

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT 2008-2009



**CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY
CENTRAL OFFICE
215 N. State Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-796-9041, ext. 273
Ronald G. Schneider
District Superintendent
Report for School Year 2008-2009**

Approved as of September 10, 2009

**SUPERINTENDENT'S VISION FOR CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY
FALL 2009-2010**

Schools in Michigan are entering a new, scary, and uncertain time. It is a time of gloomy economic forecast and learning how to keep everything operating with less funding. It is essential that we maintain a student headcount that generates enough revenue and continue to look for ways to raise some additional dollars, probably with the “a little here and a little there” approach.

We need to continue the process of upgrading our curriculum, classroom activities, and assessments. What we offer and provide must be appealing to families in the area. It is crucial that we not only merge what we do in our classrooms everyday with state objectives, but we make sure standards, assignments, and assessments are all connected. We need to remove all mystery as to what we want to teach, what we want our students to learn, and how we will know they learned the materials at an appropriate level of retention. We must stress the relevancy of what we teach. Good learning is nearly impossible if a positive connection is not formed between student and teacher. There must be the necessary level of trust, respect and teamwork and both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation must be present to learn.

Students are much harder to attract then in the past and there are much fewer students in the area. We must all be positive ambassadors for CCA at all times. We must market our size, character education programs, and personalized education in a manner that attracts all available kids. It is important to create programs that make it easier to attend CCA. Our families need help and support with transportation, after school programs, food service options, academic interventions, and anything else that makes their lives easier to remain or become part of the Crossroads family. Our new Title I program at the 7-12 building should help struggling students. This program must assure middle level students gain the necessary knowledge to prepare them for high school and give the personal assistance to high school students so they gain the needed credits for a diploma.

Our food service department had an excellent first year. This year, we need to tweak the procedures to create a healthy, affordable, and user friendly operation.

My overall vision is this: We will do everything we can to prepare the whole child, academically, socially, and emotionally for a productive future in a safe, user friendly, and welcoming environment.

**Ronald G. Schneider
CCA District Superintendent**

**CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY
Administration for 2008-2009 School Year**

Central Office

Superintendent

**Ronald G. Schneider
215 N. State Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-796-9041, ext. 231
Fax: (231) 527-1468**

Middle/High School (7-12)

Principal

**Tom Saporito
215 W. Spruce Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
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Fax: (231) 796-9790**

Elementary School Office (K-6)

Principal

**Kendall Schroeder
215 N. State Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 796-6589 ext. 356
Fax: (231) 796-9874**

Board of Directors 08-09

Jim Woolen, President

Sayed Hashimi, Vice President

Scott Barger, Treasurer August to October

Jim Woolen, acting Treasurer November to February

Paula Vaughn, Treasurer February to June

Krissy Workman, Secretary

Lynda Brandly, Representative At Large

Jimmie Rodgers, Board Member

David Frees, Board Member

MISSION STATEMENT

Developing student's lives to positively impact the world through academic excellence and higher moral character.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be the #1 School of Choice in our area, through excellence in values and education.

CORE VALUES

Embracing excellence in:

- higher moral character in integrity
- academic achievement
- a safe, nurturing environment; physically, mentally, and emotionally
- diversity by respecting differences
- resource stewardship
- life long learning and leadership
- life skills development
- community service
- critical and creative thinking

STATEMENTS OF INTENT FOR EDUCATION

Crossroads Charter Academy Intends to:

- Promote academic excellence for all students in math, reading/language arts, social studies, and science
- Provide an orderly, purposeful learning environment, which is not oppressive and is conducive to teaching and learning
- Help students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Encourage exemplary character development that will promote healthy self-esteem in each student
- Promote a love for life-long learning and a desire for self-development
- Equip students to use today's technology
- Help students develop excellence in oral, written, and listening communication skills
- Provide a variety of age appropriate physical education and fitness activities to assist in the physical development of each student.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACADEMY

1. Crossroads Charter Academy successfully completed its 11th year of operation during the 2008-2009 academic year. The academy served grades Pre-K to 12 for the 2008-2009 school year.
2. Crossroads Charter Academy is known for its strong academic program, using the Michigan curriculum standards and objectives as our main focus. We also use some of the Core Knowledge curriculum strategies and philosophy in grades K-6. Our curriculum promotes academic excellence for all students in mathematics, reading, language arts, social studies, and science, as evidenced by our MEAP results in grades 3-12. Our computer labs, including a new K-6 lab, allow teachers to integrate technology with classroom instructional materials. We are able to individualize student curriculums based on their needs, including accelerated learning by subject.
3. Our Athletic Director and Athletic Coordinator organize our sports schedule for the year, including two local leagues, and we are an MHSAA member. We currently compete in girl's and boy's basketball, track/field, and soccer, baseball, bowling, cross country, football, and volleyball. A non-CCA sponsored Equestrian Team of CCA students compete using CCA's name.
4. Crossroads Charter Academy has an excellent character education program in grades K-12. Staff members teach and model exemplary character qualities such as honesty, integrity, respect, courage, kindness, generosity, and loyalty. Crossroads Charter Academy elementary has bi-weekly assemblies that reinforce the character education program. The CCA Cougar visits the assemblies challenging and rewarding students for displaying these qualities in their behavior at school.
5. Parents and public can view the elementary and high school curriculum in the main office or in the superintendent's office.

STUDENT RANDOM SELECTION PROCESS

Crossroads Charter Academy was authorized by Grand Valley State University to serve students in grades K-12 during 2008-2009. All Michigan students in grades K-12 were eligible to apply for enrollment. A random lottery is conducted when a particular grade is over-subscribed. No student is denied admission on the basis of race, religion, intellectual or athletic ability. The pre-school program in our building was run through the local M-OISD's Early Childhood Center, who conducted all the enrollment and staffing for this program.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Crossroads Charter Academy is accredited by the Michigan Department of Education through the Michigan Education YES program. We are proud that both our K-6 and MS/HS buildings were given "A" grades for the 08-09 school year and met AYP. Crossroads Charter Academy follows the state prescribed School Improvement process, and is involved in the following activities.

1. The School Improvement Team and staff continually evaluate the educational program of the school; which includes the 2008-2009 school year. MEAP and MAP achievement test results, as well as locally administered assessments are used in the data analysis process.
2. The school's curriculum, instructional practices, and assessment system are consistent with the State Board of Education approved "Michigan Curriculum Frameworks" and it is reviewed annually for alignment.
3. The school's administrative team allocates the necessary human, fiscal, and educational resources and interventions to ensure articulation and alignment of the written and taught curriculum, instructional practices, and assessment systems.
4. The school's administrative team provides continuing professional development for all educators based on the school's curriculum, the school's identified mission, and the academic goals derived from an analysis of student data.
5. The school maintains all physical facilities and equipment in a manner which supports an appropriate learning environment for all students.
6. The school's staff, parents, and community collaborate about and engage in programs and activities focused toward improving the academic performance of all students and accelerating the improvement of low achieving groups.
7. The school's School Improvement Plan identifies appropriate improvement strategies, methods for implementation and regular procedures to continually monitor and improve student performance on the district's curriculum.
8. The School Improvement Plan includes the use of technology in the delivery of the curriculum and instruction to increase student performance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS as of 2008-2009

- CCA completed many building and grounds projects in our effort to continue improving our facilities for the benefit of our students and families. A highlight this year was new updated lighting fixtures and paint for the auditorium. New carpeting was installed on floors 2 and 3 of the building.
- Crossroads Charter Academy maintains an excellent working relationship with area schools and the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District.
- Crossroads is financially sound.
- Crossroads graduated its 7th class of seniors: Class of 2009
- CCA held a Teacher Institute for staff in August, providing them time to prepare curriculum and learn new techniques for instruction and assessment for the coming school year.
- Crossroads created a safe and orderly environment for students.
- Crossroads developed an educational team that utilizes research-based methodologies for our phonics based reading program in grades K-2.
- Crossroads was recognized for participating in the Presidential Physical Fitness Program, Hoops for Heart, and Jump Rope for Heart program.
- Crossroads employed an energetic and dedicated staff of 43 Michigan Certified Highly Qualified Teachers, along with 11 Parapros. Our total number of CCA Staff was 81.
- CCA has developed the PLC; Professional Learning Center which is being observed and duplicated by many schools around the state. It is an extremely successful program of professional development for CCA Teaching Staff. Continuing emphasis is on data mining and adjusting classroom instruction based on testing results. Teachers also used their PLC time to develop power standards and align curriculum to the GLCE's and HSCE's.
- Crossroads developed and continues to update a Board Policy Manual.
- Crossroads requires Volunteer Community Service Hours for high school graduation.
- Crossroads received an Ed. Yes grade of "A" for its K-12 program.
- Crossroads runs a Trimester Schedule in the MS/HS arena. It was very successful with staff and students both benefiting as we offer a 5 period day. It provides teachers with more time to present curriculum materials and students the ability to manage focus on 5 subjects at a time.

- CCA Band program continues to earn top ratings in state and regional competitions. The CCA Band presents several concerts throughout the school year, along with marching in local parades and other invitations throughout the year.

Our new CCA Media Center provided a wonderful environment for our K-12 students to enjoy reading and study. It was an exciting addition to our facilities for staff, students, and families. The outdoor garden and picnic area provided teachers and students a unique space for reading instruction.

- Special MS/HS assemblies included: "Don't Drink & Drive"; Senior Send Off; Spirit Week for Homecoming and Winter Festival; Ghost Dodgeball. Mark Martin, internationally known professional fisherman presented a program on the importance of education, character, integrity and exotic as well as walleye fishing. A Veterans assembly with the local Armory, AMVETS, VFW Post and former CCA Alumni was held for students.
- CCA HS participated in the Math Counts competition at FSU. We also participated in the Science Fair and Destination Imagination competitions throughout the year.
- CCA Elementary Cougar Mileage Club continues with students earning rewards for walking the playground track at recess times.
- CCA held their annual Volunteer Dessert Reception to thank all of the faithful parents, grandparents, friends and relatives who volunteer their time in our buildings throughout the school year.
- CCA held its 2nd Annual 6th grade Graduation. A celebration of the elementary years of the Class of 2015 was held at a special evening graduation ceremony for parents and family members.
- CCA held its Annual Summer Camp and inaugurated a new Summer Academic Camp by invitation only. Both were extremely successful.
- CCA PTO was very involved this year on behalf of the school. They also ran a very successful Auction Night. Thanks to our PTO and all that they do.
- CCA's Habits of the Mind and CHAMPs programs continue to be very successful.
- CCA celebrated Black History Month and Martin Luther King's Birthday with assemblies by the FSU Players group. It was an excellent presentation enjoyed by all. Several other local schools were invited to join us for this event.
- CCA HS celebrated its Annual Homecoming with spirit week activities, a soccer game on Friday evening, Alumni Soccer game on Saturday, culminating with the Homecoming Dance for current and Alumni students. It was again a great success.

- CCA Sports are always exciting and this year was no exception. Our Boys Soccer team won the District Championship. The Girls Volleyball team were Conference and District Champions. The Girl's Basketball team won their District Championship. All of our athletes did a tremendous job this year. The baseball team had a great turn out with some of our foreign students playing the sport for the first time in their lives. Overall it was a great year for our Cougar Athletes.
- CCA recognized , five "10" year veteran staff members at the End of Year 08-09 Luncheon.
- Annual Kindergarten Roundup was a tremendous success with our "You Are A Star" Red Carpet theme. Families arriving were treated to the red carpet treatment for the entire evening and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, while gaining new insight into how to become new CCA students.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- ❖ Accelerated Reader Program
- ❖ Accelerated Math Program
- ❖ Advanced Placement HS classes
- ❖ Art Club for 9th-12th grades
- ❖ Assemblies with special guest speakers throughout the year
- ❖ Athletic competitions with other schools; Member of West Michigan D League
- ❖ Bi-weekly assemblies by grade level to promote patriotism, character, and school unity at the K-6 building.
- ❖ Book Fairs
- ❖ Book It Program for K-6
- ❖ CCA's Annual Homecoming and Winter Festival Dances for 9th-12th grade students
- ❖ Character Cougar visits assemblies and classrooms in K-6 building
- ❖ Community Service Requirements for students--9th-12th grade
- ❖ Destination Imagination Teams (K-6)
- ❖ Donkey Basketball Fundraiser was held for the entire community in our HS Gym
- ❖ Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE)
- ❖ Environmental Lab Experience
- ❖ Field Trips by various groups to museums, parks, businesses, Eagle Village, etc.
- ❖ Graduation: Class of 2009
- ❖ Habits of the Mind Character Education
- ❖ High School Honors Night and Middle School Honors Program
- ❖ Junior/Senior Prom
- ❖ K&K Café (K-6 Administrators honoring teachers with lunch)
- ❖ MS/HS Student Senate 7th-12th grade
- ❖ MYAC--Youth Advisory Council--9th-12th grade--4 Student Representatives
- ❖ Mackinac Island Trip--8th grade (Overnight Trip)
- ❖ Martin Luther King Day Celebration & Black History Month: FSU Players
- ❖ Math awards given at assemblies--K-6
- ❖ Michigan Mathematics Counts competition at FSU
- ❖ Assemblies for students

- ❖ Musical Concerts
- ❖ National Constitution Day Festivities connected to September 17
- ❖ National Geography Bee--4th-8th grade
- ❖ National Honor Society for CCAHS
- ❖ Parent Open Houses
- ❖ Pizza parties for students reaching 125% of their AR goals for 7th-8th
- ❖ Reading & Writing Month
- ❖ Recognition of Students demonstrating positive character traits
- ❖ Recognition of students who excel academically
- ❖ Senior Breakfast
- ❖ Spelling Bee Assembly K-8
- ❖ Student involvement in Michigan Virtual High School and Dual Enrollment (FSU)
- ❖ Student involvement in MOISD Career Center and Math/Science Center
- ❖ Summer Academic Camp
- ❖ Summer Day Camp
- ❖ Stage M Assembly: Suessical
- ❖ Tuba Bach Assemblies
- ❖ Track and Field Day
- ❖ Veterans Day Celebrations
- ❖ Volunteer Dessert Celebration
- ❖ Water Safety Programs/Boat Operators License Program

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Crossroads had 579 students enrolled as of June 10, 2009. The following is a break down of those students.

<i>Total:</i>	<i>Native Am.</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>White</i>
Male: 294	1	2	23	2	266
Female: 285	2	10	13	4	256
Total: 579	3	12	36	6	522

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Crossroads Charter Academy in cooperation with the Mecosta-Osceola ISD, serviced:

Approximately 202 through Title I and 31A At Risk programs
Approximately 48 students through Special Education

A total of approximately 250 students were serviced by our Special Education Teachers and Title I Instructional staff. The Mecosta-Osceola ISD provides direct and consultative services to assist our school in meeting these needs.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

A goal of Crossroads is to continually increase parental involvement in school programs and activities. The following are ways parents have been involved in our school:

- ❖ Assistant Athletic Coaches
- ❖ Assist with concessions/admission at school events
- ❖ Assist with Field Day events
- ❖ Chaperones for class parties, field trips, etc.
- ❖ Coaches for extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Hosts/Hostesses of school functions
- ❖ "Kindergarten Connect" and "Focus On 1st" Parent Training Meetings
- ❖ Members of P.T.O.
- ❖ Members of the School Improvement Committee
- ❖ Popcorn and Sucker sales on alternate Fridays
- ❖ Reading Buddies
- ❖ Resource personnel for uniting community
- ❖ Run Book Fairs
- ❖ Serve as Room Representatives
- ❖ Speakers at professional functions and student assemblies
- ❖ Substitute staff for non-teaching positions such as playground, kitchen, etc.
- ❖ Transportation providers for extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Volunteer in multiple areas of service throughout the school year: Picture Day, Field Day, Meet Your Teacher Night, etc.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Crossroads Charter Academy hosted three parent-teacher conference nights during the 2008-2009 school year. Attendance at these conferences was as follows:

	Number of Students Enrolled	Number of Conferences	Percentage of Attendance
FALL K-6	305	273	90%
WINTER K-6	312	267	86%
SPRING K-6	316	264	84
FALL MS/HS 7-12	266	107	40%
WINTER MS/HS	265	100	38%
SPRING MS/HS	264	59	22%
Grand Total Fall	571	380	67%
Grand Total Winter	577	446	77%
Grand Total Spring	580	323	56%

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Crossroads staff participated in many seminars and conferences offered by the Mecosta-Osceola ISD throughout the school year. Many of our teachers are continuing to complete course work toward their Master's degree. We currently have 18 staff with Masters degrees. CCA provides five Professional Development days or more per year to its staff. In September nationally known guest speaker, Cathy Hamilton presented a full day of training to our staff, along with another school. It was a day filled with tremendous insights to improve understanding of children, how they learn, and what factors may be influencing their ability to learn, etc.

CCA's Curriculum Coordinator operates the PLC (Professional Learning Center) a "classroom for the teacher" containing resources, weekly grade level training sessions, and guest speaker input as scheduled, providing on-going, systemic professional development. The PLC has received interest from schools throughout the state of Michigan. Many representatives have come to observe its facilitation in order to incorporate the concept in their own districts. The PLC has proven to be a tremendous asset to our teaching staff, providing them weekly opportunity to work together on SIP goals and aligning curriculum to the GLCE's and HSCE's.

The "Teacher Institute," held in August prior to the beginning of school provided teachers the gift of collegial time to think, create, and discuss critical teaching practices, and curriculum alignments.

Crossroads uses a variety of highly successful Curriculums: MDE State GLCE's & HSCE's; Core Knowledge (K-6); Saxon Phonics; Saxon Math (K-5); Pierson Math (6-12); Open Court Language Arts; and AR Accelerated Reader.

Staff are encouraged to attend training and conferences pertaining to their individual areas of assignment in order to increase their level of expertise from year to year. Our Band and Music Teachers attended several MSBOA conferences and seminars throughout the year. Our Technology Coordinator attended numerous trainings throughout the school year. Our Special Education teachers attended multiple hours of training throughout the year, including participating on state and local committees.

The Superintendent participated in meetings sponsored by Grand Valley State University. GVSU is exceptional in their quality of oversight to their Charter Schools; assisting us in the successful operation of our school. This year an additional grant was provided to the school based on 30 hours of Board Member Training participation.

The Superintendent and Building Principals participate in monthly ISD meetings, giving local administrators an opportunity to work together on issues. The Superintendent and Administrators attend MAPSA meetings, and other Administrative trainings throughout the school year at state and local levels.

CURRICULUM

Crossroads Charter Academy curriculum is aligned with the State Curriculum Framework. Some components of the Core Knowledge Curriculum are also incorporated.

State approved GLCE's and HSCE's are detailed outlines of specific content to be taught in language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science, and the fine arts.

All grade levels and departments are creating Power Standards that match the Michigan Curriculum Standards and Objectives. Our goal is to use the state curriculum as our guide and create relevant and rigorous activities; use multiple types of instruction, and tie everything together with a variety of assessments.

Grades K-2 emphasize the phonetic approach to reading. Grades 3-8 use literature to advance the phonetic approach taught in K-2. Grades K-6 use Saxon Math, K-2 Saxon Phonetics, and Open Court. Grades 3-8 use Open Court Reading, as well as selected novels to advance the individual student's reading skills. Grades 6-8 use Pierson Math and a Social Studies Curriculum aligned with the new state requirements.

Curriculum development is and will be an on-going process at Crossroads Charter Academy. Our curriculum focus is academic excellence that provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills needed to be a productive member of society.

The CCA High School Curriculum Handbook is available to students and parents. It details graduation requirements and provides course descriptions of all classes offered at CCA High School. The Director and staff are excited about the course being charted for CCA High School students and Alumni. A copy of the High School Curriculum is included in this report.

MEAP & MME RESULTS

Summary test results for 2008-2009 are at the back of this report. Under the "No Child Left Behind," schools are required to disaggregate MEAP and MME Data for the following groups: Gender, Racial/Ethnic, Limited English Proficient, and Socio-Economic Status. In Michigan the number of students tested at each grade level in these groups is to be statistically significant and has been set at 30 students. Crossroads Charter Academy does not meet this number in any of the grade levels tested for any of the groups so is unable to disaggregate the data.

POST SECONDARY OPTION REPORT

Dual Enrol.	Grade total	Boys	Girls	Totals	Percentage
Dual-FSU 12	52	6 of 25	8 of 27	14	27%
Dual-FSU 11	41	2 of 20	0 of 21	2	5%
MSTC 12	52	1 of 25	2 of 27	3	6%
MSTC 11	41	2 of 20	1 of 21	3	7%
MSTC 10	40	0 of 23	4 of 17	4	10%
MSTC 9	39	2 of 18	6 of 21	8	21%
AP 12	52	8 of 25	0 of 25	8	16%
AP 11	41	0 of 20	7 of 21	7	17%
AP 10	40	1 of 25	0 of 27	1	3%
Passed Exam	16	9 of 9	7 of 7	16	All Passed

Graduation Drop Out Rate for 2007-2008: 90.70% Drop Rate: 4.65%

GRADUATION CLASS OF 2009

The Class of 2009 was the 7th graduating class of Crossroads Charter Academy. There were 50 seniors: 49 graduates; 44 diplomas; 5 Foreign Exchange Student Completion Certificates; 1 Homeschool graduate. Foreign students were from Norway, Germany and Mexico. Class of 2009 post secondary statistics:

41=84%	Going on to College/University Study
1=2%	Entering Military Service
2=4%	Entering the Work Force
5=10%	Foreign Exchange Students Returning Home to Complete High School and Attend University
1=2%	Military

The Class of 2009 started 9th grade in 2005 with 54 students enrolled on September count day of 2005. Nineteen students left for other schools and 15 students came during the 4 years; leaving 50 students to graduate. Graduation Ratio for the Class of 2009 was 88% due to the foreign students and one home school student. All those on track to graduate were awarded diplomas.

ATTENDANCE

CCA daily attendance average is 95 percent for the year. The enrollment chart per grade is shown below. Class size may vary at times if there are home school students enrolled in CCA non-core elective classes.

Students Per Grade

K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
60	66	66	66	66	66	66	70	66	56	56	56	56

Approximate Students Per Classroom

K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	22	22	22	24	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25

Number of classes per grade level was as follows:

Kindergarten	2
1st	3
2nd	3
3rd	3
4th	2
5th	2
6th	2
7th	2 Self-contained classrooms and 1 group with rotating individual schedules
8-12	Departmentalized individual student schedules

PARENT SATISFACTION

Crossroads Charter Academy administered a parent satisfaction survey. All parents were given the opportunity to provide feedback to the Board of Directors and school staff. Over all, the respondents believe that the education their children receive at Crossroads is superior to previous schools attended. They are pleased with the small class size, values taught, and their biggest concern from year to year is the traffic issue during drop off and pick up of their children. There were several good suggestions from parents this year that are being taken into consideration by administration. CCA Administrators offer an "Open Door" policy to all parents and guardians to discuss their child's education and/or concerns at any time.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

CCA School Improvement Plans for the K-6 Building and the MS/HS Building are separate attachments to this document.

PUBLIC MEETING

The 2008-2009 Annual Education Report will be reviewed with the public at our September 10, 2009 Board of Director's meeting at 7:00p.m. in the CCA Media Center.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Ronald G. Schneider, CCA District Superintendent

