



The Academic Alternative!

Our Scores Show Excellence!

Dear Parent:

August 15, 2011

Each year Michigan students take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The results of these tests, as well as participation on the tests are used to determine whether our school is making “adequate yearly progress” (AYP). Those schools not meeting AYP requirements for at least two years are “identified for improvement.” In the **2010-2011 school year Northwest Academy did not meet AYP**. Unfortunately it takes 2 years of making AYP to get us out of the “identified for improvement” category.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update:

This year Northwest Academy has been “identified for improvement” for four reasons:

1. We are required to test 95% of our juniors with the MME. During the 2010-2011 school year, **six** of our fourteen students were chronologically considered juniors, but did not have the credits to be considered juniors. They should have been excused from taking the test because they had not yet been taught the information to be successful. However, they were not unassigned from the MME roster in the allotted time, so the Michigan Department of Education expected NWA to administer the MME to these students. Also, one student refused to take the test for other reasons. These six students not participating in the MME caused us to drop below the 95% requirement, thus causing us not to make AYP.
2. The 2009-2010 school year NWA made AYP; however it takes two years of making AYP to get out from this designation.
3. During the 2006-2007 school year, **one** of our seven juniors left NWA before the test was administered, dropping us below the 95% requirement, and thus “identifying us for improvement.”
4. During the 2007-2008 school year, we received “no reportable scores” on the English Language Arts portion of the tests submitted. To-date, we have not been given a reason why that section of the tests submitted was not scored.

MEAP Test Results Show We're Doing Better than Most Schools

		NWA	MI			NWA	MI
Third Grade	Reading	100%	90%	Seventh Grade	Reading	100%	82%
	Math	100%	95%		Math	80%	82%
Fourth Grade	Reading	100%	84%	Eighth Grade	Reading	85%	83%
	Math	100%	92%		Math	86%	70%
					Science	86%	76%
Fifth Grade	Reading	67%	85%	Ninth Grade	Social Studies	100%	71%
	Math	100%	79%				
	Science	100%	81%				
Sixth Grade	Reading	33%	88%				
	Math	67%	82%				
	Social Studies	33%	73%				

Michigan Merit Exam Test Results Show We're Doing Better than Most Schools

	Reading	Math	Writing	Science	Social Studies
Northwest Academy	83%	22%	44%	50%	78%
Michigan	65%	50%	44%	58%	79%

Northwest Academy parents will be happy to know that during this time period, ***our MEAP and MME scores compared very favorably with state averages***, (see the charts above) and we would have met our “adequate yearly progress” benchmark, had we been able to test or excuse those six students.

Since Northwest Academy is in “restructuring,” due to these issues, we must offer you the opportunity to transfer your student to another school, and you may choose to do so at any time, simply by notifying me at Northwest Academy. This can be done with your resident school also.

As a charter school of choice, Northwest Academy continues to work and strive to **meet and exceed** every requirement and benchmark, including working on the two issues of achieving 100% testing participation among juniors and reportable scores, and we did achieve those goals in the 10-11 school year. Furthermore, NWA is committed to providing student transportation on an as-needed basis as well as offering tutoring to every student at NWA.

It is our continued goal to be **Charlevoix’s School of Choice!** Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or need additional information regarding the excellent education opportunities at Northwest Academy.

Sincerely,

Matt Saunders
Northwest Academy School Administrator

