

2007-08 Annual Report

**15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230**

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Mission Statement

The Defer School community will provide successful experiences for each child to attain self-esteem and the knowledge, skills, and behavior necessary to function effectively and cooperatively in society.

*George Defer Elementary School
Grosse Pointe Public Schools*

Mr. Ronald Wardie, Principal

Introduction

This annual report is provided with the intent of presenting parents and the community with helpful and interesting information about Defer Elementary School.

During the 2007-08 school year, we had 461 students as of the fall count day. Defer includes one Extended-Day Kindergarten, two Half-Day Kindergartens, three each of grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, one special education categorical classroom, and one grade 2/3 and one grade 4/5 magnet classroom for gifted students. We had 22 classroom teachers, 14 professional support teachers (most of whom were at Defer part-time), and 12 non-certified support staff.

Defer is a dynamic school, which provides a wide variety of meaningful learning opportunities for our students. The Defer learning community enjoys a wide diversity among our student body and their families. Our students represent a variety of religions, races, cultures, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Our students' successes are a result of our highly involved parents and our dedicated, caring teachers and staff. Defer parents generously donate a tremendous amount of time and talent to support a wide variety of activities on a daily basis. Defer parents are active as classroom helpers, field trip drivers and chaperones, Clinic volunteers, Lunchroom and Playground Supervisors, Publishing Center volunteers, and as Attendance parents among other things. Hundreds of Defer parents participated in our PTO activities held throughout the school year, including the Defer Fall Family Fun Fest, Holiday Craft Fair, Book Fair, Defer Dragon Splash, and Spring Social.

Defer offers a wide variety of enrichment opportunities for our students, which are organized by Defer parents and staff members. These include Destination ImagiNation, Chess Club, Sewing, Computer Club, 4th/5th Grade Choir, Walking Club, Student Council, Spanish, and arts and crafts. Many of these are offered during lunchtime in the winter. The Instrumental Music program offers our fifth graders the opportunity to learn to play a string, wind, or brass instrument.

Our students provide us with many "Pointes of Pride" as they contribute to the well-being of others, such as their support of the American Red Cross, the Children's Hospital of Detroit, and by supporting local families in need.

**Defer Elementary
School opened
in February, 1925**

Core Curriculum

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's core curriculum is developed under the auspices of the Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), a group of teachers, parents, students, and administrators who meet monthly.

The core curriculum is based upon state standards in all subjects and extends beyond those standards by incorporating exemplary national standards. Curriculum committees, comprised of teachers, parents, students and administrators develop plans for each curriculum area. In addition, the views of the broader community are sought through Public Forums. The reports of the curriculum committees, which are submitted first to the EPLC and then to the Board of Education, include recommendations regarding assessment, staff development, integration of technology, and differentiated instruction to accommodate academic diversity as well as the curriculum itself. The district also offers a wide array of advanced placement and challenging enrichment courses and a comprehensive special education program.

During 2007-08 the district implemented a new mathematics curriculum and piloted a variety of math materials culminating in the selection of *Everyday Math* for grades 1-5 and Harcourt for Kindergarten. A new social studies curriculum was adopted for grades K-2 and 5 (grades 3 and 4 are still under study due to late changes in the state curriculum) and materials to support instruction were purchased.

During 2008-09 the science curriculum will be under review. Kindergarten and first grade teachers and reading specialists also received significant training and support materials to implement FAST reading strategies in 2008-09. Additional model units and technology applications are continually being integrated into curricular areas.

The district's strong curriculum is demonstrated by the continuing high performance of our students on standardized assessments including NWEA, MEAP, ACT, SAT, and Advanced Placement tests.

School Improvement Plan

Defer has continued to enjoy the outstanding success of its students as evidenced through national, state, and local assessments in addition to their daily performance and participation in class.

Our focus on both Narrative and Informational Writing continued to be emphasized during the 2007-08 school year. A more comprehensive plan was developed, outlining specific areas of focus and goals for each grade level. Defer teachers received additional training with the 6+1 Writing Traits and with other instructional strategies to further improve student writing skills. Narrative writing was assessed through the GP Writing Assessment in Grades 1-5, while informational writing was assessed through the MEAP writing component in Grades 3-5. In addition, teachers in all grade levels assess each student's writing progress within the classroom on a continuous basis.

Another school improvement goal for 2007-08 included the refinement of our school-wide behavior plan. A committee was formed to research a number of best-practice approaches. A recommendation was made to the entire staff, which ultimately adopted the PBS (Positive Behavior Support) model supported through Wayne County RESA. The committee began to develop the actual plan toward the end of the school year. It continued its work during the summer and will present the plan to the entire staff, students and parents in the fall.

Student Average Attendance Rate: 95.2%

% Parents Participating in Parent-Teacher Conferences:

2007-2008
97% (447 Students)

2006-2007
98% (466 Students)

Education YES! Report Card

AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) Status Met: Yes

Michigan Report Card Grade: A

North Central Association Accreditation

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MEAP)

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 3											
MEAP READING				MEAP WRITING				MEAP ELA TOTAL			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	96%	97%	95%	07-08	77%	82%	72%	07-08	94%	94%	93%
06-07	97%	100%	96%	06-07	78%	80%	77%	06-07	91%	93%	89%
05-06	96%	100%	92%	05-06	67%	78%	57%	05-06	90%	98%	84%

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 4											
MEAP READING				MEAP WRITING				MEAP ELA TOTAL			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	98%	97%	98%	07-08	68%	83%	56%	07-08	95%	94%	96%
06-07	96%	100%	92%	06-07	64%	70%	60%	06-07	94%	100%	90%
05-06	94%	90%	97%	05-06	81%	83%	77%	05-06	88%	88%	89%

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 5											
MEAP READING – Grade 5				MEAP WRITING – Grade 5				MEAP ELA TOTAL – Grade 5			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	94%	95%	93%	07-08	83%	87%	80%	07-08	93%	95%	91%
06-07	95%	92%	98%	06-07	80%	87%	73%	06-07	93%	92%	93%
05-06	90%	93%	88%	05-06	80%	93%	69%	05-06	89%	98%	82%

MEAP MATHEMATICS TEST											
Grade 3				Grade 4				Grade 5			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	97%	97%	98%	07-08	94%	91%	96%	07-08	87%	89%	84%
06-07	97%	97%	98%	06-07	91%	90%	92%	06-07	93%	92%	93%
05-06	86%	83%	88%	05-06	94%	93%	94%	05-06	84%	81%	86%

MEAP SCIENCE – Grade 5			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	94%	95%	93%
06-07	89%	92%	85%
05-06	87%	88%	86%

- MEAP Data is not reported by Racial/Ethnic minority group, Special Education, or Economically Disadvantaged because no group is significantly large enough to report MEAP results without revealing the identity of individual students.

NOTE: Social Studies test was moved to grade 6 and reported by the middle schools.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (cont.)

2007-08 MEAP Percentage of Students Tested							
Grade	MEAP READING	MEAP WRITING	MEAP ELA	MEAP MATH	MEAP SCIENCE	Total ELA with MI-ACCESS	Total Math with MI-ACCESS
3	99%	99%	99%	99%	Not Tested	100%	100%
4	99%	99%	99%	100%	Not Tested	99%	100%
5	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	99%	99%

NOTE: Total with MI-ACCESS refers to the percentage tested with either the MEAP or the MI-ACCESS (an alternative state test) in each test area.

Grosse Pointe WRITING															
Percentage of Students Achieving SATISFACTORY															
Year	Grade 1			Grade 2			Grade 3			Grade 4			Grade 5		
	All	F	M	All	F	M	All	F	M	All	F	M	All	F	M
07-08	95.7	100	91.7	94.9	97.1	93.2	61.4	71.1	53.3	52.5	57.9	47.6	58.4	62.2	55.0
06-07	95.7	100	92.5	93.9	94.4	93.5	72.8	78.1	69.4	55.7	65.0	47.9	54.5	68.4	41.0
05-06	94.7	97.1	92.7	97.4	96.9	97.7	66.3	67.4	65.4	68.4	81.0	52.9	45.1	52.3	38.3

Grade 1 – Satisfactory includes scores of 3 and 4.

Grade 2-5 – Satisfactory includes scores of 4 through 7.

COMPREHENSIVE TESTING PROGRAM (CTP 4)

Average Percentile Achieved by Defer Students

Suburban Percentile READING Grade 2				Suburban Percentile MATH Grade 2		
Year	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
2006-07	57	61	55	65	66	64
2005-06	64	69	61	74	69	77

National Percentile READING Grade 5				National Percentile MATH Grade 5		
Year	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
2006-07	67	84	54	71	75	68
2005-06	65	63	68	69	62	76

NORTHWEST EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (NWEA)

Average National Percentile Achieved by Defer Students

National Percentile READING Spring 2008				National Percentile MATH Spring 2008		
Grade	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
1	56	54	58	62	60	64
2	61	68	56	55	57	54
3	66	66	65	63	63	63
4	68	67	69	67	63	70
5	69	73	66	60	59	60

NOTES: A percentile is the percentage of students in a national norms group who scored at or below a particular score. In 2006-07 Grosse Pointe piloted a new national test. Some fifth grade students took the NWEA while others took the CTP IV.