

2007-08 Annual Report

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*John D. Pierce Middle School
Grosse Pointe Public Schools*

Mr. Gary Buslepp, Principal

Introduction

John D. Pierce Middle School continues to flourish. Named after Michigan's first state superintendent of public instruction, Pierce continues to provide a tradition of excellence for its students, their families and community. The 2007-2008 school year demonstrated "Pierce Pride" in a variety of areas. Highlighted below are many accomplishments of Pierce students, teachers, and parent volunteers:

- Thirty-three percent of Pierce's 7th and 8th grade students formed what is believed to be the district's first ever National Junior Honor Society. The John D. Pierce Chapter heralds our commitment to recognizing and promoting student excellence. Two induction ceremonies were held in the school's auditorium. NJHS members provided district elementary and Pierce middle school students more time and support through peer tutoring. Community service projects supported other area schools and community agencies.
- Students continue to be honored each quarter for academic achievement and citizenship.
- Student-council officers planned and developed "spirit" activities throughout the year.
- The former Advisory program was restructured. A² (academics/activities) allowed students to receive additional time and support to strengthen their academics and developing organizational skills. An expanded activities program provided eligible students with an opportunity to explore interests and promote social well-being.
- A book scholarship was presented by the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe to a Pierce 8th grader. The recipient was honored for their exemplary academic performance and citizenship.
- Ten gold medals, two silver medals and one bronze medal were awarded to Pierce students during our initial participation in the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad.
- A state-finalist and four regional representatives emerged from the "You Be the Chemist" science competition. Several student teams participated in *Destination Imagination* competition, with one being recognized nationally.
- Two students were awarded all-state honors by the Middle School Orchestra Association. Instrumental and vocal music students received superior ratings at the *Heritage Music Festival* in Chicago, Illinois. The Drama department hosted an "Evening of Drama" for students and parents.
- Many students earned writing awards. Six students were honored with seven regional Gold Key Awards. One student received their Gold Key Award at New York's Carnegie Hall, representing less than one percent of middle school students nationwide. The writing and artwork of four students was published in *Cricket Magazine*. The Pierce yearbook and literary publication, *Inklings*, and the school newspaper the *Trojan Times* continued their tradition of being quality student publications. The *Detroit Free Press* bestowed a writing award upon an 8th grade student.
- Seven 8th grade students were recognized for outstanding performance on the American Math Competition assessment.
- *After-School Study* and *Guided Study* programs provided homework assistance every weekday.
- Two long standing school records were shattered in track and field by the same student.
- The Pierce PTO and parent volunteers donated services and financial aid in support of academic, activities and building beautification projects.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pierce Middle School in partnership with students, parents and community, is to ensure that all students can achieve mastery of basic skills, attain their maximum potential through a nurturing environment, develop a strong sense of personal responsibility and positive social and emotional attitudes, and become contributing citizens skilled in using the tools of learning for the 21st century.

**Pierce Middle School
opened
in September, 1939**

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

To improve student writing skills resulting in improved writing results on state and district assessments:

- Teachers will implement observable and measurable teaching strategies that result in an increase of students achieving proficient on the Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment.
- Consistent use of schoolwide writing strategies that address the "writing process," resulting in an increase of students achieving proficiency on the GPWA.
- Use of writing strategies will lead to an increase in male students achieving proficient on GPWA.
- Use of writing strategies will result in an increased number of students meeting state standards on the MEAP Writing assessment.

To improve upon academic support programs leading to student success:

- Restructuring of Advisory program will include Guided Study for eligible students four days/week.
- Teachers of Guided Study will review weekly gradebook printouts with their students.
- Teachers of Guided Study will focus on work and assignment completion with their students.
- An after school Guided Study class for eligible students will emphasize 100% work/assignment completion and daily parent communication.
- All teachers will provide instruction through A², on efficient use of organizational skills.
- All teachers will incorporate the use of student planners in their lesson plans.
- On-line lesson/homework assignments will aide students/parents in the organizational process and strengthen teacher-parent communication.
- Peer tutoring of Guided Study participants will lead to increased student understanding of curriculum content.

To improve upon the behavioral climate/culture that will result in fewer incidents of student referral:

- Create increased opportunities to communicate behavioral expectations and consequences to students and parents.
- Incorporate and blend schoolwide discipline guidelines with character education through A².
- Develop, adopt, communicate and implement a schoolwide anti-bullying program.

Student Average Attendance Rate: 95.4%

Percent of Parents Participating in Parent-Teacher Conferences:

2007-2008
89% (538 Students)

2006-2007
98% (574 Students)

Education YES! Report Card

AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) Status Met: Yes

Michigan Report Card Grade: A

North Central Association Accreditation

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT—PIERCE MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MEAP)

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 6											
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%	96%	96%	07-08	93%	96%	91%	07-08	96%	96%	97%
06-07	94%	96%	92%	06-07	80%	83%	78%	06-07	90%	92%	87%
05-06	93%	94%	91%	05-06	86%	90%	80%	05-06	90%	92%	88%

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 7											
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	90%	89%	90%	07-08	90%	96%	83%	07-08	91%	90%	91%
06-07	92%	93%	92%	06-07	82%	89%	75%	06-07	91%	92%	91%
05-06	89%	92%	86%	05-06	86%	88%	83%	05-06	88%	90%	86%

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 8											
MEAP READING – Grade 8				MEAP WRITING – Grade 8				MEAP ELA TOTAL – Grade 8			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	92%	93%	91%	07-08	88%	91%	84%	07-08	92%	93%	91%
06-07	91%	95%	85%	06-07	88%	97%	78%	06-07	91%	97%	84%
05-06	95%	96%	94%	05-06	85%	88%	81%	05-06	92%	92%	93%

MEAP MATHEMATICS TEST											
Grade 6				Grade 7				Grade 8			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	90%	90%	90%	07-08	82%	80%	85%	07-08	86%	82%	91%
06-07	78%	75%	81%	06-07	84%	83%	84%	06-07	86%	89%	81%
05-06	87%	85%	88%	05-06	83%	82%	84%	05-06	86%	85%	87%

MEAP SCIENCE – Grade 8			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	88%	87%	89%
06-07	88%	91%	84%
05-06	94%	93%	94%

MEAP SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 6			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male
07-08	94%	95%	93%
06-07	88%	86%	89%
05-06	93%	91%	94%

NOTE: Grade 8 Social Studies test was moved to grade 9 and reported by the high schools.

- MEAP Data is not reported by Racial/Ethnic minority group, Special Education, or Economically Disadvantaged (except for 8th grade) because no group is significantly large enough to report MEAP results without revealing the identity of individual students.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT-PIERCE

2007-08 MEAP Percentage of Students Tested								
Grade	MEAP READING	MEAP WRITING	MEAP ELA	MEAP MATH	MEAP SCIENCE	MEAP SOCIAL STUDIES	Total ELA with MI-ACCESS	Total Math with MI-ACCESS
6	100%	100%	100%	100%	Not Tested	100%	100%	100%
7	98%	99%	98%	99%	Not Tested	Not Tested	99%	100%
8	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	Not Tested	100%	99%

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

MEAP Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY – (2007-2008) of State Mandated Groups							
Grade	Group	MEAP READING	MEAP WRITING	MEAP ELA	MEAP MATH	MEAP SCIENCE	MEAP SOCIAL STUDIES
8	Black, Not of Hispanic Origin	75%	75%	78%	52%	61%	Not Tested
	Economically Disadvantaged	80%	73%	77%	N/A	N/A	Not Tested

GROSSE POINTE WRITING ASSESSMENT

Grosse Pointe WRITING Percentage of Students Achieving SATISFACTORY (Scores of 4-7)									
Year	Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
	All	F	M	All	F	M	All	F	M
07-08	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
06-07	58.2%	66.0%	50.0%	67.9%	73.3%	61.4%	67.5%	73.1%	61.5%
05-06	64.2%	67.3%	60.2%	64.6%	75.0%	54.1%	70.9%	76.0%	66.1%

COMPREHENSIVE TESTING PROGRAM (CTP 4)

Average National Percentile Achieved by Pierce Grade 8 Students. Not all students took the CTP 4. Some took the ITBS Some took the ITBS as part of a pilot.

Year	National Test READING – Grade 8			National Test MATH – Grade 8		
	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
2006-07	N/A	N/A	N/A	67	66	68
2005-06	76	78	74	67	67	68

NORTHWEST EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (NWEA)

Average National Percentile Achieved by Pierce Students

Grade	National Percentile READING Spring 2008			National Percentile MATH Spring 2008		
	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
6	65	68	61	60	58	63
7	56	56	56	52	49	55
8	63	62	63	59	57	61

* In 2006-07 Grosse Pointe piloted a new national test. Some eighth grade students took the ITBS while others took the CTP IV.

NOTES: A percentile is the percentage of students in a national norms group who scored at or below a particular score.