Welcome to Wixom Elementary!

Wixom Elementary is characterized by high standards for learning in a caring environment. In 2013-2014, Wixom Elementary served 529 students from preschool through grade 5. Our principal, Alec Bender, worked closely with a staff of 54 to create quality learning opportunities for all students. Our PTA President was Jennifer Ludwig. 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

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District is accredited by AdvancED (formerly the North Central Association). Walled Lake has followed AdvancED's System Accreditation protocol.

This accreditation model helps the entire School District keep the activities and relationships within classrooms at the heart of all improvement strategies while at the same time supporting those which are both systematic and system-wide.

System accreditation recognizes that increasing student achievement involves more than improving instruction. It is a result of how well all the parts of the education system - the district, school, and classroom - work together to meet the needs of students.

(http://www.advanc-ed.org/systems)

AdvancED accreditation is based upon five standards for quality:

- **Standard 1**: Purpose and Direction
- **Standard 2**: Governance and Leadership
- **Standard 3**: Teaching and Assessing for Learning
- **Standard 4**: Resources and Support Systems
- **Standard 5**: Using Results for Continuous Improvement

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

When the AdvancED External Team visited Walled Lake in 2012, they 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.

AdvancED provides feedback in two broad categories: 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.

We had the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in September for our new paved Walking Path which was donated to our school by the Wixom Elementary PTA.

Wixom students cheered on the staff volleyball team at the charity volleyball game in March.
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 2013-14, 6,275 elementary students, or 98%, were represented by parents and guardians who attended conferences. Fifty-seven percent of the parents who attended conferences were parents of male students and 62% of the parents who attended conferences were parents of female students. In 2012-13, our secondary parent participation was 57%.

At Wixom Elementary, our 2013-14 parent participation was 94%, compared to the previous year’s 93%. In analyzing a gender breakdown, there was 94% parent participation for male students and 94% parent participation for female students.

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, career, business and technical education 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 and rigorous academic standards.

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

97%. At the secondary level in 2013-14, 5,002 students, or 59%, were represented by parents and guardians who attended conferences. Fifty-seven percent of the parents who attended conferences were parents of male students and 62% of the parents who attended conferences were parents of female students. In 2012-13, our secondary parent participation was 57%.

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 21 students enrolled in post-secondary courses during the 2013-14 school year. In addition, Walled Lake Western High School is an authorized International Baccaulreate 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 2013-14 school year.

Wixom students do well on MEAP reading and mathematics tests

The students at Wixom Elementary did a very nice job on their reading and mathematics MEAP tests that were administered to all third, fourth and fifth graders in the State of Michigan in October 2013 - and they exceeded the average proficiency level for the State in all subject areas. Our fourth grade reading scores increased by 8% from 2012 to 2013 (76% to 84%) and our fifth grade reading scores increased by 7% from 2012 to 2013 (74% to 81%). However, our third grade reading scores decreased by 3% from 2012 to 2013 (75% to 76%). Our third grade mathematics scores increased by 7% from 2012 to 2013 (62% to 69%) and our fifth grade mathematics scores increased by 6% from 2012 to 2013 (65% to 71%). However, our fourth grade mathematics scores decreased by 2% from 2012 to 2013 (76% to 74%).

In reading, 76% of our third graders, 84% of our fourth graders and 81% of our fifth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the State of Michigan compared to 61% of third graders, 70% of fourth graders, and 72% of fifth graders Statewide. In mathematics, 66% of our third graders, 74% of our fourth graders and 71% of our fifth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the State of Michigan compared to 40% of third graders, 45% of fourth graders, and 45% of fifth graders Statewide. The MEAP writing test is only given to fourth graders, and 59% of our fourth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the State of Michigan compared to 51% of fourth graders Statewide. The science test is only given to fifth graders, and 24% of our fifth graders met or exceeded the proficient level for the State of Michigan compared to 17% 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 2014-2015 school year.

MEAP scores reported through AER

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2013-14 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,
Active and generous PTA providing resources and programs for the school:
- Construction and installation of our new Walking Path
- Mileage Club program on our new Walking Path
- Welcome Back Picnic
- Assemblies
- Books for the Literacy Library
- Charity Volleyball Game benefiting The Friendship Circle
- Market Day
- Science Night
- Scrip program
- Box Tops for Education
- Bingo Night
- Parents As Partners program
- Conscious Discipline training for staff and materials
- Book Fairs
- American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Reflections program
- Field Day
- Walk-A-Thon
- 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:
  - Title I Before School Math Tutoring Program
  - Literacy Nights
  - Family Math Night
  - Parent As Partners program
  - Book Fairs
  - Author's Teas
  - Poetry Readings
  - 3rd Grade Rock and Mineral Museum
  - 4th Grade Fifty Nifty United States program
  - 5th Grade Mini-Society program
  - Morning TV News Show
  - Multiplication Baseball Tournament
  - Post Office program
  - Charity Volleyball Game
  - Field trips: Marquis Theater, Bosco Pizza Company, Detroit Zoo, Erwin Orchards, 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
  - 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 The Friendship Circle and the Cereal Drive for the Gleaners Food Bank.
- Before School Mathematics Tutoring Program: One of our new programs this year was the Before School Mathematics Tutoring Program. This program was offered every Tuesday and Thursday before school during the second semester. Students in grades 2-5 who needed extra help in math received small group instruction from Wixom teachers.
- Our New Paved Walking Path and the Wixom Elementary Mileage Club: Thanks to a generous gift from the Wixom Elementary PTA, our new paved Walking Path was installed over the summer of 2013, and we had our official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Walking Path on September 6, 2013. The Wixom Health and Wellness Committee worked together with our PTA to start our new Wixom Elementary Mileage Club. The Mileage Club was a big hit with many of our students whose laps on the Walking Path were logged by parent and grandparent volunteers. At certain mileage levels the students earned tokens for their Mileage Club backpack key chain. We had an awards ceremony in early June for our top walkers and joggers in the school. Fourth grader, Nicky Coseo, was our top achiever in the Mileage Club at 62.8 miles!
- Student Council: The Student Council organized a school-wide coin collection for the Salvation Army’s Junior Bed and Bread Club. The Student Council officers and representatives presented a check for $1,267.67 during the WJR Bed and Bread Club Radiothon at Oakland Mall in February. They also worked along with the PTA to raise money for The Friendship Circle in West Bloomfield which is an organization that provides programs and support for children with special needs along with support for their siblings and parents. Other charitable events sponsored by the Student Council included collecting toys for the Hospitality House Annual Holiday Gift Drive, the Hats for Health Days, 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 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.
- Wixom Elementary Chorus: The Wixom Elementary Chorus met at lunch time throughout the year with our music teacher, Ms. Emmett. They had some wonderful performances this year at the Wixom Holiday Market, the “Holiday Pops with the Phil” concert at Northern High School, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration and the combined Chorus concert in May. The year was culminated by a trip to Oak Harbor High School in Ohio on Saturday, May 17th, when our Chorus participated in a multi-state chorus competition. We are pleased to announce that our Chorus won two trophies! One was for earning first place in their division when the judges rated our students with a “Superior” rating for their performance. The second trophy was for being the highest scoring elementary choir at the competition! Later in the day the students and their families went to Cedar Point where they performed and also had lots of fun riding the roller coasters!
- The New Conscious Discipline Program: The 2013-2014 school year was the sixth 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 attended a year-long, monthly training series on 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. Aspects of the Conscious Discipline program were implemented in classrooms throughout the school. We are grateful to the Wixom Elementary PTA for the financial support that they provided this year to bring in our Conscious Discipline trainer, Mary Masson. Mrs. Masson also gave two presentations for parents about Conscious Discipline at our Parents As Partners workshops in November and March.
- School-Business Partnership With Home Depot: During the 2013-2014 school year we started a new school-business partnership with Home Depot on Grand River in Novi. Wixom Elementary was “adopted” by the staff at Home Depot and they provided skilled craftsmen to build new items for our school, volunteers who ran special projects for our students, as well as financial support for a variety of projects. The carpenters on the Home Depot staff designed and built our new “TV News Desk” in the Media Center that is used for our TV news broadcasts and they also designed and built our new “Lost and Found.” Home Depot donated all of the wood for our annual fifth grade “Pumpkin Project” and they donated many of the supplies for our new third grade “Pioneer Day.” In December, the staff at Home Depot came to Wixom to facilitate a special project for our fifth graders when the boys and girls built toolboxes that were then donated to (continued on page 4)
Points of pride (continued)

hospitized children. We are grateful to the wonderful support provided by Home Depot this year, and we look forward to continuing our school-business partnership next year.

◆ **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 fourth and fifth graders created some excellent writing pieces in which they wrote about the history of the Civil Rights Movement that were displayed at the District-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in January.

◆ **i-Ready Online Mathematics Intervention Program:** This year our third, fourth and fifth grade teachers piloted the i-Ready online mathematics intervention program. All students were given the i-Ready online diagnostic test in math at the beginning of the pilot program; those students who needed extra practice on mathematics concepts were identified based on the test results. Those students worked on the sequential, online mathematics lessons on laptop computers as a supplement to our *Everyday Mathematics* program.

◆ **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; other parent volunteers helped out in the Media Center throughout the year to help with the shelving of our Media Center collection.

◆ **Parents As Partners Program:** This year our staff put on two “Parents As Partners” workshops in November and March which were sponsored by the Wixom Elementary PTA. The goal of the workshops was to share information with our parents about aspects of our curriculum and to provide strategies to help children at home with their schoolwork. At the beginning of the evening, the parents and students enjoyed a pizza dinner which was provided by our PTA. Then the parents went to the workshop sessions while the students had fun in our child care program that was facilitated by some of our teachers and National Honor Society volunteers. Our keynote speaker, Mary Masson, gave a presentation 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 academics. More “Parents As Partners” workshops are planned for the 2014-2015 school year.

◆ **Staff Members and Parents Receive Special Recognition:** This year fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Cathy Russel, was selected as the Teacher of the Year for Wixom Elementary School. Mrs. Russel received an additional honor when she was chosen as the Walled Lake Schools’ Elementary Teacher of the Year! The Wixom Elementary PTA presented Michigan PTSA Distinguished Service Awards for outstanding service to our PTA and school to Mrs. Laura Carner and Mrs. Tamara Prechtel. Our PTA also presented PTSA Merit Awards to Mrs. Lori Hiller and Mrs. Monica Peets for their excellent volunteer service to our school.

◆ **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 shave off his moustache in front of the whole school. The students did lots of at-home reading during the month of March and a barbershop quartet performed during the Moustache Shaving Assembly on April 24th. When Mr. Bender’s moustache was shaved off, the students and teachers put on stick-on moustaches that were purchased by our PTA!

◆ **Wixom Health and Wellness Committee:** Our Wixom Health and Wellness Committee worked on a number of projects this year including our new Wixom Elementary Mileage Club, the Martian Marathon run in April, after school fitness classes, and “All Children Exercise Simultaneously” day in May. The committee brought in representatives from Running Fit for an assembly in January to talk about the Martian Marathon, and we had 30 students from our school who competed in the Martian Marathon at Ford Field Park in Dearborn for the big race on April 12th. Parents and families enjoyed our “Healthy, Fit and Wise” health and wellness newsletter that was sent home monthly by our committee.

The students beat Mr. Bender’s March is Reading Month at-home reading challenge. A barber shaved off his moustache and the students all put on moustaches!

First grade teacher, Mrs. Sharrie Chapman, and second grade teacher, Mrs. LaVonne Yaldoo, and their students take the first lap on the new Walking Path.

Our fifth graders created unique pumpkin designs that were displayed all around the Wixom community in October.
During the 2013-2014 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 continues to oversee our school improvement plan which includes goals to increase student achievement in mathematics, reading and writing. During the 2013-2014 school year, the Leadership Team representatives worked with their grade level colleagues to set short-term and long-term implementation goals for various aspects of our school improvement plan. At our Leadership Team meetings during the second semester, the Leadership Team representatives reported on the progress of the school improvement plan at their grade levels for mathematics, reading and writing.

Leadership team oversees the school improvement process

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 sixth annual Wixom Elementary Data Fair.

Wixom Elementary data team

The Data Team at Wixom Elementary consists of one representative from each grade level and one of our resource room teachers. The primary responsibilities of the Data Team are to access and analyze electronic data on student achievement. This year the Data Team reviewed the mathematics data that was available from the i-Ready online mathematics program for at-risk mathematics students that was piloted in our fourth grade classrooms. The fourth grade teachers reported that the i-Ready program was working well, and the Data Team decided to expand the program to include our third grade and fifth grade classrooms. The School District provided our school with 40 additional laptop computers so that we could expand the i-Ready pilot. The i-Ready data at the end of the year showed that our at-risk mathematics students had grown in their skills throughout the year; we plan to continue the i-Ready online mathematics program during the 2014-2015 school year.
Fourth grader, Nicky Coseo, logged the most miles in our new Mileage Club with a grand total of 62.8 miles!

Our fourth and fifth graders did some excellent writing about the Civil Rights Movement for our school’s display at the District-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in January.

Some of our first graders at Thanksgiving time.

Graduation rate reported

Walled Lake Schools’ 2012-13 graduation rate, the most current available, is 89%. The 2011-12 graduation rate was 88%.

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.

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.

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 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 standardized test 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.

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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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.