Welcome to Wixom Elementary!

Wixom Elementary is characterized by high standards for learning in a caring environment. In 2012-2013, Wixom Elementary served 570 students from preschool through grade 5. Our principal, Alec Bender, worked closely with a staff of 57 to create quality learning opportunities for all students. Our PTA President was Kim Galecki. We are happy that you are a part of the Wixom Elementary family. We invite you to read our Annual Report and call us with questions or comments at (248) 956-3400.

AdvancED / North Central Association (NCA) Accreditation

In November 2012, the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools hosted a three day External Team Review. Every five years, all districts following the Systems Accreditation protocol participate in a thorough review by a team of educators from around the country.

The Systems Accreditation model asks school districts to engage in continuous improvement efforts focused on the following areas:
- Purpose and Direction
- Governance and Leadership
- Teaching and Assessing for Learning
- Resources and Support Systems
- Using Results for Continuous Improvement

The AdvancED process – including periodic external review – provides direction, validation and recognition for District improvement efforts and results.

The external team interviewed 365 individuals representing teachers, parents, community members, administrators and support staff. The team made half-day visits to seven schools and spent a full day reviewing documents and interviewing a variety of stakeholder groups.

In preparation for the external review, all schools had prepared an in-depth Self Assessment, gathered and analyzed student achievement data and studied the results from the surveys that had been distributed to students, staff and parents.

As a part of their exit report, the External Team cited both “powerful practices” and “required actions.” The powerful practices indicated by the Team are:

1. The Walled Lake Consolidated School District’s Board of Education, superintendent and instructional leadership teams are recognized and applauded for their commitment to servant leadership and shared governance.

2. Walled Lake Consolidated Schools is recognized for a culture of caring, family, collaboration and support. “Every Child Every Day” undergirds the dedication of all staff as they strive to provide an education that prepares every child for tomorrow.

In addition, the Team focused attention on two required actions:

1. Develop and implement a systemic continuous improvement process that provides clear direction for improving student learning.

2. Develop and implement a systemic and systematic process that monitors and communicates District effectiveness to all stakeholder groups.

At Wixom Elementary, we hosted a building visit from the AdvancED External Review Team as part of the District-wide visit in November, 2012. Groups of teachers and a group of parents met in small focus groups with the AdvancED visiting team to discuss our school improvement initiatives, our student achievement results, our survey results and our AdvancED self-assessment.

In addition, the AdvancED visitors spent time observing in classrooms throughout the school. We received very favorable feedback from the visiting team about our school and our school improvement initiatives.

Walled Lake will submit a written update to AdvancED in two years and again host an External Team Review in 2017. Information about AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools can be found at http://www.advanc-ed.org/.
Parent involvement continues at high level

One of the most important factors in a child’s success in school is the involvement of parents and guardians in the educational process. Parent involvement is high throughout our School District as evidenced by the fact that at the elementary level in 2012-13, 6,277 elementary students, or 97%, were represented by parents and guardians who attended parent-teacher conferences. Ninety-seven percent of the parents who attended conferences were parents of male students and 97% of the parents who attended conferences were parents of female students. In 2011-12, our District-wide elementary parent participation was 97%. At the secondary level in 2012-13, 4,898 students, or 57%, were represented by parents and guardians who attended conferences. Fifty-six percent of the parents who attended conferences were parents of male students and 57% of the parents who attended conferences were parents of female students. In 2011-12, our secondary parent participation was 51%.

At Wixom Elementary, our 2012-13 parent participation was 93%, compared to the previous year’s 92%. In analyzing a gender breakdown, there was 93% parent participation for male students and 92% parent participation for female students.

MEAP scores reported through AER

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2012-13 educational progress of your child’s school. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by Federal and State laws. The school’s report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact your school principal. The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the school website or you may review a copy from the school office.

We had a beautiful day for the PTA “Funky Fall Fund Walk” in October.

Academic rigor emphasized

The Walled Lake Schools’ curriculum provides students with learning experiences based on a rigorous foundation of skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of language arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening and literature), mathematics, social studies, science, health, physical education, art, vocal and instrumental music, technology, family life education, business and world language instruction.

The District’s mission statement promises all students the opportunity to learn to their maximum potential and to graduate as “...a caring, knowledgeable, responsible citizen” as a result of a sound K-12 educational program based on well-defined, highly articulated benchmarks. In addition, the District’s strategic plan specifies a K-12 articulated and interdisciplinary curriculum and a five-year cycle for reviewing and revising curriculum. The benchmarks in all core and encore academic areas are now being implemented in classrooms throughout the District. The benchmarks are supported by carefully research-based instructional materials including textbooks, technology and other resources.

Unit plans, further aligning benchmarks, text materials and assessments, have been developed in all curriculum areas.

Copies of benchmarks, course descriptions and instructional materials are available on the District’s curriculum website: curriculum.wlesd.org.

Graduation rate reported

Walled Lake Schools’ 2011-12 graduation rate, the most current available, is 88%. The 2010-11 graduation rate was 89.68%.

The Michigan Department of Education has developed a new method for calculating the graduation rate using a four-year cohort formula. This system tracks students from the year they enter ninth grade until they graduate.

Specialized schools serve District students

In addition to the regular K-12 program, our School District provides educational alternatives and opportunities for students as well as meeting special education needs. See the “Report on Specialized Schools” for complete information available in our school office or on the website at www.wlesd.org.

We also offered 21 college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses within the high school curriculum and had 38 students enrolled in post-secondary courses during the 2012-13 school year. In addition, Walled Lake Western High School is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Diploma Programme for 11th and 12th grade students. IB World Schools share a common philosophy - a commitment to improve the teaching and learning of a diverse community of students by delivering a challenging, high quality program of international education. More than 200 students completed IB Diploma courses in the 2012-13 school year.

Student achievement on the MEAP writing test showed strong improvement

We are happy to report that 68% of our fourth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the state of Michigan on the MEAP Writing Test this year compared to 51% last year for a 17% increase. Our students also exceeded the Walled Lake Schools’ District average on the MEAP Writing Test which was 64%, and they exceeded the Statewide average which was 47%. Writing has been an important part of our school improvement plan for the past few years.

The students at Wixom Elementary also did a good job on the other MEAP tests that were administered to all third, fourth and fifth graders in the state of Michigan in October, 2012—and they exceeded the average proficiency level for the State in all subject areas. In reading, 79% of our third graders, 76% of our fourth graders, and 74% of our fifth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the state of Michigan compared to 67% of third graders, 68% of fourth graders, and 70% of fifth graders Statewide. In mathematics, 62% of our third graders, 76% of our fourth graders, and 65% of our fifth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the State of Michigan compared to 41% of third graders, 46% of fourth graders, and 46% of fifth graders Statewide. The science test is only given to fifth graders, and 21% of our fifth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the state of Michigan compared to 13% of fifth graders Statewide.

A major area of concern on our MEAP tests in all subject areas is the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and non-economically disadvantaged students. This year we worked on a variety of instructional strategies focused on closing the achievement gap, and this will continue to be an important school improvement focus during the 2013-2014 school year.
Points of pride

◆ Active and generous PTA providing resources and programs for the school:
  ✓ Welcome Back Picnic
  ✓ Assemblies
  ✓ Books for the Literacy Library
  ✓ Charity Volleyball Game benefiting Camp Kesem
  ✓ Market Day
  ✓ Science Night
  ✓ Scrip program
  ✓ Box Tops for Education
  ✓ Bingo Night
  ✓ Parents As Partners program
  ✓ Conscious Discipline school visit and materials for staff
  ✓ Reflections program
  ✓ Field Day
  ✓ Walk-A-Thon to support walking path
  ✓ Cabin Fever Reliever Spring Fair
  ✓ Scholarships for students in need for Fifth Grade Camp and field trips
◆ Dedicated staff members encouraging academic and social growth beyond the classroom:
  ✓ After School Tutoring Program at the Village Apartments
  ✓ Literacy Nights
  ✓ Family Math Night
  ✓ Parents As Partners program
  ✓ Book Fairs
  ✓ Authors’ Teas
  ✓ Coffee House Poetry Readings
  ✓ 3rd Grade Rock and Mineral Museum
  ✓ 4th Grade Wax Museum
  ✓ Multiplication Baseball Tournament
  ✓ Post Office program
  ✓ Charity Volleyball Game
  ✓ Field trips: Ford Rouge Factory Tour, Marquis Theater, Cranbrook Science Center, Downtown Wixom, Greenfield Village and Walled Lake Outdoor Center
  ✓ Fifth Grade Camp
  ✓ Art Shows at the Educational Services Center and Commerce Township Hall
  ✓ Student Council
  ✓ Safety Patrol
  ✓ Count Your Steps Program
  ✓ TEAM Program
◆ Giving Back to the Community: Wixom families and staff members have once again generously donated their time and resources to a variety of charitable causes throughout the year. These include the Hospitality House Toy and Gift Drive, sponsoring families for the holidays, the coin collection for the Salvation Army’s Bed and Bread Club, the Hats for Health Day to benefit children with chronic health problems at Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor and Beaumont Hospital, the Volleyball For A Cause fundraiser to benefit Camp Kesem and the Cereal Drive for the Gleaners Food Bank.
◆ After School Tutoring Program at the Village Apartments: One of our programs this year was the After School Tutoring Program at the Village Apartments. This program was offered every Monday and Wednesday after school during the second semester in the clubhouse at the Village Apartments complex. Students in grades 1-5 who needed extra help received small group instruction in reading, writing and mathematics from Wixom teachers. In addition, National Honor Society students from Western High School and Central High School offered homework help. Parent presentations on how to help your child at home were offered as part of this Tutoring Program.
◆ Student Council: The Student Council organized a school-wide coin collection for the Salvation Army’s Bed and Bread Club. The Student Council officers and representatives presented a check for $1,602.98 during the WJR Bed and Bread Club Radiothon at Oakland Mall in February. They also worked along with the PTA to raise money for Camp Kesem which is a summer camp for children who have or had a family member affected by cancer. When we combined the Student Council’s Smencils and Weepulls sales for Camp Kesem along with the PTA Volleyball for a Cause Game fundraising, we donated a grand total of $3,074.68 to Camp Kesem! The Student Council also raised money to adopt an endangered Tasmanian devil from the World Wildlife Fund and hosted an Earth Day assembly to help our school earn the Green School designation. Other charitable events sponsored by the Student Council included collecting toys for the Hospitality House Annual Holiday Gift Drive, the Hats for Health Day which raised money for therapies for children with chronic illnesses at Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor and Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and a very successful Cereal Drive for the Gleaners Food Bank.
◆ Student Instructional Planning Process (SIPP): This year we continued the District-wide Student Instructional Planning Process (SIPP) at Wixom Elementary. Each grade level analyzed student achievement data to identify at-risk learners. Then the grade level teams developed small group classroom interventions that were targeted to meet the needs of our at-risk learners. The progress of the students was monitored throughout the year. If individual students were still struggling, individual intervention plans were developed.
◆ Teacher to Teacher Project: The Wixom Elementary teachers in grades K-5 took part in two half-day literacy workshops. The teachers learned about the best practices to use during Reader's and Writer's workshops in the classroom. Then they spent time observing a teacher who had fully implemented these practices in her classroom. These workshops allowed teachers to exchange ideas with their colleagues, and this led to the implementation of these innovative practices in the classroom.
◆ Positive Behavior Support Program: The 2012-2013 school year was the fifth year for the Positive Behavior Support Program at Wixom Elementary. We continued to emphasize our three guiding principles of respect, responsibility and safety. The children learned and reviewed building-wide procedures for all aspects of their school day including the classroom, the cafeteria, the playground and the hallway. This year our staff began the implementation of the Conscious Discipline program which was created by Dr. Becky Bailey. This is a character development program which teaches students to take ownership and accountability for their learning and behavior. With the support of the PTA, a number of teachers visited a fully implemented Conscious Discipline school in another district and we purchased books and materials.
◆ Multicultural Education: We celebrated Diversity Week in November with a student-led assembly which included presentations from children at our school from different countries and cultures. Our fifth graders created some excellent writing pieces in which they took a stand on important social justice issues that were displayed at the District-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in January.
◆ Walking Path Ground Breaking Ceremony: After three years of fundraising, our PTA has raised the money to install a one-fifth of a mile Walking Path on our playground this summer. It will be an asphalt path that will be used for our new “Mileage Club” so that our students can walk and jog during recess time to meet their physical fitness goals and have some fun! It will also be a great physical fitness resource for community members to use on evenings and weekends. The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Walking Path was held in June.
◆ Parent Involvement: We are proud to have an active group of volunteers who support our instructional program. Parents, grandparents and community volunteers worked with small groups of students in all subject areas throughout the year. Parent volunteers coordinated and held a school-wide Variety Show performed both at Wixom Elementary and on stage at Walled Lake Western High School. Several of our parents ran our Literacy Library spending countless hours reshelving books and working on the electronic cataloging of our collection.
◆ Parents as Partners Program: This year our staff put on the first Parents As Partners workshop in March which was sponsored by the Wixom Elementary PTA. The goal of the workshop was to share information with our parents about aspects of our curriculum and to provide strategies to help children at home with their schoolwork. Over 70 parents and approximately 100 students attended a pizza dinner at the beginning of the evening which was provided by our PTA. Then the parents went to the workshop while the students enjoyed a children’s movie in the New Gym. Staff members gave a presentation to all of the parents.
Points of pride (continued)

in attendance about our new Conscious Discipline program, and then the parents went to grade-level break-out sessions on how to help your child at home with mathematics. More Parents As Partners workshops are planned for the 2013-2014 school year.

◆ Staff Members and Parents Receive Special Recognition: This year third grade teacher Mrs. Lindsay Johnson was selected as the Teacher of the Year for Wixom Elementary School. The Wixom Elementary PTA presented Michigan PTSA Distinguished Service Awards for outstanding service to five parent volunteers including Mrs. Kim Galecki, Mrs. Jennifer Poiner, Mrs. Jennifer Schang, Mrs. Kathy Venegas and Mrs. Teresa West.

◆ Mentor/Mentee Program: The Wixom Elementary Leadership Team continued to facilitate our Mentor/Mentee program. A number of staff members mentored one at-risk student throughout the school year in order to help the children to feel more connected to our school and to help them with academics.

◆ March is Reading Month: During the month of March, Mr. Bender challenged our students to read a combined total of 250,000 minutes at home for his March is Reading Month challenge. If they met his challenge, Mr. Bender said he would spend a whole day on the roof of the school. The students did lots of at-home reading during the month of March and he ended up becoming a Rooftop Principal on May 23rd.

◆ Wixom Elementary Becomes an Evergreen School Again This Year: Our Green School Committee planned many “Earth friendly” projects this year to earn the Evergreen School designation again this year which is the highest level in the state of Michigan Green School program. We continued our recycling program for plastic bottles, batteries, printer cartridges and cell phones in the lobby of the school. Outside we have recycling bins for paper, clothing and shoes. We had three “Waste Free Wednesdays” in the cafeteria to reduce the amount of trash and to teach students to use reusable and recyclable containers for their lunches. Also, our Student Council put on a great Earth Day assembly in April.

◆ Wixom Health and Wellness Committee: Our Wixom Health and Wellness Committee worked on a number of projects this year including after school fitness classes, “All Children Exercise Simultaneously” day in May and planning for the new Wixom “Mileage Club” which will start in the fall. The Committee worked with Janet Allen, the Supervisor of the Walled Lake Schools’ Food Service Department, to implement a pilot program called “Chefs Move To School.” During the month of March, two professional chefs came to Wixom to teach the students about nutritious eating by doing a food preparation demonstration and a “taste testing” of healthy food. Parents and families enjoyed our “Healthy, Fit, & Wise” health and wellness newsletter that was sent home monthly by our committee.

Leadership team oversees the school improvement process

During the 2012-2013 school year the Wixom Elementary Leadership Team continued to oversee the school improvement process. Second grade teacher Mrs. Carley Dunphey and kindergarten teacher Mrs. Carrie O’Connell, served as the co-chairpersons of the Leadership Team. Other members of the team included representatives from every grade level, representatives from different content areas, two parent representatives and our principal, Mr. Bender.

Our Leadership Team was responsible for hosting our building visit from the national AdvancED Quality Assurance Review Team as part of the District-wide visit in November 2012. In preparation for this visit, the Leadership Team worked with the staff to prepare our AdvancED Self Assessment focusing on the five AdvancED standards. The standards upon which we rated the school included Purpose and Direction, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Assessing for Learning, Resources and Support Systems, and Using Results for Continuous Improvement. The results of the May 2012 AdvancED parent, student and staff surveys were also analyzed in preparation for the AdvancED visit. The Leadership Team identified strengths and weaknesses of our school through all facets of this self-assessment process which were used to plan the next steps for school improvement at Wixom Elementary. On the day of the visit in mid-November, the two visitors from the national AdvancED Quality Assurance Review Team met with small focus groups of Leadership Team members, staff members and parents. In addition, the visitors did observations in classrooms throughout the school. After the visit, our Leadership Team was pleased with the very positive feedback that we received from the AdvancED Review Team, and the members of the Review Team felt that our school improvement initiatives met and exceeded the expectations of AdvancED in most categories.

Our Leadership Team continues to oversee our school improvement plan which includes goals to increase student achievement in mathematics, reading and writing. During the 2012-2013 school year, the Leadership Team facilitated a new monthly Data Analysis process for mathematics, reading and writing in which the grade-level Leadership Team representatives worked collaboratively with the grade-level Data Team members to plan monthly data analysis agendas, facilitate monthly data analysis meetings, and fill out reflection forms about the discussions and decisions from the meeting. At each of the monthly Leadership Team meetings, one grade level representative did a presentation on the data analysis that his or her grade level completed during the previous month. In this way, the Leadership Team was able to gain insight on school improvement initiatives at each grade level and sharing occurred across grade levels.

The Leadership Team coordinated the SMART Goal process at our school. This year our grade level teams in grades K-3 worked on SMART Goals in the content area of writing, and our grade level teams in grades 4 and 5 worked on SMART Goals focusing on mathematics problem solving. The two SMART Goal cycles were from November-January and February-May. Grade level teams reported their mid-year SMART Goal strategies and results at a staff meeting in February. At the end of the year in May, grade level teams and content area teachers presented their SMART Goal strategies and results at the fifth annual Wixom Elementary Data Fair.

Wixom Elementary data team

The Data Team at Wixom Elementary consists of one representative from each grade level. The primary responsibilities of the Data Team are to access and analyze electronic data on student achievement. Data Team members utilized data from our School District’s Mastery Manager system to prepare reports for each grade level team to analyze. As is noted above, the Data Team representative at each grade level worked closely with the Leadership Team representative for the grade level in order to prepare the agenda and the data to be analyzed at the monthly Data Analysis meeting.
During PTA Family Science Night in November, all of our students loved experimenting with “the goop!”

Third grader Layah Davis is holding her pottery that was entered in the District-wide Art Show in May.

Our fifth graders created unique pumpkin designs that were displayed all around the Wixom community in October.

Our Student Council led a very successful Breakfast Cereal Drive for the Gleaners Food Bank in May.

As part of becoming a Green School, we had “Waste Free Wednesday” in the cafeteria to reduce the amount of trash from our school.

Our principal, Mr. Alec Bender, spent a day on the roof in May after the students met his “March is Reading Month” challenge.

Our students enjoyed doing hands-on science experiments at PTA Science Night in November.
The students used reusable containers and lunch bags as part of “Waste Free Wednesday” in the cafeteria.

Three of our fourth grade girls during Field Day in May.

Lots of families enjoyed playing Bingo together during PTA Family Bingo Night in February.

Our first graders celebrated the 100th day of school in February.

Everyone had fun during our PTA “Funky Fall Fund Walk” in October.

First grade teacher Mrs. Sharrie Chapman and one of her former students Jessica Williams.

Challenges We Face
► Meet students’ needs including the special needs of our bilingual students.
► Continue to develop and implement our school improvement plan focusing on writing, reading and mathematics.
► Develop in-classroom strategies to close the achievement gap in writing, reading and mathematics for different subgroups in our school.
► Provide more support for academically at-risk students by building stronger connections with our parent community.
► Increase the percentage of participation of all of our families in school events such as Open House, Curriculum Night and informational nights for parents.
► Provide training for parents on ways they can work with their children at home on academics and other skills.
► Continue to increase MEAP scores.
► Continue the development of instructional practices within the Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop model.
► Continue the development of instructional practices within the Mathematics Workshop model in order to better meet the needs of all levels of students in mathematics.
► Continue the process of building a Professional Learning Community (PLC) as defined by Richard DuFour’s model.
► Continue to develop and implement our Positive Behavior Support program and to implement our new Conscious Discipline program.
► Continue to develop and implement our Mentor/Mentee program for at-risk students in all grade levels.

How students are assigned to the school
Students are assigned to buildings by specific street address and geographical areas as predetermined by the Administration and Board of Education.

Wixom Elementary School’s Annual Report is published each year and distributed to parents and local residents.

Questions and comments may be addressed to:
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Wixom, MI 48393
Phone: 248-956-3400
FAX: 248-956-3405

Nondiscrimination Policy
In compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, it is the policy of the Walled Lake Consolidated School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, political belief, military service, marital status or genetic information be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment. For information, contact the District Compliance Officer, at 248-956-2023.