

HONEY CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

1735 S. Wagner Road

PO Box 1406

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1406

Phone: (734) 994-2636

Fax: (734) 994-2341



August 21, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for Honey Creek Community School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Al Waters for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site
https://www.mischooldata.org/NewAer/CombinedReport.aspx?Common_Locations=1-S,8200,1230,118&Common_LocationIncludeComparison=False&Portal_InquiryDisplayType=None

or you may review a copy in the Director's office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.

Our school was identified as a Focus School based on our achievement gap during the 2011-12 School year. We will remain in the Focus School cohort for four years; however, based on our achievement gap, we did not qualify as a focus school for the 2013-14 school year. According to the State's metrics, we now have "Excellent" ratings for the size of our achievement gap. This is true for all subject areas. Additionally, Honey Creek Community School ranked in the 85th percentile for the 2012 and 2013 school years.

The School

Honey Creek was started by parents who were interested in finding quality alternative education for their children. In 1995, a charter was granted through Washtenaw Intermediate School District, and Honey Creek opened its doors for its first school year.

Honey Creek Community School is a public charter school designed to guide the students in a multi-age setting emphasizing social skills, technology, literacy, and integrated, project-based learning. Honey Creek is housed at the High Point Center, located on 40 acres with nature trails, where we share a playground, indoor heated pool, interact with High Point students and learn appreciation for those who are different from ourselves. Our students are residents of Washtenaw County's ten school districts and thus supported with state and county funds and federal grants. Our charter was renewed in May 2014 for another five years.

Honey Creek Community School houses grades K-8. The middle school, grades 6-8, was implemented in 2001, beginning with only 6th and 7th grades that first year. 250 students were enrolled at Honey Creek in 2013-2014. Early Elementary had a 19:1 student per teacher ratio. Middle Elementary had a 19:1 student per teacher ratio, and Later Elementary had an 19:1 student per teacher ratio. The Middle School had a ratio of 20 students per teacher.

Honey Creek Community School's overarching philosophy rests on the assumption that people learn and grow best when the various aspects of their education and experience are integrated and interactive. To that end, Honey Creek Community School bases learning on an integrated curriculum and on combining thinking with doing. In addition, Honey Creek Community School fosters connections among the home, the school, the community, and among children and adults of different ages and backgrounds. The curriculum emphasizes the integration of thought and experience, and the integration of subject areas, by centering learning on themes and projects with meaning and purpose in the students' lives. A model of apprenticeship best characterizes the nature of the learning experience, in which adults with various kinds of expertise, including teachers, parents, and other community

members, share in the teaching of the children, and the children's lives inside the school and outside the school are connected by those relationships and by visits to community sites which are important to the projects and themes the students are doing and studying. Within the school, those projects and themes are explored through learning centers, workstations, and through the Curriculum-Based Service- Learning program, which allow teachers to guide students as they learn through hands-on activities, both individually and in groups.

Registration and Enrollment

The enrollment process at Honey Creek involves several steps. In the winter, interested parents must attend an enrollment information meeting. In February, enrollment applications for new students will be accepted. Students will be admitted by a lottery system to fill the open spots. Those who do not receive a spot for the following school year will be placed on a waiting list. After receiving a spot, the student and parent make a partial day visit to Honey Creek to experience our normal school setting. After making this visit, families may confirm their spot with Honey Creek for the following school year. Students who are currently enrolled in Honey Creek and their siblings will be offered the opportunity in January to re-enroll for the next year. Those spots, which remain after re-enrollment, will be offered to community members.

School Improvement

For the past four years, Honey Creek Community School's school improvement efforts have been largely focused on reducing the number of students identified as not proficient in language arts and math as determined by statewide assessments. The state has set the proficiency target for all subject areas at 85%. Schools are to achieve this by 2022. Presently, Honey Creek Students exceed the targets set for the 2013-14 school year, and our full academic year students exceed the 2022 targets in reading. With our present reading proficiency rates averaging 95 percent, the school has begun efforts to increase the number of students scoring in the advanced range in 2013-14, 35 percent of Honey Creek students scored in the advanced range on statewide assessments. We extended the goal to mathematics in 2013, and expect to see similar academic growth in that subject area.

While HCCS continues to address the individual needs of those not yet proficient in both in the general ed classroom and through Title 1 Targeted

Services, additional efforts are in place to support greater student achievement by all students. These efforts include:

1. Adding two more teachers to our Instructional Consultant Team and supporting those teachers through the professional development process. The function of the Instructional Consultant Team is identifying an instructional match for struggling learners, thereby creating a pathway for academic success.
2. Trained one Early Elementary teacher in the Lindamood-Bell approach to, literacy.
3. Trained one Early Elementary teacher in Singapore Math methods.
4. Trained one administrator and five teachers in the Common Core Standards.
5. Trained one Early Elementary teacher and two Middle Elementary in Two Sisters Daily 5 and Café to improve student literacy.
6. Middle school science teacher attended National Science Conference with workshops targeting differentiated, and project-based strategies for the instruction of science.
7. Six teachers received training in Love and Logic in support of our effort to further improve the school's climate and culture.
8. Trained four teachers in Assessment Literacy.

Continued efforts will include:

1. Providing a member of each grade level team with training on implementing the new Core Content Curriculum which the state has adopted and will implement this school year. The team member will be responsible for sharing that information with the remainder of his or her instructional team. The new content standards are more rigorous than Michigan's present curriculum framework.
2. Identify materials and professional development opportunities that augment the overall quality of instruction and promote greater levels of student achievement.

Strategic Planning

Honey Creek Community School recently completed the strategic planning process. Efforts to address the four goals set forth in the strategic plan began in the 2011-12 school year. Please visit our website and review our strategic plan.

Curriculum

Honey Creek Community School's curriculum is based on the Michigan's Curriculum Framework and the Common Core Standards and designed to meet each of the Grade Level Content Equivalencies through a multi-year approach. The school's teacher created curriculum is integrated across subject areas, thematically structured, and project based.

The school's multi-age classrooms integrate grade levels as follows: Early Elementary, Grades K and 1; Middle Elementary, Grades 2 and 3, Later Elementary, Grades 4 and 5; Middle School, Grades 6,7, and 8.

Combining grade levels provides the possibility of greater differentiation within the curriculum and a unique opportunity to meet individual learning needs. Honey Creek believes that this approach fosters greater academic achievement while providing student the benefit of serving as both the mentor and the mentee depending upon individual skill levels.

The faculty of Honey Creek has developed exceptional skill in interpreting and applying the grade level competencies articulated in the Michigan curriculum framework as well as the common Core standards. In an effort to make curriculum meaningful, accessible, and engaging, Honey Creek faculty design lessons and projects that foster in depth understanding and promote critical thinking among our students. We believe that this approach far out-values rote learning, and that the ability to engage in critical thought will better serve our students through their educational life and work experiences.

For specific information regarding the Honey Creek Curriculum, please contact your child's teacher.

Curriculum Celebration

Selecting appropriate assessment tools for any educational program requires aligning the assessment methods with the developmental age of the students, the content of the curriculum, and the understanding of learning that is embodied in the school. This final element, all too often overlooked in the rush to "pick a test and get on with it," is essential if we are to provide a full picture of how as well as what our children learn.

Honey Creek has elected to measure our students' learning and to demonstrate that learning to the community through a unique semi-annual Curriculum Celebration at each level. The Celebration embodies all forms of alternative assessment, including performance assessment, product assessment, portfolios of student work, student exhibition, and personal communication. Every student in every classroom participates after the completion of a unit; therefore they tell the story of what and how they have been learning in our school. Visitors to the Celebration see student-made products, watch demonstrations, hear students describe their work, ask questions, and – as they walk through a series of rooms filled with bright displays and chattering children – gain an understanding of both Honey Creek's curriculum and our philosophy.

Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are student led. This practice supports our efforts to have the student take greater responsibility for his or her learning. Parent participation hovers at 98-99 percent, and those parents who do not participate are contacted by phone or email to arrange a conference at another time.

Honey Creek Community School 2013 MEAP Performance

The table below indicates the percentage of students who scored proficient or advanced in each category of the MEAP. Scores in blue indicate the categories where the percentage of Honey Creek students scoring proficient or advanced is equal to or exceeds the percentages in the county and the state. Scores in orange indicate the categories where the percentage of Honey Creek students scoring proficient or advanced exceeds the percentages in the state.

Math	Honey Creek	Washtenaw ISD	State
Grade 3	48	53	40
Grade 4	60	57	45
Grade 5	48	62	45
Grade 6	55	55	41
Grade 7	66	54	39
Grade 8	67	54	35

Reading	Honey Creek	Washtenaw ISD	State
Grade 3	81	71	61
Grade 4	79	77	70
Grade 5	96	80	72
Grade 6	86	80	72
Grade 7	83	71	60

Grade 8	95	83	73
Writing	Honey Creek	Washtenaw ISD	State
Grade 4	57	58	50
Grade 7	83	63	53
Science	Honey Creek	Washtenaw ISD	State
Grade 5	42	25	17
Grade 8	38	30	20
Social Studies	Honey Creek	Washtenaw ISD	State
Grade 6	55	36	26

Below are tables and charts that outline student progress as measured by the TerraNova 3 assessment. The table provides you with the aggregate mean of the National Percentile (NP) and Scaled Score (SS). The national percentile is determined by the pool of students taking the exam any given year. As this pool of students changes each year, fluctuations in the NP are common. The scaled score is based on the number of questions a student answered correctly, and is a better reference to measure actual student achievement. A decrease in the scaled score from one year to the next indicates less than one year of academic growth. An increase in the scaled

score from one year to the next indicates more than one year's academic growth.

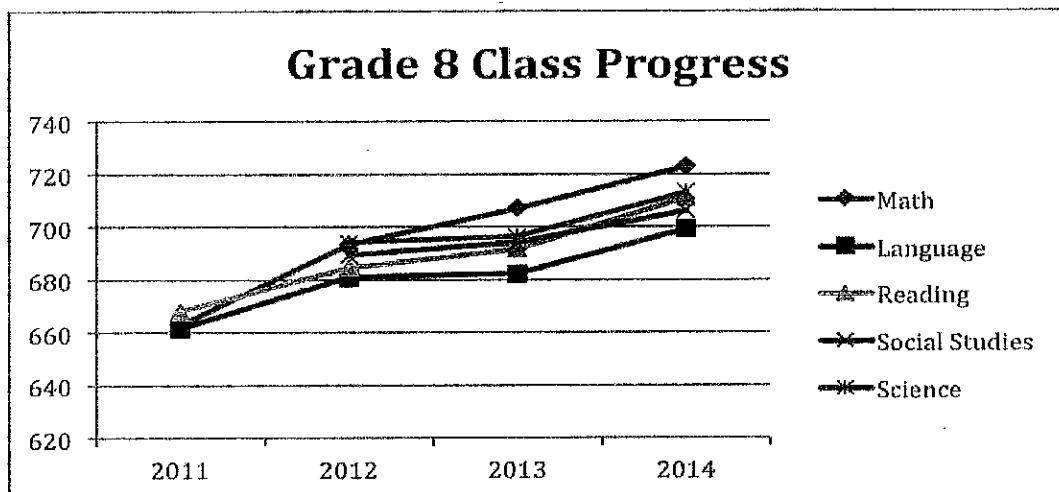
Any one assessment can only give us a snap shot of how a student or group of students is performing on any given day. There is always the chance that other influences can impact a student's performance negatively. It is for that reason that I prefer to look at patterns.

The table below provides mean grade level scaled scores for the four most recent assessment windows. The charts below track a given class's performance for those windows.

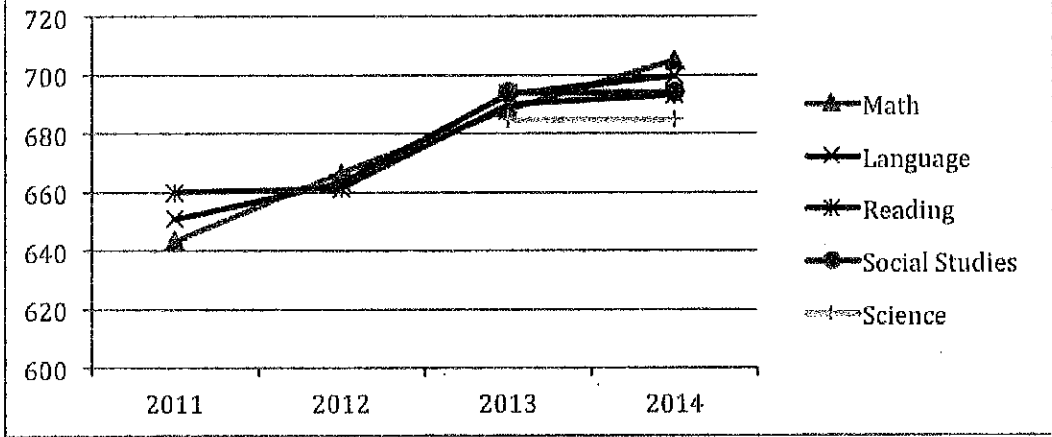
		Reading 2012	Reading 2013	Reading 2014	Language 2012	Language 2013	Language 2014	Math 2012	Math 2013	Math 2014
Grade 2	NP	70.5	71	69				75	68	65
	SS	623	621	623				607.8	589	585
Grade 3	NP	86	68	76	49.7	55	51	77	78	63
	SS	650.7	642	646	620.8	615	628	629.4	630	630
Grade 4	NP	69	68	59	64.7	70	77	66	70	75
	SS	648.7	657	653	649.3	657	656	647.2	645	658
Grade 5	NP	76	77	68	79	77	87	77	59	72
	SS	661	668	674	663.3	669	677	666.6	647	663
Grade 6	NP	78	80	84	75	85	80	73	72	67
	SS	684.6	689.5	686	680.6	693.5	678	693.4	688	683
Grade 7	NP	74.3	78	81	80.5	71	86	79	84	81
	SS	699.1	691.5	693	685.7	682	700	699.6	707	704
Grade 8	NP	80.3	76	84	81.7	82	85	76	84	82
	SS	706.5	707	712	703.9	705	700	714.1	719	723

Grades 4-8 Social Studies and Science Scores: These assessments were first administered to middle school students in 2012 and 4/5 students in 2014.

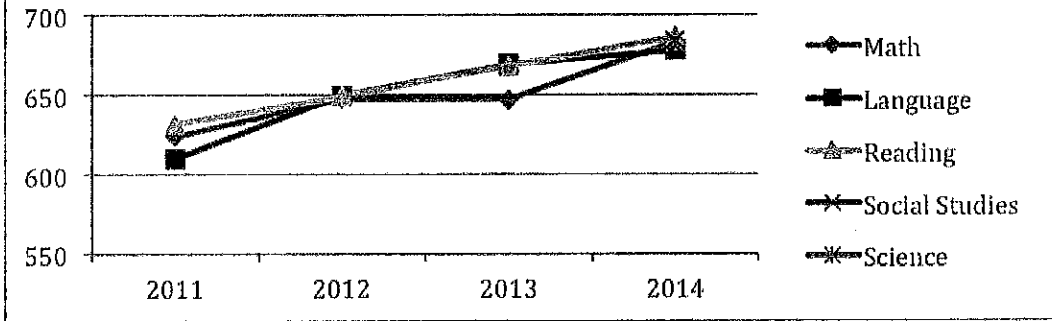
		Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Science	Science	Science
		2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Grade 4	NP			78			82
	SS			666			670
Grade 5	NP			76			67
	SS			666			684
Grade 6	NP	80.3	79	85	75	72	72
	SS	688.9	694	684	687.9	685	683
Grade 7	NP	67	74	74	68.5	73	64
	SS	684	694	694	691.9	696	685
Grade 8	NP	78.5	76	85	78.5	74	74
	SS	707.7	698	707	713.5	712	713



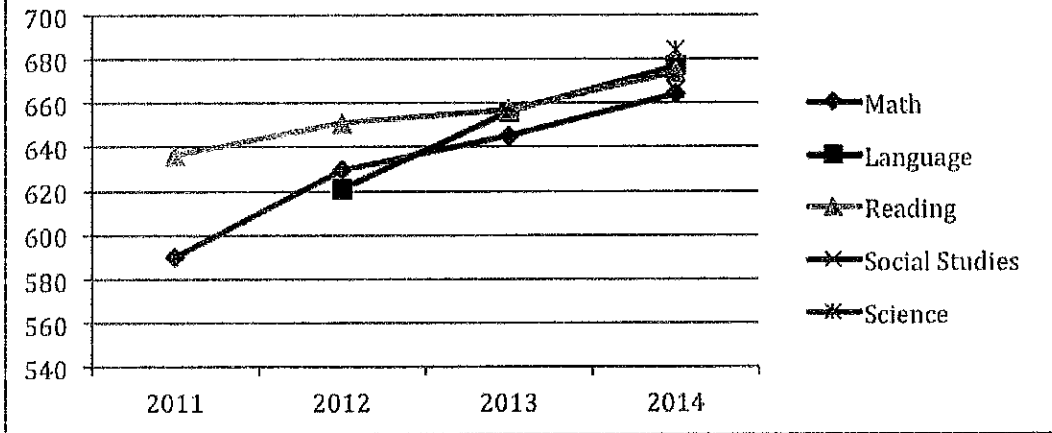
Grade 7 Class Progress

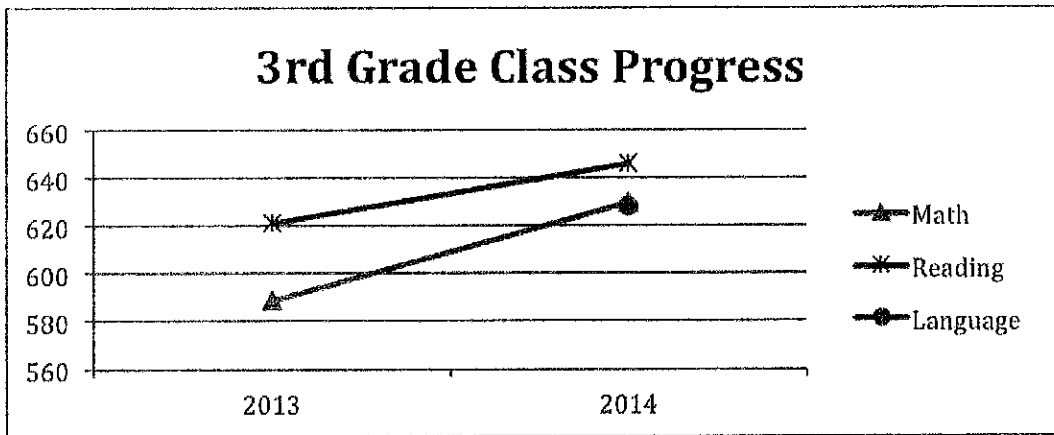
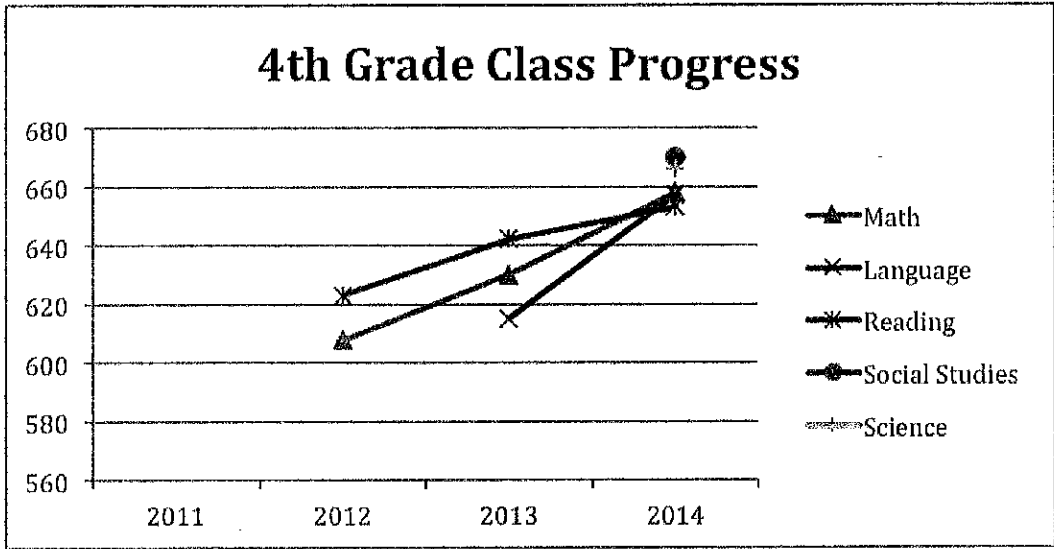


6th Grade Class Progress



5th Grade Class Progress





Score (SS).

Summary

As can be seen in the above paragraphs, as well as the attached data tables, students at Honey Creek Community School exceed the State's academic performance expectations in all areas; however, simply judging a student or a school based on a set of test scores provides a narrow perspective on both. At HCCS, we believe it is our culture, which is built around providing a safe

and nurturing environment for students and families, that sets us apart from other schools. Our small class sizes and strong student teacher relationships foster greater growth both socially and academically. If you would like to learn more about Honey Creek Community School, please attend one of our enrollment meetings in January. Our calendar can be found on our website, honeycreekschool.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Waters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "A".

Al Waters
Executive Director
Honey Creek Community School