



*West Ottawa Public Schools*

*...The  heart of our community!*

## **2008-09 Annual Education Report**

*Superintendent*

Dr. Patricia Koeze

*Assistant Superintendents*

Dave Zimmer, *Financial Services*  
Jim Nicolette, *Teaching and Learning*  
Cindy Dymowski, *Student Services*

*Directors*

Erika Bolig, *Assessment and Data Analysis*  
Michelle Williams, *English Language Learners & Migrant Program*  
Ron Allen, *Athletics*  
Sara Scheuermann, *Food Services*  
Tim Tibbitts, *Transportation*

### **2008-09 Board of Education**

Randall S. Schipper, *President*  
Douglas A. Mahn, *Vice President*  
Scott W. VanderStoep, *Secretary*  
William F. Bloemendaal, *Trustee*  
George F. Jacob, *Trustee*  
Bill Kangas, *Trustee*  
Susan Smith, *Trustee*

1138 136th Ave.  
Holland, MI 49424  
616 738.5700  
616 738.5791 (fax)



# West Ottawa Public Schools

Glerum Elementary 🌿 Great Lakes Elementary 🌿 Lakeshore Elementary 🌿 Lakewood Elementary

North Holland Elementary 🌿 Pine Creek Elementary 🌿 Sheldon Woods Elementary 🌿 Waukazoo Elementary

Woodside Elementary 🌿 Harbor Lights Middle School 🌿 Macatawa Bay Middle School 🌿 West Ottawa High School

Welcome to West Ottawa Public Schools! Our district has a visionary Board of Education and administration, dedicated teachers and support staff, and talented students. Our students' accomplishments are a source of pride for our entire community. Our district is very proud of our students' and our district's accomplishments, which are highlighted throughout this report.

Our district consists of sixty-nine square miles of beautiful landscapes from the shores of Lake Michigan to east of US 31. The West Ottawa School District was organized in October of 1958, when 13 rural districts consolidated into one K-12 district with 2,000 students. The District encompasses major portions of four townships (Holland, Park, Port Sheldon, and Olive) in southwestern Ottawa County.

Thank you for reviewing our Annual Report regarding the district's many successes. You can learn more about West Ottawa Public Schools on our website ([www.westottawa.net](http://www.westottawa.net)) and through our own cable access station, The Education Station (channel 21 on Charter Communications, channel 2 on T2 Communications).

## Mission Statement

*West Ottawa Public Schools,  
a caring community,  
challenging and inspiring  
students to learn and  
succeed in a diverse world.*

## West Ottawa Quick Facts

**Number of Schools: 12**

9 Elementary Schools (PreK-5)

2 Middle Schools (Gr. 6-8)

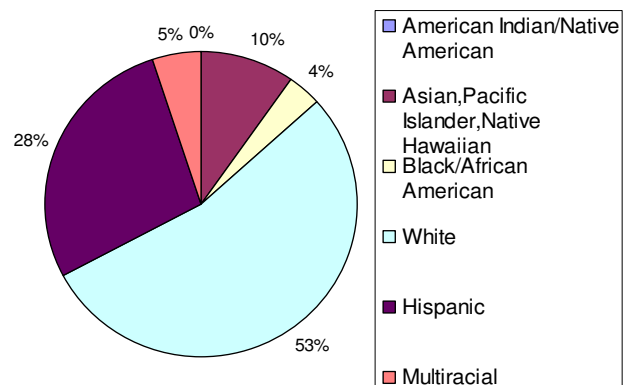
1 High School (Gr. 9-12)

- 🐾 All West Ottawa elementary and middle schools made AYP in both English Language Arts and Math and are at AYP phase 0.
- 🐾 All West Ottawa schools earned an Education Yes! grade of an A or B
- 🐾 Above-average Advanced Placement participation and scores
- 🐾 Great Lakes Elementary, Harbor Lights Middle School, and West Ottawa High School are candidate schools to become International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes. These three schools are pursuing authorization as IB World Schools.

## Fall 2008 Enrollment

- 🐾 K-12 Student Head Count: 7,586
- 🐾 46% of students were eligible for free/reduced price meals

Percent of Fall 2008 K-12 Population



# District at a Glance

## 2008-09 Financial Information

- 🐾 **General Fund Budget:** \$69,879,721
- 🐾 **Taxable Value:** \$2,003,403,562
- 🐾 **Instructional Expenditures Per Pupil:** \$5,987
- 🐾 **Total General Fund Operating Expenditures Per Pupil:** \$9,143
- 🐾 **Millage Breakdown:** 6.0 mills state tax levy + 6.25 mills debt retirement + 0.30 mill repair & improvement sinking fund (+ 18.0 voted mills for non-homestead only) = 12.55 homestead; 30.55 non-homestead

## A Caring, Dedicated Staff

- 🐾 West Ottawa's almost 500 certified staff members included regular classroom teachers; special education teachers; ESL teachers; counselors; social workers; school psychologists; speech/language therapists; healthy living teachers; preschool teachers; teacher-librarians; art, health, music, and physical wellness teachers; and Montessori teachers.
- 🐾 During 2008-09, West Ottawa had no teachers with emergency certificates. 64 teachers (14.3% of our certified teachers) were in their first 3-6 years of teaching and therefore had provisional certificates.
- 🐾 100% of our teachers were "highly qualified":
  - Elementary: 100%
  - Harbor Lights: 100%
  - Macatawa Bay: 100%
  - West Ottawa High School: 100%
  - District: 100%

- 🐾 More than 400 support staff also played a vital role in a child's education, transporting students safely to and from school, preparing and serving nutritious meals, keeping schools and district grounds well-maintained, and assisting students, teachers, parents, and community members.

## Facilities and Resources

Quality, equity, and accessibility describe the facilities and programs available to all West Ottawa students, staff, parents, and community members. Our facilities and resources provide:

- 🐾 an integrated voice/video/data network
- 🐾 television studios, production facilities, and cable television access through our The Education Station
- 🐾 West Ottawa Performing Arts Center located at Harbor Lights Middle School
- 🐾 a planetarium at Macatawa Bay
- 🐾 vocational/technical/robotics labs at all secondary schools
- 🐾 child care programs

### Additionally,

- 🐾 Almost 5,000 students, including special education and parochial students, were bussed to and from school daily by our Transportation Department.
- 🐾 Building Services staff members maintain over 1.6 million square feet of building space and 440 acres of property, 136 acres of which are irrigated. Well-kept buildings and manicured grounds are evidence of our crew's diligence.
- 🐾 West Ottawa provides services to parochial, charter, and private schools, including transportation, meals, art, physical wellness, technology, special education, social workers, and speech/language therapy.

# District School Improvement

Every school in the district has a **School Improvement Team** focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of a school improvement plan. Each school improvement team engages in an on-going review and revision (as necessary) process throughout the school year, and submits a updated/revised plan on a yearly basis, as required.

School improvement involves the active participation of students, parents, staff, administrators, and community, assuring all groups are represented in creating a common mission that is in keeping with the Board of Education's goals and focused on student achievement.

An integral part of our school improvement efforts is providing students with more instructional options



and opportunities for success. S.M.A.R.T. goals (strategic/specific, measureable, achievable, results-oriented, time-bound) are developed in each core content area, along with a specific action plan and monitoring plan to meet those goals. The main focus of the goals and plan is on improving student achievement and meeting the varied needs of all children.

Comprehensive school improvement efforts exemplify West Ottawa's commitment to continuous improvement. Changes brought about through these efforts enhance and support teaching and learning.

### MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Continuing efforts to meet the needs of our school community in 2008-09 resulted in:

- ☺ additional courses, programs, and interventions to meet the needs of all learners
- ☺ implementation of the Michigan Merit Curriculum at the high school
- ☺ extended-day kindergarten
- ☺ preschool Spanish immersion
- ☺ honors and Advanced Placement classes
- ☺ expansion of college classes at the high school campus provided through Grand Rapids Community College and Kendall School of Art and Design
- ☺ new materials and textbooks
- ☺ further integration of curriculum and technology
- ☺ renewal of operational millage

**MEASURING SUCCESS**

Assessment practices and measures within the district are frequently reviewed, and are revised as needed. Multiple assessments are used to evaluate student performance and provide varied instructional strategies. Results assist in:

- ☺ evaluating student mastery of state content expectations, and revising instruction and identifying interventions as needed,
- ☺ evaluating the extent to which school improvement goals are being met,
- ☺ implementing and monitoring common assessment goals and teaching strategies, and
- ☺ defining professional development needs that will help students better meet their academic goals.

**READINESS FOR SCHOOL**

West Ottawa Public Schools offers a variety of preschool programs within the district. Panther Paws Preschool was initiated in 1995-96. In 2008-09, we provided services to 132 students.

West Ottawa instituted the WOW preschool program in 2001-02, which provides a theme-based curriculum which includes a variety of child-centered activities to promote social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. The three-year-old and four-year-old programs enrolled 70 children in 2008-09.

West Ottawa's Panther Place offered childcare services in the before- and after-school program. Forty-one children were enrolled in Kinder Cubs during 2008-09.

West Ottawa began a Preschool Spanish Immersion Program in the 2008-09 school year. Fourteen children were enrolled in this program during its first year.

**CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENTS**

Adjustments in the curriculum have been made in response to analyses of student achievement levels on standardized tests and to ensure close alignment with state standards. Changes implemented during the 2007-08 and/or 2008-09 school years included:

- ☺ new ELA program in grades K-5

- ☺ revised ELA program in grades 6-8
- ☺ new math program in grades K – 5
- ☺ additional intervention strategies through RTI process in grades K - 5
- ☺ revised math program in grades 6 – 8
- ☺ revised science curriculum and resources in middle school
- ☺ revised social studies program in grade 6
- ☺ Michigan Merit Curriculum core courses
- ☺ Additional AP classes and on-site college courses

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND CITIZENSHIP**

School improvement measures, professional development, curriculum revisions, expanded course offerings, and enhanced instructional opportunities raise student achievement in core academic areas.

Maintaining a respectful environment and displaying a regard for others are district goals stressed in every school. Diversity awareness and acceptance are important life lessons bolstered by diversity training, special assemblies, and events such as International Night.

Each school has a student council with numerous opportunities for involvement and interaction with the community. Core Democratic Values are part of the K-12 curriculum and classroom expectations. WOHS's Youth Political Awareness Club (YPAC) works to decrease apathy, promote activism, and encourage open-mindedness.

Annual Veterans' Day assemblies put students in touch with those who served our country to protect our freedoms. Eighth grade students travel to Washington, D.C. to learn firsthand about our nation's capital and to observe government in action. Participation in Model United Nations and Student Congress provide similar experiences.

Community service-learning is integrated with the curriculum at all grade levels. Special projects are incorporated into the curriculum of high school government.

Students learn about being good citizens by recycling at school, participating in mock elections, helping their peers, visiting nursing homes, working at the local food bank, and assisting service agencies. Students at all grade levels participate in food, clothing, toy, and fundraising drives.

**SAFE/DISCIPLINED/DRUG-FREE**

Safe schools will always be an integral part of a positive learning environment. The district has taken many steps to support a safe and respectful environment. Safety policies and procedures are in place at every school and strictly enforced. Ottawa County Sheriff's deputies work in our secondary buildings and are a visible presence.

A 24-hour Safety Hotline [738-5750] is in place to report any safety concerns. A parent/staff Safe Schools Committee meets throughout the year.

Proactive intervention/prevention programs are incorporated into the curriculum:

- 👤 PALs (Peer Assistant Listeners)
- 👤 Project CHARLIE
- 👤 Michigan Model
- 👤 Positive Behavior Support
- 👤 Responsible Thinking Center

Students learn conflict resolution strategies. A crisis management team, immediate intervention, and response strategies are in place at each school. Crisis Management handbooks are in classrooms and offices.

A Student Code of Conduct holds all students accountable for their actions. The Non-Discrimination Policy protects students, staff, volunteers, Board members, applicants, and contractors. An Acceptable Use Policy governs the use of district technology.

**PARENTAL PARTICIPATION**

The home/school connection is a key component in assuring the success of students. Family involvement enhances a child's school experience.

West Ottawa invites parent participation. Involvement is encouraged with activities such as:

- 👤 parent-teacher conferences
- 👤 open houses
- 👤 school functions

- 👤 student performances
- 👤 PTO/PTC/PTA and booster organizations
- 👤 volunteerism (almost 40,000 hours in 2008-09!)
- 👤 advisory committees
- 👤 school improvement teams

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Professional development is closely linked with school improvement goals and student success. Staff development opportunities enable the introduction and incorporation of more effective teaching and learning strategies. All new certified staff participate in an intensive orientation. They are assigned a mentor teacher to guide them through their first few years at West Ottawa.

**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND—TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

A component of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires all teachers be "highly qualified," specifically certified to teach in a subject area, by June 30, 2006. The provision has been reviewed with all staff. The district has reviewed each teacher's certificate and transcript to ensure they are in compliance with NCLB.

***Teacher Qualification Status***

	<i>Certified Teachers</i>	<i>Provisional Certification</i>	<i>Bachelor's Degree</i>	<i>Bachelor's Degree +15 Credit Hours</i>	<i>Master's Degree</i>	<i>Master's Degree +15 Credit Hours</i>	<i>Master's Degree +30 Credit Hours</i>	<i>Doctoral Degree or Ed. Specialist Degree</i>	<i>Special Education Certification</i>	<i>% of Highly Qualified Teachers</i>	<i>% of Teachers with Emergency Credentials</i>	<i>% of Core Classes Not Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers</i>
<i>Glerum</i>	15	1	1	4	7	1	2		2	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Great Lakes</i>	33	5	9	7	16	1	0		3	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Lakeshore</i>	21	3	3	5	10	2	1		3	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Lakewood</i>	29	3	6	7	14	2	0		3	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>North Holland</i>	14	3	3	1	6	2	2		1	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Pine Creek</i>	29	3	2	6	18	1	1	1	2	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Sheldon Woods</i>	10	4	3	2	5	0	0		1	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Waukazoo</i>	31	2	3	6	20	2	0		2	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Woodside</i>	30	3	4	3	19	3	1		2	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Harbor Lights MS</i>	65	10	9	24	25	3	3	1	9	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Macatawa Bay MS</i>	45	7	8	13	19	2	3		8	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>West Ottawa HS</i>	125	20	15	25	67	7	11		14	100%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

# Parent and Community Involvement

## *Cultivating a Climate for Success*

The West Ottawa Board of Education is committed to parent and community involvement, a key factor in excellent schools. Participation is strongly encouraged, from tutoring to helping in classrooms. We strive to channel the rich human resources of our community into a dependable volunteer and partnership program.

### **VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT INSTRUCTION**

Volunteers are our partners in teaching and learning. They are caring individuals of all ages, from all walks of life. They supply what tax dollars can't buy in time, talent, energy, and ideas, as well as funding, materials, services, and facilities to support and enhance the educational experiences of our students.

A broad range of programs are made possible through:

- ☺ parents, guardians, and other family members
- ☺ students
- ☺ staff
- ☺ community members
- ☺ businesses
- ☺ agencies and organizations

### **PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDE EXPERIENCE**

Community Partners in Education links schools and community, providing practical, real-life experiences such as:

- ☺ school-to-work placements
- ☺ Co-Op, internships, and more
- ☺ educational programs such as FIRST Robotics and LEGO League
- ☺ career shadowing
- ☺ service-learning projects
- ☺ resource speakers
- ☺ mentorships

Long-term partnerships exist with Johnson Controls, Meijers, and Holland and Park Townships, to name a few.

Kids Hope pairs students with local church members who serve as tutors and mentors. Communities in Schools (Life Services Systems) places representatives of area agencies directly in touch with children and families needing support services. The Co-Pilot Mentoring Program pairs staff, community members, and high school students with elementary students.

### **STUDENT VOLUNTEERS**

Service-learning experiences help students become responsible, involved citizens; self-directed achievers; and caring individuals.

Nationally award-winning programs such as Waukazoo's

ChildTeach and Kids Healing Kids, a choir of district 3rd-5th grade volunteers who are cheerleaders for kids with catastrophic illness, are models of a student body which readily demonstrates concern for others and is eager to help those in need, including their peers. Programs such as Lakewood's Community Care by Kids take on community improvement projects.

Hundreds of our students volunteer at food banks and churches and for community projects. They collect thousands of dollars, food, clothing, and toys for those less fortunate.

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT**

We are proud of our high level of parent involvement and support. There are a variety of opportunities for home-school communication and participation in a child's education.

Parents demonstrate their concern for students in many ways, including:

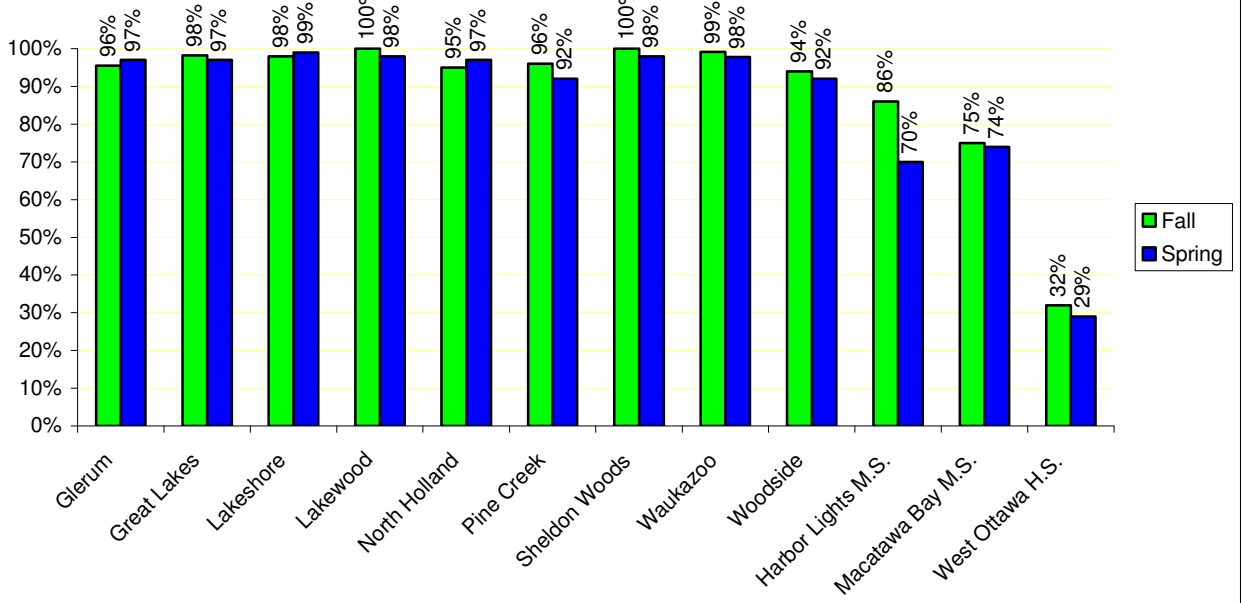
- ☺ participation in parent/teacher conferences
- ☺ involvement in PTO/PTC/PTA, Academic Boosters, Athletic Boosters, Drama Boosters, Music Boosters, extracurricular activities
- ☺ attendance at school events, athletic contests, student performances, and more
- ☺ volunteering
- ☺ serving on advisory groups
- ☺ talking about school with their children
- ☺ supporting the need for quality education

Active parent/teacher and booster organizations provide much-needed support to enhance educational programs. Proceeds from fundraisers help sponsor school activities, assemblies, field trips, and programs, and supply books, equipment, and materials. Parents share their time, talents, and experiences to strengthen our schools.

West Ottawa schedules parent/teacher conferences each semester. Attendance is greater in the fall. Parents are also welcome and encouraged to arrange individual sessions with teachers and/or counselors throughout the school year. Conferences give teachers, parents, and students an opportunity to directly communicate about a child's academic and social progress.

<b><i>Our Volunteers</i></b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b># of Volunteers</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>2008-09</b>	1,956	39,872
<b>2007-08</b>	1,776	32,352
<b>2006-07</b>	2,228	38,053
<b>2005-06</b>	1,995	37,307

### 2008-09 Parent/Teacher Conferences Attendance Rates



# Specialized Services and Programming

## ***Students with Special Needs***

West Ottawa takes pride in being responsive to the needs of all children. Those who are identified as having a disability receive instruction with direct and indirect support in academic and/or social areas.

A broad range of special education instructional and support services were provided to 12.1% of the district's total number of students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in 2007-08.

### **Eligibility**

The decision to provide special education services is made by an Individualized Educational Planning Committee (IEPC) which minimally includes:

- ☺ parents
- ☺ teachers
- ☺ diagnostic personnel
- ☺ school administrators



Success of a program is monitored by improvement in the child's functioning in the areas identified within his or her IEP (individualized education plan).

Services are provided under federal and state guidelines such as IDEA, which was newly reauthorized in 2004, and the Mandatory Special Education Act (Public Act 198) for students suspected of having a handicapping condition.

### **PHILOSOPHY**



West Ottawa is strongly committed to the concept of "least restrictive environment" for all children.

Students from birth to age 26 who are identified as being eligible for special education programs/services under Federal and Michigan guidelines are provided with appropriate experiences in their own classrooms to the greatest extent possible with special education instruction and support. Teams of diagnostic, consultative, supportive, and direct instruction professionals work with general education teachers to help each student maximize his or her potential and participate in a school's educational program as fully as possible.

The nature and extent of services provided are dependent upon individual needs. Classroom environment and curriculum may be accommodated and modified. Placements of eligible students in specialized programs outside the district are made only after all available options have been explored.



### **SERVICES**

Our services include:

- ☺ School psychologists
- ☺ School social workers

- ☺ Speech therapists
- ☺ Adaptive physical wellness
- ☺ Physical therapy
- ☺ Occupational therapy
- ☺ Audio enhancement
- ☺ Assistive technology

*Auxiliary aids and services, such as signers or audio tapes of printed materials, are provided at Board of Education meetings and district functions upon receipt of notice seven days prior.*

### **Section 504**

Section 504 is the section of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which applies to persons with disabilities. Basically, it is a civil rights act which protects the civil and constitutional rights of persons with disabilities. For a student to qualify for Section 504 services, they must have a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, have a record of such an impairment, or be regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include such things as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual tasks. If a student meets the criteria, a Section 504 is created and implemented by parents and school staff.

## ***English as a Second Language (ESL) & Migrant Education***

West Ottawa Public Schools believes strongly that English Language Learners (ELL) can achieve levels of academic performance comparable to those of the general English-speaking population. We are committed to providing appropriate instructional services to ensure that our students have the opportunity to learn content matter while gaining English Language proficiency. Two separately funded, yet programmatically blended programs are offered in the district.

### **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAM**

West Ottawa Public Schools provides instructional services to students in grades K-12 who have limited English proficiency. Students qualify for the program by completing:

- ☺ A home language survey
- ☺ An evaluation using the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) in the areas of reading, comprehension, writing, speaking, and listening

Our ESL teachers are Spanish speakers with university endorsements in teaching limited English proficient children. There are English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the secondary level. In addition, West Ottawa employs educational assistants who are native speakers of Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao.

High quality materials are available to staff. These programs blend the teaching of academic English with mastery of core content concepts as specified by Michigan's state standards. *Phonics and Friends* is used in the early elementary program. The *Language Development Leveled Readers* supplement

instruction for older elementary students, and the *High Point* series are the core texts for secondary students in ESL classes.

### **MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM**



The migrant education program supports children of migratory workers. Teachers and educational assistants work collaboratively with the children's general education teachers during the regular school year. During the summer months, certified and non-certified staff provide

intensive instruction for six weeks (150 hours minimum) to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade children.

Program staff work diligently to ensure that student records are transferred on a timely basis between their schools in Texas, Florida, Mexico, and West Ottawa. As much as possible, children are assisted in overcoming educational disruptions and fragmentation of instruction, social isolation, health-related problems, and other factors which inhibit their success in school. The goal of the program is to provide students the resources and instructional support needed to achieve academic success.

### **STUDENT ENROLLMENT 2008-09**

- ☺ School-Year (K-12):
  - Migrant: 213
  - ELL: 1,715
- ☺ Summer (PreK-8):
  - Migrant: 198



### ***Advanced and Accelerated Programs***

Our primary focus is to provide higher level thinking, creative opportunities, and challenges within the regular instructional setting.

- ☺ **Accelerated learning**
  - Students progress more rapidly in specific curricular areas
  - Middle school students can take high school courses for credit at their middle school site. (Includes: math, English, science, social studies, and foreign language.)
  - 4th and 5th grade elementary students attend advanced classes at their elementary site or at one of our two middle schools.
- ☺ **Advanced placement (AP) classes**
  - WOHS students may take courses which present

college-level material and can earn college credit through AP testing.

- Eighteen different AP courses are offered on our high school campus on a yearly basis.

- ☺ **District, regional, state, and national competitions** in art, creative writing, debate, forensics, geography, instrumental music, Latin, math, robotics, science, spelling, theater, vocal music, and industrial/vocational arts
- ☺ **Dual enrollment**
  - WOHS students take classes at area colleges
  - Grand Rapids Community College and Kendall School of Art and Design offer classes on our high school campus.
- ☺ **Enrichment classes and activities**
  - Offered periodically throughout the year
  - Opportunity to explore various interests and strengthen skills
- ☺ **Extracurricular activities and programs**
  - FIRST Robotics (high school)
  - LEGO Mindstorms (middle school)
  - Science Olympiad (high school and middle school)
  - Academic and service clubs/organizations
- ☺ **Midwest Talent Search (MTS)**
  - 5th-8th grade students take the SAT or ACT college entrance exam to assess academic abilities and apply to the PATH program
- ☺ **Program for Academically Talented at Hope College (PATH)**
  - Accelerated math and writing skills program
  - 7th-9th grade participants meet once a week and may receive high school credit for their work
- ☺ **School math, science, and world studies fairs**
- ☺ **Student art shows and exhibits**

### ***International Baccalaureate***

Great Lakes Elementary School is a candidate\* school for the Primary Years Programme (PYP). Harbor Lights Middle School is a candidate school for the Middle Years Programme (MYP). West Ottawa High School is a candidate school for the Diploma Programme. These schools are pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Great Lakes, Harbor Lights, and West Ottawa High School believe are important for our students.

\*Only schools authorized by the IB organization can offer any of its three academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), or the Diploma Programme. Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit <http://www.ibo.org>

<b>College Credit Statistics</b>				
	<b>2007-08</b>		<b>2008-09</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes	28	1.20%	32	1.40%
# of spots filled in Dual Enrollment classes	34	n/a	39	n/a
# of Advanced Placement (AP) classes available to students	16	n/a	16	n/a
Students enrolled in AP classes	234	10.10%	449	19.50%

## School Accreditation

### *Adequate Yearly Progress and Education YES!*

Accreditation is a process to which the staff, administration, and Board of Education commit in order to meet a set of standards required for a quality education and desired outcomes. The process promotes school improvement through self-study, input from other educators, and evaluation of all programs and services.

West Ottawa is committed to continuous school improvement, increasing student achievement, and excellence in education.

#### **ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)**

**Building Level** - The Michigan Department of Education annually makes a determination of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all public elementary, middle schools, and high schools in Michigan. AYP evaluates schools and school districts overall and by sub-groups in the areas of academic achievement, participation in state assessment, graduation rate for high schools, and student attendance for elementary and middle schools. In addition, the Department reports on Education YES! - a Yardstick for Excellent Schools, the state school accreditation system under which letter grades are assigned for academic achievement and indicators of school performance to determine state accreditation of Michigan schools.

For more information about achievement scores and AYP, visit <https://oeaa.state.mi.us/ayp/>.

**District Level** - In calculating adequate yearly progress (AYP) for a district, the district is considered to be one big "school." Note

that a school district is considered to have "made AYP" if the district makes AYP (in both English language arts and in mathematics) at least one of the three grade ranges - elementary, middle school and high school.

For more information on AYP and the Michigan School Report Card, visit <https://oeaa.state.mi.us/ayp/>, click on Guide to Reading School Report Cards.

#### **STATE ACCREDITATION - EDUCATION YES!**

The Michigan school accreditation process has been undergoing constant review and revision. Enactment of the federal legislation, **No Child Left Behind**, has resulted in the current state accreditation program, **Education YES!** These programs are intended to hold schools more accountable, to expand options, and to ensure *every* student is provided with the tools they need to be successful, productive citizens. Both detail the parameters by which a school's performance is measured.

<b>2008-09 District AYP Status - Yes</b>			
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>AYP Status: ELA</b>	<b>AYP Status: Math</b>	<b>Overall AYP Status</b>
Elementary	Yes	Yes	Met
Middle School	Yes	Yes	Met
High School	No	Yes	Not Met

## ***Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Education YES! Status***

School Name	School's Grade Levels	Title I School	2008-09 Education YES Grade	Made AYP in ELA	Made AYP in Math	Made AYP Overall	AYP Phase 2008-09
Glerum	K-5	Yes	B	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Great Lakes	K-5	Yes	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Lakeshore	K-5	No	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Lakewood	K-5	No	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
North Holland	K-5	Yes	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Pine Creek	K-5	Yes	B	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Sheldon Woods	K-5	Yes	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Waukazoo	K-5	No	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Woodside	K-5	Yes	B	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Harbor Lights	6-8	No	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Macatawa Bay	6-8	No	A	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
West Ottawa High School	9-12	No	B	No	Yes	No	1
West Ottawa Public Schools (District)	K-12			Yes	Yes	Yes	0

## Assessment Data

Multiple assessments are used to evaluate student performance and progress. Results assist in evaluating the extent to which school improvement goals are being met, revising goals and instructional strategies, and defining professional development needs. Assessment practices are frequently reviewed and revised.

A combination of local common assessments at all grade levels, state assessments (MEAP, MME, and ELPA), and national assessments (e.g., Explore, PLAN, PSAT, ACT, WorkKeys) help measure the curriculum's effectiveness in providing students with the knowledge and skills deemed essential by the West Ottawa Board of Education, the Michigan Department of Education, colleges/universities, and employers.

Frequent progress reports and parent-teacher conferences communicate student growth and achievement levels throughout the school year.

## Grades 1-5 Testing

Per Michigan law, students in grades 1 through 5 must be assessed annually in English language Arts and Mathematics. In order to meet this mandate, and also to monitor student progress in these core content areas throughout the school year, West Ottawa Public Schools administers the following assessments: Rigby Running Records (reading), DIBELS (early literacy),

common writing prompts, common math assessments, and math unit assessments.

## State of Michigan Assessments

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) tests were developed to measure what Michigan educators believe all students should know and be able to achieve in five content areas: mathematics, reading, science, social studies, and writing. The test results paint a picture of how well Michigan students and Michigan schools are doing when compared to standards established by the State Board of education. The MEAP and MME tests are common measures given statewide to all students. They serve as measures of accountability for Michigan schools.

Results of MEAP tests can be used by schools for school improvement purposes. The results indicate overall strengths and weaknesses of a school district's curriculum, and can be used to modify instructional practice.

## District Assessment and AYP Data

District annual report assessment and AYP data is available online at [www.westottawa.net](http://www.westottawa.net) in the Annual Report section of the district website.

# Student Achievement

West Ottawa students excel in many venues, capturing individual and team honors in a wide variety of academic and extracurricular programs. Our students have earned awards and distinction for/in: art, athletics, band, career preparation programs, community service, creative writing, debate, forensics, geography, government, jazz band, industrial arts, leadership, marketing, math, Midwest Talent Search, Model United Nations, National Merit Scholars, orchestra, robotics, rocketry, science, scholastic achievement, spelling, theater, video, vocal music, and yearbook.

Among our outstanding accomplishments in 2007-08:

### ACADEMIC HONORS

- 🐾 Two National Merit Finalists in the Class of 2009. Seven additional students were recognized as National Merit Commended students.
- 🐾 The Class of 2009 had five Valedictorians (4.0 GPA), one Top Scholar Valedictorian based on GPA, Honors Points and ACT score, and one Salutatorian (3.97 GPA).
- 🐾 Forty-seven seniors were recognized as being Top Scholars.
- 🐾 Eleven seniors received AP Scholar Awards

- 🐾 Five students received AP Scholar with Honors Awards
- 🐾 Two seniors were invited to take the American Chemical Society National Test
- 🐾 93% of our 2009 graduates indicated plans for post-secondary education:
  - 63% four-year college/university
  - 24% two-year college
  - 4% trade or vocational school
  - 2% military service
  - 3% working
  - 4% undecided
- 🐾 Class of 2009 graduates were awarded more than \$4.6 million in scholarships.
- 🐾 415 Class of 2009 graduates met the high school component of the Michigan Promise Scholarship requirements.

### ARTS HONORS

- 🐾 The WOHS Marching Band received a Division I rating at the District Marching Festival.
- 🐾 The WOHS Jazz Band received a Division 1 Rating for the

4<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

- 🐾 The Asteri Proi, Women of Vocalaires, Men of Vocalaires, Select Women's Ensemble, Concert Band, and Symphony Orchestra all received Division I ratings at District and State Festival.
- 🐾 Three senior artists received National Scholastic Art Awards.
- 🐾 Senior artwork can also be seen traveling in the Governors' Traveling Art Show.
- 🐾 The WOHS Percussion Ensemble was selected as the Best Percussion Ensemble in the State for the second year in a row.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR HONORS**

- 🐾 The senior-led Blood Drive produced much-needed pints of blood for local blood banks.
- 🐾 The Student Senate-led Month of Caring collected over 4,000 pounds of food for local food pantries.
- 🐾 The West Ottawa Science Olympiad team qualified for the State Tournament for the fifth consecutive year.
- 🐾 The FIRST Robotics team received awards in each event they entered during the 2008-09 school year.
- 🐾 Ten seniors placed at the MITES State Competition for Industrial Arts

- 🐾 Senior members of CTEE recently oversaw the refurbishing, packaging, and sending of 200 computers to western Africa.

### **ATHLETICS HONORS**

- 🐾 The Boys Tennis team qualified for the State Tennis finals for the twelfth consecutive year and placed tenth in the state.
- 🐾 The Boys Cross Country, Football, Girls Swim/Dive, and Volleyball teams all were recognized as being Academic All-State teams.
- 🐾 The Girls Swim/Dive team finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the state.
- 🐾 The Girls Water Polo team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the state.
- 🐾 The Ice Hockey team was recognized as being an Academic All-State team for the eighth time in nine years.
- 🐾 The Boys Swim/Dive team placed tenth in the MHSAA State Finals.
- 🐾 The Girls Soccer team was academic all state and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the district.
- 🐾 The competitive Cheer team finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the state.
- 🐾 The Boys Baseball team won the district title.

## **Curriculum**

### **A CORE CURRICULUM FOUNDED ON THE BASICS**

The core curriculum provides a framework for our educational programs. It is a set of expectations all students should achieve to progress in their schooling.

We are working to deliver a curriculum that provides all students with the knowledge and skills necessary for living effectively today and in the future.

Our curriculum provides expanded opportunities designed to meet individual needs. Course offerings exceed core curriculum requirements established by the Michigan Department of Education. Strong academic programming is supported by quality technology and facilities.

Integrated with our core academic curriculum and enhancing a student's quality educational experience are:

- 🐾 childcare options
- 🐾 clubs, organizations, and athletics
- 🐾 community partnerships
- 🐾 conflict management training
- 🐾 counseling/guidance
- 🐾 field trips, assemblies, and special activities/events
- 🐾 forensics and debate
- 🐾 industrial arts (including CAD, robotics, engineering, WoodLINKS, and architectural drawing)
- 🐾 integration of technology into instruction and assessment
- 🐾 library-media resources
- 🐾 journalism and yearbook

- 🐾 Junior Achievement
- 🐾 preschool
- 🐾 Project ChARLIE
- 🐾 publishing centers
- 🐾 special education
- 🐾 student government
- 🐾 technology tools/resources
- 🐾 theater/performing arts
- 🐾 video/television production instruction
- 🐾 vocational/technical classes and experience

### **MEASURING SUCCESS**

A combination of local common assessments for courses and standardized testing (MEAP/MME, ELPA, EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT, PSAT, and SAT) measure the curriculum's effectiveness in providing students with the knowledge deemed essential by the West Ottawa Board of Education, Michigan Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Frequent progress reports communicate student growth and achievement levels. Parent/teacher conferences also communicate student academic and social progress. Access to a web-based "parent portal" allows parents to monitor student academic progress and attendance on a daily basis.

### **RECOGNIZING THE INDIVIDUAL**

Student achievement remains our top priority. Higher standards and greater expectations have resulted in the implementation of

a variety of instructional methods, progressive teaching strategies, and specialized programs designed to respond to the individual needs and learning styles of a diverse student population. We offer a demanding academic schedule for all students with an emphasis on college preparation skills. This program is supported by strong educational components that provide real-world vocational/technical training choices for students.

We embrace the concept of a brain-compatible learning environment, recognizing that individuals learn at different rates of growth through different methods of instruction and a variety of teaching/learning styles. Our curriculum makes provisions for the variability of academic skills, interests, and social, emotional, and physical development within our student population.

The Core Curriculum of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies has been expanded to include:

- 🐾 Career Exploration
- 🐾 Online learning
- 🐾 Fine Arts (instrumental music, vocal music, visual arts, dance, and the performing arts)
- 🐾 World Languages
- 🐾 Healthy Living
- 🐾 Physical Wellness
- 🐾 Technology Standards

### **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Curriculum changes are driven by analysis of student achievement data. We are continually working to improve the curriculum (targeted standards), assessment system, and instructional strategies to help children succeed, and to increase the level of challenge for our students.

Curricular assessment and instructional improvement are ongoing processes. Teachers and administrators work collaboratively to evaluate, update, enhance, and realign each curricular area with state expectations and federal mandates.

The West Ottawa Leadership Team and curriculum committees serve as advisory groups which:

- 🐾 aim to raise student achievement by revising the curriculum
- 🐾 implement and monitor assessment data collection systems to provide feedback on student performance
- 🐾 ensure that state mandates are met
- 🐾 increase the level of academic rigor for all students
- 🐾 focus on curriculum and assessment practices related to improving student achievement
- 🐾 coordinate professional development opportunities to support district goals
- 🐾 integrate technology into all classrooms, with an emphasis on information access
- 🐾 support the team concept in grades 6-8
- 🐾 maintain consistent, challenging K-12 educational programs
- 🐾 support curriculum review, revision, and implementation year-round
- 🐾 research, evaluate, and recommend new courses, textbooks, software, and related instructional materials

The district is committed to a career preparation system and through this system has expanded offerings for students. Specialized K-12th grade materials were purchased for the English as a Second Language and migrant education programs. These materials blend the teaching of English with mastery of core content recommended for all students in Michigan.

### **LIFELONG LEARNING**

Our instructional program is designed to serve the entire West Ottawa community. Hundreds of children and adults took advantage of extended learning opportunities and support services, including those offered in conjunction with Life Services Systems, Community Education, and the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. Options included:

- 🐾 preschool
- 🐾 year-round child care
- 🐾 enrichment programs
- 🐾 after-school study sessions and tutoring
- 🐾 professional development
- 🐾 Careerline Tech Center classes
- 🐾 West Ottawa Bookmobile (summer)
- 🐾 West Ottawa Youth Sports Program
- 🐾 West Ottawa Community Pool programs
- 🐾 Township recreation programs
- 🐾 Ottawa Area Intermediate (OAISD) instruction and resources

### **RESOURCES AND SUPPORT**

Staff and community contribute to the West Ottawa Educational Foundation which rewards instructional innovation, educational enhancement, and excellence in teaching. The Foundation awards grants to district staff each year.

In 2008-09 federal and state grants provided support and/or enhance instructional programs and increase student achievement in the following areas:

- 🐾 Michigan School Readiness - funds preschool program for 4-year-olds who meet specific state criteria
- 🐾 Title I/ Part A: Improving Basic Programs - provides supplementary instruction for children who are most at risk of failing to meet district core academic curriculum standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies
- 🐾 Part C: Migrant Education Program - provides educational and support services to migrant children
- 🐾 Title III - funds programming for English language learners
- 🐾 Title V: Innovative Education Program Strategies - supports local innovation and educational/school reform
- 🐾 State Section 31A: Programs for At-Risk Pupils - funds supplementary instructional and pupil support services for students who meet specific state at-risk criteria

West Ottawa Schools offer many instructional options. The following ongoing efforts provide responsive and individualized instructional opportunities to help each child succeed: Accelerated learning:

- ☺ S.A.I.L (Students Accelerating In Learning) at elementary level
- ☺ Academically advanced courses at middle school and high school
- ☺ College credit classes on high school campus
- ☺ Advanced placement
- ☺ Alternative education
- ☺ At-risk programs
- ☺ Career preparation
- ☺ Cross-curricular, computer-assisted learning
- ☺ Dual enrollment
- ☺ English as a Second Language
- ☺ Enrichment classes
- ☺ Extended day options
- ☺ Extended year options (summer school)
- ☺ Flexible grouping of students
- ☺ Homebound instruction

- ☺ Integrated instruction
- ☺ Literacy learning
- ☺ Looping
- ☺ Mentoring
- ☺ Migrant education
- ☺ Montessori elementary classes
- ☺ Peer-assisted learning
- ☺ Preschool
- ☺ Remediation
- ☺ Response to Intervention
- ☺ School-to-work options
- ☺ Seminar
- ☺ Service-learning
- ☺ Team teaching
- ☺ Test-out options
- ☺ Tutoring

### ***PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW***

To comply with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Parents Right-To-Know, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessional, if applicable.

For more information, please contact Sue Vincent via email at [vincents@westottawa.net](mailto:vincents@westottawa.net) or at (616) 738.5780.