



GREAT LAKES
ACADEMY

Authorized by Eastern Michigan University

46312 Woodward Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342
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www.greatlakesacademy.org

Annual Education

Report

August 2012

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August 9, 2012

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2011-2012 educational progress for Great Lakes Academy. 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 Great Lakes Academy for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.greatlakesacademy.org or you may review a copy in the main office at Great Lakes Academy.

For 2011-2012, Great Lakes Academy made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the tested subjects (mathematics, reading, science). While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

Great Lakes Academy is a public charter school authorized by Eastern Michigan University. Great Lakes Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin in its admissions or school policies. We publicize our annual re-enrollment and open-enrollment dates in an effort to provide parents opportunities to enroll their child in our academy.

The 3 – 5 year School Improvement Plan is a living document that is monitored and adjusted annually. The School Improvement Plan outlines the academic goals of the academy and details the strategies in place to achieve these annual goals.

Great Lakes Academy uses the Michigan Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as well as the Grade Level Content Expectation (GLCE) Benchmarks to guide instruction. Our curriculum is custom designed to meet the needs of our students. We differentiate instruction to ensure mastery and relevancy to real-world experiences. We set high expectations for all students and provide the instruction, tools, resources, and guidance necessary to assist students in meeting their academic goals. Technology is used to support instruction and boost student achievement. A copy of the core curriculum for grades K-8 can be viewed in the principal's office.

Great Lakes Academy staff understands that reading is the foundation of a good education. The staff believes that if students are secure readers, they have a better chance of academic success in all subject areas. With this in mind, we use the Fountas & Pinnell (F & P) Reading Inventory to assess our students' reading levels. Using the the F & P reading inventory and a balanced reading curriculum, we have seen growth in our student's reading abilities (see table below):



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Overall reading proficiency grades K-8

Grade Level	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Total % at grade level	n/a	77%	60%	76%	45%	60%	40%	56%	88%
Levels of growth (GLA students since 1/2011)	n/a	4.0	5.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	2.8

Notes:

- Total % at grade level includes every child in our building even though some of them had not been with us for a complete year.
- One year's worth of growth is approximately 4.0 levels
- While eighth grade growth is only 2.8 levels, it is important to note that they are at the end of the continuum and there is not much opportunity for them to grow.
- There are actually 4 eighth graders below grade level, two of them have IEP's and the other two made a year's growth but were significantly behind to start the year.
- 2nd grade, 40% below grade level = 8 of them have been with us for at least one year. All eight of them have moved at least 4.0 levels (1 year worth of growth), two have made 1.5 years of growth, and 2 have moved almost 2 years.

Great Lakes Academy also administers the NWEA (Northwest Education Association) test every year to assess student growth. For the spring 2012 assessment, students in grades kindergarten, second, and eighth, met their projected target growth in math and our fifth grade students exceed their projected growth target. On the NWEA reading assessment fourth grade students met their target goal while our sixth graders exceeded their growth target.

Great Lakes Academy implemented a Saturday School program two years ago. During the 2011-2012 school year, our Saturday School for parents consisted of three parent workshops. The workshops were: Parental Involvement, Developing Lifelong Learners, and Developing Your Child's Problem Solving Skills. We had, on average, 18 % of our student population represented at these workshops. Great Lakes Academy holds two parent-teacher conferences a year. For the 2011-2012 school year we had 42% of our students represented at our fall conference and 44% represented at the spring conference.

Congratulations to the students, staff, parents, and administration of Great Lakes Academy for the many accomplishments this past school year. We made many changes last year and we will continue to make improvements in order that our students will be able to compete in a global society. We are looking forward to the 2012-2013 school year and will remain focused on student achievement and academic growth. We are continuously striving to become a top achieving school modeling the 90-90-90 Achievement Model cited in research.

Thanks to the Pontiac community and Eastern Michigan University for supporting Great Lakes Academy in our mission of **teaching the academic and character skills necessary to be lifelong learners in a competitive world.**

Sincerely,

Michelle Y. Parham

Michelle Y. Parham, Ed. S.

Principal