.

During the 2008-09 school year, we continued to work on our School Improvement Plan.



Wonderful things happening at Flora List!

- Flora List students went to the High School for a pep assembly during Homecoming
- Kick Off to Learning
- Happy Holiday Reading
- AED/Response team drills
- Great Parent, Great Start activities
- Expanded to Three Full Day Kindergarten classrooms
- Bucket Filling activities
- Kids Hope USA
- Constitution Day
- 100 Day with Zero the Hero
- Teacher Academy
- Mrs. Bartman is Walmart's Teacher of the Year!



Mrs. Bartman is awarded Walmart Teacher of the Year!



Mission Statement

The mission of Parnall Elementary School is to provide a safe, accepting and encouraging environment that promotes learning, feelings of self-worth, and a successful future as responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide a safe, caring, supportive, and stimulating environment where children will recognize and achieve their fullest potential, so they can make their best contribution to society.

Our vision is that children will leave Parnall with:

- Respect for themselves and others.
- A set of positive character traits including honesty, integrity, and good judgment.
- A competency in the basic skills – linguistic, mathematical, scientific, artistic, physical, and social.
- Strong habits of mind – persistence, checking for accuracy, investigating multiple perspectives, finding connections, providing supporting evidence and seeking original applications of knowledge.
- An inquiring and discriminating mind, and a desire for knowledge.
- Strong self-esteem and high personal expectation.

We value the partnership which exists between school, students, parents, and community and recognize the vital role it plays in realizing this vision.

School Belief Statements

- A varying of teaching styles, strategies and techniques accommodate different learning styles.
- All students are entitled to financial backing, community support, and parental guidance in order to reach their fullest potential.
- School staff members are committed to their profession.
- The school community is composed of lifelong learners.
- Our school community fosters a safe, secure, orderly, well-maintained, and positive learning environment.

School Improvement Plan & Goals

The Parnall Community strives to be a student-centered environment that encourages children to become life-long learners. To accomplish this, we will:

- Provide a warm and safe environment
 - Stimulate natural curiosity
 - Enhance creative and intellectual development
 - Promote emotional, social, and physical well-being.
1. All students will improve reading across the curriculum.
 - Focus will be on decoding and comprehension.
 2. All students will improve in writing skills across the curriculum.
 - All students will use grade appropriate mechanics in their writing.
 - All students will write pieces with a beginning, middle and end.
 - All students will write an informational paragraph about a topic.
 3. All students will improve math skills across the curriculum.
 - All students will master addition and subtraction and multiplication facts and understand what they mean and apply them.
 - Students will know how to make a plan to solve problems and be able to solve 2-step problems.

Profile

Parnall Elementary School serves 410 students, grades 2-3, and has an average daily attendance of 96%. Learning opportunities in language arts, math, science, health, social studies, physical education and music are provided. Twenty-five professional staff members, who meet all highly qualified requirements, provide an environment that is conducive to learning. The background and experience of the staff allow the opportunity for students to be exposed to an array of experiences. Students receive support services from an instructional support team composed of two learning specialists and three paraprofessionals. Students receive support from Title I programs.

Accreditation

Parnall Elementary School, accredited by North Central Association (NCA) in 1987, has maintained Standard Accreditation by meeting all criteria such as keeping a well-trained staff and an adequate facility. In March 1995 we were granted Outcomes Accreditation Candidacy by the North Central Association. During the 1996-97 school year each target area goal committee presented staff in-service to implement



and assess each goal. We received a positive validation from a North Central visitation team that year.

During the 1997-98 school year the Accreditation team visited Parnall. Their recommendation was that Parnall receive outcomes accreditation. In March of 1998 Parnall was elected as an NCA outcomes accredited school at the NCA annual convention in Chicago. Each year since then Parnall's accreditation has been renewed at the NCA convention. Last year Parnall participated in a Quality Assurance Review by NCA and again received accreditation. This year we will continue to further our work on the School Improvement goals.

Points of Pride

- PTO sponsored assemblies and field trips
- Accelerated Reader
- ZAP Program
- Music Programs
- School Newsletters
- Early Childhood Task Force sponsored parent events:
 - Kick-Off for Learning
 - Holiday Reading Night
- Youth Haven Camp Scholarships
- Field Day
- Support Groups – Full Time Counselor
- Parent Resource Room
- All teachers trained in Michigan Literacy Progress Profile
- Mileage Club
- Author Visit
- Monday Assemblies
- Character Education
- Project Y.E.S.
- Computer Lab
- Parnall's Got Talent! Program

Parent & Community Participation

The school year begins with an "Open House." During the school year, parent events include a "Kick-Off for a Successful Year of Learning," Parent Reading Nights, parenting seminars and family fun nights. The PTO is very active and involved supporting student activities with fundraising. More than 200 volunteers contributed thousands of hours helping students and staff.



Northwest P.O.W.E.R. Company

The Northwest P.O.W.E.R. (Pride, Order, Work, Enthusiasm and Respect) Company is in its 14th year at Northwest Elementary School. This character education program has been a major part of the school's day-to-day efforts and has contributed immensely to Northwest Elementary's success. The program, funded by the P.T.O., develops and supports positive values and high academic achievement.



Mission Statement

"The mission of the Northwest Elementary School is to provide for our children a safe environment where all unique individuals are inspired to achieve their highest potential to be effective, respectful, and honorable members of society."

Profile

The Northwest Elementary School came into existence in 1983 and serves 425 students in grades four and five. The school has seven fourth and six fifth regular self-contained grade classrooms. Each grade level has a one RISE (Rich Inspiring Student Education) classroom. The two RISE classrooms are made up of 44 at-risk learners each. The school offers five special education rooms including a county-wide emotionally impaired room, an outstanding Title I program, and a large Media Center and a full-size gym. A professional staff of 27 and a large support staff combine to offer a well-rounded upper-elementary program. All teachers are highly qualified according to federal standards.

Accreditation

The school has been accredited by the North Central Accreditation Association since 1985, and has continued to meet all criteria for accreditation. The school has completed the 5th year in the NCA Performance Accreditation model with implementation of the school improvement plan. In the spring of 2008 the school had their NCA review. The QAR (Quality Assurance Review), was completed and Northwest Elementary

received accreditation with no provisions. Northwest Elementary has joined with Parnall Elementary School, Kidder Middle School and Northwest High School, in a combined effort to ensure success for all students as they move through the Northwest Community Schools. Although successful, the QAR did recommend greater communication of vision and purpose, update school profile with data support, and a better plan for monitoring of goals and strategies.

Parent Participation

The Northwest Elementary P.T.O. actively promotes and organizes supportive activities, which assist the school in a variety of ways, including fund-raising projects, fairs, open houses, book fairs, skating parties, talent show and bi-annual carnivals. The organization has been instrumental in helping us upgrade the technological equipment offered to our students. Working together with the parent group, local community volunteers annually contribute over 2000 hours in tutoring, clerical assistance, chaperoning, and helping with classroom projects and presentations. Last fall 96% of the parents participated in parent-teacher conferences. Conferences are held in the spring and fall each year. Parents are welcome throughout the year. Each parent will have the opportunity to fill out a survey during the 2009 – 2010 school year. The survey covers; instruction, curriculum, classroom environment, parental input, administrative policy and practices, counseling services and overall school climate.

School Improvement

Northwest Elementary School is participating in the district-wide NCA Performance Accreditation Model for School Improvement, which is a five-year process. We have completed Year Five. The accomplishment for the 06-07 school year was the continued implementation of a school improvement plan focused on the three academic goals selected by the District NCA Steering Committee. The three goals have been adopted for all buildings, which will provide for continuity and consistency in our instructional efforts.

- All students will improve their reading skills across the curriculum
 - All students will improve their writing skills across the curriculum
 - All students will improve their math skills across the curriculum
 - All schools will analyze and use data to drive instruction
- All teachers served on goal committees and determined the



instructional focus and learning targets for each of the four goals. The school improvement plan provides strategies, assessments, and professional development for each goal area. In 2009-10 we will continue to implement data analysis to drive instruction and assure educational quality. This will enhance school improvement efforts. Our plan will be monitored and adjusted during the coming year to maximize student learning in reading, writing and math.

Points of Pride

In addition to the core curriculum, many opportunities for enrichment and expanded programs are offered.

- Northwest POWER Company
- POWER Council
- Field Days
- Education/Cultural Assemblies
- Field Trips
- Drama
- Computer Lab
- P.O.W.E.R. Speakers
- Drug-Violence Prevention Programs
- RISE Program
- Community Service
- Student Choral Presentations
- Academic Awards
- Got Art!
- Fifth Grade Breakfast
- Student Credit Union
- Healthy Choices Program
- REACH Classroom
- Playground Peacemakers
- March is Reading Month
- Family Nights
- Walking Club
- Fifth Grade Graduation
- Fifth Grade Lock-In
- Kids on the Block
- Talent Show

Profile

R.W. Kidder Middle School was transformed from Northwest Junior High School as a result of a restructuring effort in the 1998-1999 school year. We have three grades consisting of the 6th, 7th and 8th serving 750 students. Each grade level has two teams of teachers and all four-core subject areas are taught within the team (math, social studies, science and language arts). There are nine exploratory teachers who teach eight exploratory offerings (healthy living, technology, art, instrumental music, vocal music, Spanish, physical education and fitness). All teams are grouped together in the same physical location. In addition to the core areas and exploratories, R. W. Kidder supports special education services including a MOCI room, a MICI room, resource rooms, and Intermediate School District Services. Three computer labs service the school including a Learning Lab that was added in the 2006-2007 school year. Learning Lab is staffed by a certified teacher who offers students additional support including study skills, work completion, and hands-on instruction. Our technology class contains computer stations as well as a digital cameras and video recorders that are used for student presentations. Forty-one teachers, a learning specialist, two counselors, and two principals staff the building.



Mission Statement

The mission of Northwest R.W. Kidder Middle School, in partnership with the community, is to actively guide students toward academic competence, positive social skills and creative problem solving abilities so that all students may become responsible goal oriented learners who are respectful and productive citizens for life.

Building Philosophy/Vision Statement

R.W. Kidder Middle School models an exemplary middle school. It exists within the supportive community it serves. Because all students are valued, education programs and techniques are adapted to help them maximize their potential. The students respond to the caring and creative environment with enthusiasm, confidence and respect. Everyone working together and utilizing latest technology prepare students for their future. Our students become the foundation for an exemplary community.

Accreditation

R.W. Kidder Middle School earned a fully accredited rating by the North Central Association of Schools for the 2007-2008 school year. During the school year, the middle school (S.I.T.) and staff spent time:

- 1) Developing the School Improvement Plan
- 2) Reviewing the Mission Statement and Vision Statement
- 3) Collecting and updating baseline data
- 4) Completing a needs assessment for our next NCA cycle
- 5) Determining committees for areas of need in the building
- 6) Developing professional development activities for early release days

School Improvement

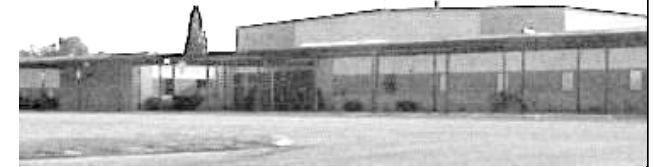
The School Improvement Team (S.I.T.) met monthly and planned professional development activities for the Middle School this year. Topics planned and carried out during early releases were: Curriculum alignment, data dialogues with departments, adaptations and reviews of pacing guides, analyzing MEAP scores and MEAP questions, determining needs for NCA goals, review of student-teacher relationships, introduction to technology updates that will take place as a result of the technology bond and a review of homework and weighting of grades.

Parent Involvement

Parents are actively involved with activities in the Middle School. Last year, parents supported several fundraisers and helped run a successful canned food and coat drive. Band and choir parent groups have always boasted a high level of involvement. Our parents have been active as chaperones at school parties as well as on field trips. Parents have also assisted in classrooms and frequently meet with teacher teams regarding curricular and student support issues. Parents were able to



monitor student grades and progress online through Parent Connect. Next year, this same service will be offered through Power School.



Points of Pride

- Over 400 students earned academic awards at our year-end ceremony.
- Students are offered after school help and support from certified teachers every Tuesday and Thursday.
- Eighth grade students have the opportunity to earn high school credits in science, algebra, and foreign language.
- Adapted and advanced curriculum opportunities were offered in language arts and math.
- Authors Clarence Underwood and Gary Schmidt visited our school to speak to our students about making good life choices and the importance of reading and writing.
- Our band and choir programs gained honors at district level competition with "P" ratings and our choir was rated exceptional at state competition. Individual students acquired many honors at state solo and ensemble competitions. Our students gained honors in choir by being named to the State Honors Choir.
- The middle school S.U.P.E.R. (Success, Unity, Pride, Enthusiasm, and Respect) Council sponsored "Ice Breaker Week" which raised over \$1700 for the American Cancer Society.
- The food and coat drives were very successful in supporting the local community.
- Our building has 20 Smart Boards in our classrooms that enhance both teacher instruction and student learning.
- Eighth grade students had the opportunity to attend a field trip to Washington D.C. as part of the "Living History" curriculum.
- Every month, two students were selected as "Students of the Month" for demonstrating positive behaviors.
- KMS Athletes are not charged a fee for participation in school sponsored sports including football, cheerleading, basketball, volleyball, wrestling and track.





Mission Statement

It is the mission of Northwest High School to educate all of its students to the level at which they are prepared to enter their next stage of life, including the world of work or further education. Instruction will be provided in academics, the arts, along with social and life skills to enable them to become useful and productive citizens of their communities.

Building Philosophy

Northwest High School operates on a philosophy of opening pathways for our students. Our goal is to acquaint students with their greatest assets and strengths, help them identify how they learn best and encourage them to develop a four-year plan designed to maximize their career options. Students are encouraged to keep as many options alive as possible, since many of the career areas that our students may access in the future have not even been developed. We believe that rigor, relevance and relationships should drive our school structure and are striving to improve each of those areas.

Building Profile

Northwest High School is a comprehensive four-year high school, fully accredited by the North Central Association. Our staff of 53 teachers, 2 ½ counselors, 3 Administrators, 6 secretaries, and 15 other support staff members served approximately 1000 students daily. Students took six classes each day. Class periods lasted 60 minutes. The physical plant was opened in 1967, with a subsequent addition in the early 1990's. Five portable classrooms supplement our plant at this time. We have been able to infuse technology in recent years—we maintain 5 classrooms with full class sets of computers, and have 3 portable laptop laboratories available throughout the building. Attendance and grading has been adapted to electronic formats over the past few years.

School Improvement Goals

The faculty of the High School has been working on school improvement goals as follows:

- To monitor the progress of school initiatives to ensure that all participants are implementing the program as intended. Establish a process for review of the strategy and for analysis of student achievement results.
- Establish a communication system that is timely and inclusive.
- Solidify the decision-making process by establishing a cross multidisciplinary team empowered to make decisions that impact school improvement initiatives.
- Institute a process for gathering and analyzing student data that will be used by teachers in making instructional decisions.
- To increase use of data to drive teacher instruction.
- To continue positive relationships with students, staff and community.
- To increase writing proficiency scores on the ACT by 3%.
- To increase proficiency scores on the ACT by 5%.
- To increase reading proficiency scores on the ACT by 5%.

Parent Involvement

Parents are especially welcome at the High School. Many times, we see a lower level of participation at Parent/Teacher conferences than at the elementary and middle school level. This is a transitional phase in life for young people, but we think that parent involvement is critical to student success. Parents are welcome to attend conferences, chaperone events, join a booster group or two, and so much more. Students may tell you it doesn't matter if you are involved, but studies show that it does matter.

Check out the volunteer opportunity link on the left hand side of the home page.

Parents can sign up for access to up-to-date grades, attendance and discipline information through the Northwest Community Schools web page—www.nwschools.org—and click on the "Power School" tab on the top of the page. This gives you access to great information 24/7.



Points of Pride

- Our student newspaper, The Moxie Mountie, earned the highest award given by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association—The Spartan Award. This is the fifth "Spartan" in the last seven years. Congratulations to all the staff members, Editor in Chief Kyle Francis, and advisor, Mr. Ron Woodruff.
- Mr. Bowen's German students took many top honors at the annual German Day competition held at the University of Michigan.
- Our yearbook staff, under the direction of Miss Hade, took home 11 of 20 possible awards in individual categories in the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association competition.
- Mike LeHolm won the State wrestling championship in his weight class.
- Student government officers earned 3 individual scholarships from the Red Cross.
- The Northwest High School band performed in Boston, Massachusetts, with the Boston Pops.
- Our girl's tennis team earned all-state academic honors as a team.
- Northwest High School students gave over 1200 hours community service within the district and thousands of dollars to charity.
- Northwest High School continues its strong tradition in band and choir.
- We've implemented our Project Lead the Way program (pre-engineering program).
- We're proud of our strong community support for our students and athletes.
- Michigan Green School.





Mission Statement

The mission of Northwest Alternative and Community Education is to provide a helpful, safe and nurturing environment designed to challenge students to assume responsibility and encourage them to achieve their best in each learning opportunity encountered throughout their lifetime.

Profile

Northwest Alternative has been in existence since 1987. One of Michigan's longest standing Alternative Educational programs, NWA boasts a strong academic program, a normalized approach to working with "At Risk" students and a warm and friendly client-based approach to learning.

The school works diligently on behavior and attitude, but our main objective has always been helping students earn credits toward graduation.

Every instructor at the school is certified by the state of Michigan in their areas of expertise, a unique aspect for any school, but particularly for an alternative program. NWA is a member of the Michigan Alternative Educational Organization and the Michigan Alternative Athletic Association.

Normalization

NWA provides an academic environment as close to the mainstream academic approach as possible. Classroom lectures, special course projects and regular social opportunities are all a part of the learning experience provided by the school. Students share in the advantages provided by the regular high school, while receiving the special attention necessary for the success of the "at risk" population. Daily expectations and course requirements are solid enough for NWA graduates to receive the regular Northwest High School diploma.



School Atmosphere

Northwest Alternative's success is attributed to a caring learning atmosphere. Self confidence is weaved into the school's regular activities as individual student accomplishment and personal achievements are acknowledged on a regular basis. Academic, attendance and citizenship incentives are meshed with a proactive approach to daily problem solving. Both attributes lend themselves to a healthy learning environment for students who struggle with today's complex societal barriers.

Weekly grades are posted on teacher's doors for vital tangible feedback for student efforts. Work credits are offered to reward the student who must work while attending school. Community service is a commencement ceremony prerequisite and serves to introduce students to the tremendous need our society has for the valuable assets they possess as individuals who are also faced with adversity they must overcome.



September

2nd Open House
 8th Half Day of School/Teacher Workday
 18th Early Release

October

2nd Early Release
 16th Early Release
 30th Early Release

November

13th Early Release
 19th Half Day of School/ Afternoon Conferences at Kidder, Northwest Elementary, and Parnall
 20th Half Day of School/Records Day
 25th Half Day of School – Students & Staff
 26th Thanksgiving Break
 27th Thanksgiving Break

December

4th Early Release
 18th Half Day of School – Students & Staff
 21st Start of Winter Break

January

4th Return to School
 15th Early Release
 18th No School – Martin Luther King Day
 29th Early Release

February

12th Early Release
 15th No School – Presidents’ Day
 26th Early Release

March

4th Half Day of School / Afternoon Conferences at Kidder, Northwest Elementary, and Parnall
 5th Half Day of School/Records Day
 12th Early Release
 26th Early Release

April

1st Half Day of School Students & Staff
 2nd No School – Good Friday
 5th Begin Spring Break
 12th Return to School
 16th Early Release
 30th Early Release

May

14th Early Release
 28th Early Release
 31st No School - Memorial Day

June

10th *Half Day of School/Workday
 11th *Half Day of School/Workday

** June 10 and June 11: These dates are tentative and may be adjusted in order to fulfill required days and hours of instruction*

**Marking Period Ending Dates
 Due Dates for Grades and Report Cards**

1st Trimester

End Date: November 20, 2009
 Report Cards: Will be distributed on December 4, 2009

2nd Term

End Date: March 5, 2010
 Report Cards: Will be distributed on March 19, 2010

3rd Term

End Date: June 11, 2010
 Report Cards: Elementary report cards will be distributed on the last day of school
 Secondary report cards will be mailed home as soon as possible

Telephone Numbers

- District Main Telephone Number - 817-4700
- High School - 817-4701
- Alternative Education - 817-4702
- Kidder Middle School - 817-4703
- Northwest Elementary - 817-4704
- Parnall Elementary - 817-4705
- NWHS Athletics - 817-4701, press 1
- Child Care & Pre-School - 817-4708
- Community Education - 817-4702
- Food Service Office - 817-4709
- Transportation Department - 817-4707
- Administration Office - 817-4710



Board of Education Meetings 2009-2010
 4000 Van Horn Road • Jackson, MI 49201 • (517) 817-4700

Month	Date	Location
July	July 1 (Organizational)	R.W. Kidder Middle School
August	August 5	R.W. Kidder Middle School
	August 19	R.W. Kidder Middle School
September	September 9	R.W. Kidder Middle School
	September 23	R.W. Kidder Middle School
October	* October 7	Parnall Elementary School
	October 21	R.W. Kidder Middle School
November	* November 4	Northwest Elementary School
	November 18	R.W. Kidder Middle School
December	* December 2	R.W. Kidder Middle School
	December 16	R.W. Kidder Middle School
January	* January 6	Northwest High School
	January 20	R.W. Kidder Middle School
February	* February 3	Alternative High School
	February 17	R.W. Kidder Middle School
March	March 3	R.W. Kidder Middle School
	March 17	R.W. Kidder Middle School
April	April 14	R.W. Kidder Middle School
	April 28	R.W. Kidder Middle School
May	May 5	R.W. Kidder Middle School
	May 19	R.W. Kidder Middle School
June	June 2	R.W. Kidder Middle School
	June 16	R.W. Kidder Middle School

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

Meetings scheduled for **October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6 and February 3** will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of all regular and special meetings are kept on file at the administration office located at 4000 Van Horn Road, Jackson, Michigan.

* Building presentations will be held in each respective building beginning at 5:30 p.m. during the **October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6 and February 3** Board meetings.

- PARNALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
3737 Lansing Ave.
- NORTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
3757 Lansing Ave.
- R.W. KIDDER MIDDLE SCHOOL**
6700 Rives Junction Rd.
- NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL**
4200 Van Horn Rd.
- ALTERNATIVE/COMMUNITY EDUCATION**
4100 Van Horn Rd.