




*West Ottawa Public Schools*

*...The  of our community!*

# 2007-08 Annual Education Report: West Ottawa High School

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***Assistant Superintendents***

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Cindy Dymowski, *Student Services*  
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Michelle Williams, *English Language Learners & Migrant Program*  
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# WEST OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL

The West Ottawa High School Annual Report is intended to inform the parents and citizens of our school district about the many aspects of our programs. As you read through the information, you should gain insight into the many outstanding educational opportunities available to our students, the progress we are making as a school, and the high level of success our students continue to demonstrate.

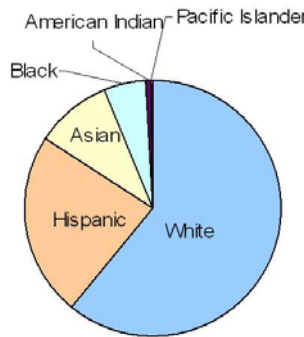
I wish to express my appreciation to the students, faculty, and parents who are committed to excellence and who make it possible for our school to continue to improve. Without a supportive community, interested parents, and students who are inspired to participate in school, we would not enjoy the positive reputation we have as a high school. Thank you to everyone who helped us achieve the accomplishments noted in this report.

It is my hope this report will provide readers with valuable information and will reflect the collective pride that we share about West Ottawa High School. We are proud of our programs and of our students' achievements.

Sincerely,

Kent Henson, Principal

<b>Enrollment</b>	
Student Count: 2,326	
White	60.9%
Hispanic	23.3%
Asian	9.9%
Black	5.2%
American Indian	0.6%
Pacific Islander	0.2%



**Free and Reduced-Price Breakfast/Lunch Data**

% of Meals Served	% of Enrollment
41.6	32.4

<b>Education YES! Grade</b>	<b>Made AYP?</b>	<b>AYP Phase</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>0</b>

## Providing Instructional, Support, & Building Services

144 professional teaching staff • six counselors • two social workers • two school psychologists • speech therapist • special education teacher consultant • school-to-work coordinator • director of student services • secretaries • paraprofessionals • educational assistants • building attendants • food service staff • security personnel • bus drivers • maintenance staff • groundskeepers

District & test data is available online at [www.westottawa.net/ar](http://www.westottawa.net/ar)



### About the School

Kent Henson, *Principal*

Grades Served: 9-12

<b>North Building</b> 3685 Butternut Dr. Holland, MI 49424 (616) 994.5000 Fax: (616) 994.5091	<b>South Building</b> 3600 152nd Ave. Holland, MI 49424 (616) 738.6700 Fax: (616) 994.6791
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### Mission Statement

*West Ottawa High School develops competent, confident, and caring citizens.*

### Building History

- The High School Campus opened in the fall of 2005
- Two-building campus with approximately 600,000 square feet
- Class A school enrollment
- Grades 9 - 12

### Building Features

- 150 classrooms on a two-building campus
- Classrooms equipped with up-to-date instructional technology
- State of the art industrial arts/technology areas featuring the latest in computer-aided design and machining
- Two full-service library/media centers with complete sets of books, resources, materials, and research technology
- Full production TV studio
- Computer labs with up-to-date hardware and software
- Two full-service cafeterias
- Competition gymnasium with seating capacity for 2,850 fans, and two auxiliary gymnasiums for instruction, practices, and competitions
- Olympic-size competition swimming pool
- Large group instruction areas featuring distance learning capabilities
- Snow-melt sidewalk system between the buildings
- Dedicated drop-off and pick-up areas for cars and busses
- Competition baseball, softball, and tennis facilities on campus
- Dedicated weight rooms and instructional dance facilities



## North Central Accreditation Program

WOHS has been accredited with the North Central Association (NCA) since 1978. WOHS has continued the NCA evaluation process and has always achieved the highest ratings. The staff is currently working with the NCA on a new five-year cycle of school improvement through the Performance Accreditation Process.

Within this process, the WOHS staff has aspired to attain the highest level of accreditation called Transitions. Continuing participation with the NCA Transitions Model will enable us to satisfy in large part the performance standards of *Education, YES!*

### Graduation Requirements

To receive a diploma from WOHS, students must complete a minimum of 28 credit hours of study during their four years from grades 9-12.

In anticipation of legislated graduation requirements by the State of Michigan, in the spring of 2005, the West Ottawa Board of Education established new graduation requirements for the incoming 9th grade class. The following are the required courses of study to earn a WOHS diploma beginning with the class of 2011: 16 units of required class work and 16 units of electives.

The 16 required credits include:

- 4 units of English (including English 1, English 2, American Literature/Speech, English elective)
- 4 units of math (including Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, math elective)
- 3 units of science (including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)
- 3 units of social studies (including U.S. History, World History, U.S. Government, and Economics)
- 1 unit of health and physical education
- 1 unit of visual, performing, and applied arts

At WOHS we are working to deliver a curriculum that prepares our students for living effectively today and in the future. This means our curricula reflect the requirements set forth in the State of Michigan Essential Goals and Objectives for the various subjects taught.

The West Ottawa School District also abides by ten Learner Exit Outcomes (LEOs) for all high school graduates. LEOs provide direction for the development of district curricula and instructional techniques.

Over the last decade, each academic area has been enhanced and realigned with the state's core curriculum recommendations, new state mandates, and the district's LEOs. In an effort to meet the individual needs of our students, over fifty new course offerings have been added to the High

### Learner Exit Outcomes

Our Graduates Will Be:

- Complex Thinkers
- Flexible Adapters
- Problem Solvers
- Effective Communicators
- Cooperative & Collaborative Workers
- Self-Directed Achievers
- Responsible and Involved Citizens
- Skilled and Active Learners
- Caring Individuals
- Innovative, Quality Producers

## School Improvement Goals & Strategies

Through the leadership of students, parents, community members, Board of Education trustees, teachers, and administrators, the WOHS School Improvement Team has continued to fulfill the requirements of the North Central Association (NCA) receiving full accreditation.

The high school has started a new five year improvement cycle. With the guidance of the NCA, we are moving into the highest level of Performance Accreditation called the Transitions Endorsement Process, and have identified the following goal areas:

- All students will show improvement in their written communication skills
  - Collins Writing Strategies
  - 6+1 Traits of Writing
  - Practiced writing of ACT/MME persuasive writing
- All students will show improvement in their reading skills
  - 25 minutes of SSR each week
  - Explore Reading Test data
  - Four sections of English I will use READ 180 program
- All students will show improvement in their knowledge, understanding, and application of mathematics concepts
  - Algebra I expanded to 3 semester course for all incoming freshmen
  - Mastery Learning was implemented as an instructional model in Algebra I
- All students will show improvement in their knowledge, understanding, and application of social studies concepts
  - Using achievement data, some students were assigned to a three trimester U.S. History class
- All students will show improvement in their knowledge, understanding, and application of science concepts

West Ottawa High School has met some components of the goals and is implementing additional strategies for the 2008-09 school year to achieve success in all components of all goals.

As we embark on the journey to Transitions, a process with a focus on providing our students with ongoing support to enhance their individual performance, we will also fulfill, in large part, the new requirements outlined through the State of Michigan accreditation process.

### Graduation Rate

The graduation rate for the Class of 2007 was 86.4%, well above the state average of 75.5%.

A complete School Improvement Report for WOHS will be available for review at the High School North Building Office, located at 3685 Butternut Drive, or the South Building Office, located at 3600 152nd Avenue.

### 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 Rich Zuker, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, via email at [zukerr@westottawa.net](mailto:zukerr@westottawa.net) or at (616) 738.5781.



## Advanced Coursework

Academically qualified West Ottawa High School students have the opportunity to participate in:

- **Dual Enrollment:**

When appropriate, students may attend college classes at local institutions during the regular high school day. With a greater number and wider range of advanced placement classes offered at WOHS, more students are choosing to stay at the high school.

- **On-Campus Dual Enrollment:**

During the 2007-08 school year, students had the opportunity to enroll in two college level courses through Kendall College of Art and Design that were offered on the WOHS campus. The courses were held two days per week at the completion of the regular school day. WOHS will be expanding these offerings in the future.

- **Advanced Placement (AP):**

A wide range of AP classes afford students the opportunity to pursue college level instruction and the option of college credit within the high school setting. 234 students took 377 AP exams for college credit in 2007-08 (288 in 2006-07). An average of 74% of WOHS students scored at or above the level recommended by the testing service for college credit.

We currently offer an impressive array of sixteen different AP courses on the high school campus.

AP Art Studio	AP Environmental Science
AP Art History	AP European History
AP Biology	AP Physics
AP Chemistry	AP Psychology
AP Calculus	AP Spanish
AP Economics	AP Statistics
AP English Language Composition	AP U.S. Government
AP English Literature and Composition	AP U.S. History

- **International Baccalaureate (IB) :**

During the 2007-08 school year WOHS filed a letter of intent to become an IB school. Our goal is to complete the application process during the 2008-09 school year and begin training staff for a fall of 2010 implementation date. Students may then elect to work towards receiving an IB diploma.

## Core Curriculum—A Variety of Options Provides Greater Opportunity for Success

The core curriculum is a set of expectations all students should achieve in order to progress in their schooling. It is intended to assure that every student has acquired the knowledge and skills necessary for effective adult living.

WOHS implemented a trimester schedule in 2004-05, allowing for longer blocks of in-depth learning time and extended opportunities for students to earn more credits and take more courses of interest.

## College Credit Statistics

	2006-07		2007-08	
	#	%	#	%
Students enrolled in Dual Enrollment classes	36	1.5%	28	1.2%
# of spots filled in Dual Enrollment classes	55	n/a	34	n/a
# of Advanced Placement (AP) classes available to students	15	n/a	16	n/a
Students enrolled in AP classes	288	12.0%	234	10.1%

## Specialized Programs - Educational Alternatives and Opportunities for Students

### Special Education

A full range of support programs and services are available. Center programs throughout the Ottawa Area ISD are available for students whose special needs cannot be met at WOHS.

279 WOHS students (11.8%) qualified for assistance in 2007-08 under state guidelines

### Alternative Education

The Fore Core Plus program provides fourth year students with the opportunity to seek a GED endorsement on their diploma while maintaining their status as West Ottawa High School student. Of the 24 students who entered the program during the 2007-08 school year, 67% successfully completed the state GED requirements and have graduated with their class.

### Vocational Education

- The OAISD Careerline Tech Center offers semester, one-year and two-year programs in a variety of vocational/technical areas for juniors and seniors:

- 205 students attended Tech Center programs in 2007-08.
- Students can select courses which are identified for each of six career pathways. The pathways include: Arts/Communications, Business/Management/Marketing Technology, Engineering/Manufacturing/Industrial Technology, Health Sciences, Human Services, and Natural Resources/Agriscience.
- The Career Cruising Program gives students access to career planning information.

- All seniors meet with counselors for assistance with future career and educational plans.
  - Over 90% of our students completed an EDP (Educational Development Plan) in the spring for the 2007-08 school year.
  - Career programs enable students to earn course credit while exploring career options, gaining job experience, and discovering the connection between the classroom and the workplace. Number of 2007-08 participants:
    - Career Explorers: 205
    - Career Interns: 33
    - Co-Op: 104
    - Lakeshore Leaders - Leadership Training: 68
    - Best Buy - Careers in Sales and Marketing: 35
    - USA Financial - Careers in Finance: 116
    - Stanley Harris - Careers in Cosmetology: 39
    - DNA - State Parks - Careers in Natural Sciences: 18
    - Volunteer Placements: 39
    - Resume Writing Assistance: 66
    - Job Seeking Assistance: 95
    - Michigan Works Youth Program: 16
    - A Day on the Job: 47
    - Youth Mentors: 9
    - Youth Tutors: 5
    - Students Serving on Community Boards: 7
- (Programs also include career roundtables, apprenticeships, Junior Achievement)



## Additional Opportunities

- *Classroom Career Connections* give students valuable employability skills along with essential academic skills needed for a wide variety of career choices. Classroom lessons simulate workplace projects, experiments, and experiences.
- The PALs (Peer Assistant Listeners) program continues to serve the needs of individual students. PALs travel to all W.O. schools to serve as mentors. In 2007-08, more than 700 contacts (intervention opportunities) were made district wide by 24 PALs
- The Foreign Language Department continues to promote an understanding of the various cultures in our school. Each year foreign language clubs sponsor trips to other countries. The student group, Hispanic Organization for Pride in Education (HOPE), holds events to promote a better understanding of their culture. German students participate in a sister school exchange program. A Junior Achievement venture maintains an international partnership with German students. The debate program has initiated an exchange with students from a prestigious school in Hungary. WOHS hosts foreign exchange students and visiting groups each year.
- Cultural/Technological/Environmental Exchange students travel to Cameroon, Africa for a summer service-learning experience working with educators and students to expand technological capabilities. Students also work side-by-side with Peace Corps staff assisting farmers.
- Veterans Day tradition of honoring area servicemen and women continues with special tribute to WOHS graduates.
- Twenty-seven individual and team sports
- Academic, cultural, and service-oriented clubs/organizations
- Instrumental and vocal music programs (900+ students)
- Model United Nations, Student Congress, Boys and Girls State
- National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society chapters
- Student Senate
- Theater
- Dance
- *Woodlinks*, an international program offered by few schools in the country, gives students the opportunity to earn trades certification.
- *West Ottawa* (school newspaper) and *ICON* (yearbook)
- WOBN (High School television station)



## Parent/Community Involvement

One of the most important factors in a student's success is the involvement of parents, guardians, grandparents, and/or other family members in the educational process. WOHS offers a variety of opportunities for involvement and home-school communication, including:

- *Panther Pipeline* school newsletter (mailed and on our website)
- Parent-Teacher conferences
- WOHS Diversity Council
- Orientation programs
- College nights
- Career awareness evenings
- Monthly Parent Advisory Council meetings
- Parent advisory committees
- PATS (Parents, Administrators, Teachers, and Students) organization
- Channel 21, our cable access television station

### Volunteerism

Volunteers play an important role at WOHS. This is due to the work of the PATS group, which has raised the level of parent involvement at the high school and is having a positive influence on the home-school connection. Hundreds of additional hours were contributed through Athletic Boosters; Jungle, the annual all-night, substance-free party for graduates; and The Education Station. Volunteers are our partners in teaching and learning. The helping hands of volunteers in some way touch virtually every student and teacher.

- ✓ 122 volunteers (147 in 2006-07; 75 in 2005-06; 22 in 2004-05) registered more than 762 hours of service (1,083 in 2006-07; 1,000 in 2005-06)

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

- ✓ 49 % of our parents/guardians attended fall conferences
- ✓ 41% of our parents/guardians attended winter conferences
- ✓ 30% of our parents/guardians attended spring conferences

In addition, attendance is high at student performances and athletic events. We are proud of the level of parent involvement in our school and will continue to seek ways to provide opportunities for parents to engage staff and support their children.

- Numerous service-learning and philanthropic projects



## WOHS Points of Pride

### Teacher Honors

- Bre Bartels, a world studies teacher at WOHS, was granted a James Madison Memorial Fellowship to pursue a Masters Degree in Political Science from Virginia Tech University. These fellowships were created to honor Madison's legacy by providing support for graduate study that focuses on the Constitution. Mr. Bartels was the only teacher selected from Michigan into this program.
- WOHS science teacher Jean Keggereis was named the national teacher winner of the Igniting Creative Energy Challenge sponsored by Johnson Controls.

### Academic Honors

- Four seniors were selected as National Merit Semifinalists, with three eventually becoming National Merit Finalists.
- Eight seniors were recognized as being Advanced Placement Scholars
- The Class of 2008 had eight Valedictorians (4.0 GPA), one Top Scholar Valedictorian based on GPA, Honors Points and ACT score, and four Salutatorians (3.99 GPA).
- Thirty-nine seniors were recognized as being Top Scholars.
- Eight students received AP Scholar Awards
- 87% of our 2008 graduates indicated plans for post-secondary education:
  - 63% four-year college/university
  - 17% two-year college
  - 5% trade or vocational school
  - 2% military service
  - 3% working
  - 10% undecided
- Over 300 seniors received either a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Academic Achievement award.
- Based on the achievements of the Class of 2008, our students earned a potential \$5,000,000 in scholarships.
  - \$160,000 in scholarships from local memorials, service clubs, and businesses.
  - \$2,920,000 in college scholarships.
  - The potential to earn another \$1,890,000 in Michigan Promise Scholarships.

### Arts Honors

- The WOHS Marching Band received a Division I rating at the District Marching Festival.
  - The Concert Choir, Bella Voce, Men of Vocalaires Ensemble, Concert Orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra all received Division I ratings at District Festival.
  - The Vocalaires, Women of Vocalaires, Select Women's Ensemble, Concert Band, and Symphony Band all received Division I ratings at both District and

## Student Achievement Highlights

- 4 National Merit Semi-Finalists, 3 National Merit Finalists
- The Class of 2008 had 8 Valedictorians (4.0 GPA), 1 Top Scholar Valedictorian based on GPA, Honors Points, and ACT score, and 4 Salutatorians (3.99 GPA)
- 39 seniors were recognized as being Top Scholars.
- 8 students received AP Scholar Awards
- 87% of our 2008 graduates polled indicated plans for some form of post-secondary education:
- 63% four-year college/university; 17% two-year college; 5% trade or vocational school; 2% military service; 3% working, 10% undecided

Recognizing that no one measure can capture the full range of student learning, WOHS uses a variety of ways to measure and report student progress and achievement. Areas commonly reviewed when considering student academic achievement include standardized testing results from PSAT/NMSQT, ACT, SAT, WorkKeys, and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

The information included here shows WOHS student test results on state and national measures. Most West Ottawa students score above state and national averages.

- Standardized test and entrance exam scores qualify students for Michigan Merit Award and National Merit scholarships as well as scholarships/awards to numerous post-secondary institutions.
- Class of 2008 graduates were awarded more than \$4.9 million in scholarships.
- 444 graduates earned Michigan Merit Scholarships.

State Festival. The Vocalaires were also selected as the Best Chamber Choir in the State.

- Two senior artists received National Scholastic Art Awards.
- Two additional senior artists have also received Congressional Art Awards allowing their art work to hang in Washington D.C.
- 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, and the WOHS Voter Registration Drive was responsible for registering over 400 enthusiastic students enabling them to vote in upcoming local, state, and federal elections.
- The Student Senate-led Month of Caring collected over 6,000 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 finished second in their division at the National Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia.
- One senior was recognized as being the top Youth Entrepreneur by the Great Lakes Junior Achievement organization.
- Ten seniors placed at the MITES State Competition for Industrial Arts
- Senior members of CTEE recently oversaw the refurbishing, packaging, and sending of 250 computers to western Africa.

### Athletics Honors

- The Boys Tennis team qualified for the State Tennis finals for the eleventh consecutive year and placed eleventh in the state.
- The Girls Golf, Boys Soccer, Football, Volleyball, Girls Cross Country, Boys Water Polo, and Girls Swim and Dive teams all placed third or better in their conference in the fall.
- The Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball teams all were recognized as being Academic All-State teams.
- The Girls Volleyball team finished with an honorable mention ranking in the state.
- The Ice Hockey team established a new school record for wins and was recognized as being an Academic All-State team for the seventh time in eight years with a GPA of 3.45.
- The Boys Swim/Dive team placed fifteenth in the MHSAA State Finals.
- The Girls Soccer team was Conference Co-Champions and won the OK Red Conference Championship.
- The Girls Softball and Tennis teams finished third in the conference, with the Girls Tennis team placing in twelfth place at the State Finals.

