

Innovation and Excellence in Education

CMS Leads the Way in Quality Public Education

Prepare for Greatness. The Charlotte community is proud of what Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools offer, and the district's slogan matches their vision. CMS provides a strong foundation in the basics — reading, writing and mathematics — and much, much more — all to prepare students for greatness.

Nationally recognized for combining academic rigor with rich opportunities in the arts and humanities, CMS has the resources and the expertise to focus on the unique needs of each student. CMS offers a world of choices, from classical studies to culinary arts, information technology, and the highly acclaimed International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Diploma programs.

Quality and Growth

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community treats education as one of its most precious resources and the Board of Education is dedicated to ensuring that "CMS provides all students the best education available anywhere, preparing every child to lead a rich and productive life."

CMS is recognized nationally for academic excellence. Recently, CMS was a finalist for the Broad Prize, which is presented annually to four school districts in the country for elevating their achievement levels. As a finalist, the district received \$125,000 in scholarships. CMS was also ranked by Forbes as 7th in the country for the "Best Education in the Biggest Cities."

Facts on CMS

CMS serves 128,300 students in Pre-K through 12th grade. As the 23rd largest district in the country, CMS has 161 schools and more than 16,700 employees. CMS is big, but its national reputation comes from the outstanding education provided to each student in the district. CMS realizes that what works for one student may not work for another.

Top Quality Employees

CMS employs more than 8,141 full-time teachers, 6,690 student support staff and approximately 950 administrative staff. Over 2,460 of the system's certified teachers have advanced degrees. North Carolina is #1 in the country in terms of the number of National Board Certified (NBC) teachers and #1 in number of newly certified teachers. CMS ranks in the top five school districts nationally for number of NBC teachers. In November 2005, 149 CMS teachers achieved National Board Certification for a total of 987.



Equivalent to the CPA exam for accountants or the bar exam for lawyers, the National Board Certification documents a teacher's skills.

Superior Student Achievement

CMS sets high expectations for students and challenges them to reach their fullest potential. Thus, academic rigor and access to challenging courses are top priorities in CMS.

- In 2006, four CMS high schools were ranked among the nation's Top 100 High Schools. The four are Butler (#25), Harding University (#25), Myers Park (#37) and North Mecklenburg (#56) high schools.

The Charlotte community's deep and continuing commitment to superior education is exemplified in the quality of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

More than 6,000 students graduated from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in 2006.



100% of CMS high schools offer AP courses, compared to 30% of schools nationwide.

- Myers Park also earned a spot in the list's Top 10 Most Improved by moving up from 37th to 16th place in 2005.
- Enrollment in AP courses was strong in 2005-2006; 5,967 CMS students took AP exams. That's up from 5,275 in 2003-04. As a result of the system's commitment to academic excellence, CMS was selected as one of 28 school systems across the country to award the first AP diplomas. Since 2000-2001, AP enrollment has increased by 66% up from 8,510 students to 12,903. In 2005-2006, students took 12,903 AP exams, compared to 7,918 in 2000-01 and 2,220 in 1994-95.
- Nearly fifty-nine percent of CMS graduating seniors successfully completed at least one AP or IB course. Of the 157 seniors who took the IB exam, 125 students earned the IB diploma, an 80% success rate.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

| | Verbal | Math | Total |
|-------------|--------|------|-------|
| Mecklenburg | 510 | 519 | 1029 |
| N.C. | 495 | 513 | 1008 |
| National | 503 | 518 | 1021 |

SAT Scores

In CMS, more than 75% of graduates take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The top 10% of

CMS graduates outperform their public and private school peers statewide, scoring 1205 compared to 1187 for the top 10% in North Carolina.

National, State, and Mecklenburg SAT scores are a composite of both public and non-public schools. Mecklenburg's results compare favorably with both state and national scores.

In 2005-2006, 6,073 students graduated from the 17 Charlotte-Mecklenburg high schools. Last school year, CMS graduates earned more than \$43.5 million in academic scholarships and more than \$12.1 million in athletic scholarships.

Exceptional Magnet Programs

Magnet schools offer students an opportunity to focus on a particular theme or curriculum while receiving the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Today, 49 schools offer specialized magnet programs ranging from visual and performing arts to math, science, and technology, Montessori, and language immersion. CMS' nationally recognized magnet schools serve more than 19,000 students in 14 different programs.

Class Size

CMS class size conforms to state requirements. The Equity Plus program in CMS lowers class size in schools with higher percentages of students who live in poverty.

Classrooms on the Cutting Edge

As a result of business and community support, technology is a strong focus in all CMS schools. Examples of this dedication to technology include a highly successful laptop-learning program at Cotswold and Matthews Elementary schools as well as the Computer Access to Neighborhood Program within the community and at various school sites. Phillip O. Berry is the district's magnet technology high school, offering students an array of upper level technology courses necessary for certification exams. Officials at the school collaborate with business professionals and higher education institutions to ensure they concentrate on current and future high demand IT career areas.

Pre-K Programs

Bright Beginnings, a program for four-year-olds, is recognized nationally and serves as a model for similar programs throughout the state and country. Developed in 1996, this literacy-based program helps students enter kindergarten ready and eager to learn. Currently, more than 3,100 four-year-olds are enrolled in this program.

Special Needs

The goal of CMS is to provide educational opportunities that encourage, challenge and motivate all students. Through the Exceptional Children's (EC) program, students with disabilities are encouraged to develop and flourish through individualized instruction in the least restrictive environment. CMS offers programs for EC students in the fol-



Photo/Nancy Pierce

lowing categories: autistic, hearing impaired, mentally disabled, multi-handicapped, orthopedically impaired, behaviorally/emotionally disabled, speech-language impaired, traumatic brain injured, visually impaired and other areas. Classrooms, programs and services for EC students are located throughout Mecklenburg County. Additionally, a new inclusion model in several pilot schools offers students an opportunity to receive EC support services in the regular classroom.

Programs and Services

CMS offers a broad range of services and programs to enhance the district's educational opportunities. The English as a Second Language (ESL) program offers assistance to students whose native language is not English. More than 13,000 CMS students speak a language other than English; 97 native languages are spoken, and more than 150 countries are represented. The After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) provides a caring and nurturing environment for students beyond the regular classroom day at every CMS elementary and at select middle schools. The program focuses on exciting activities such as sports, arts, computer exploration, music, dance, drama, clubs and much more. The program is supported by the weekly fees paid by parents, and operates on school holidays as well as during winter and spring break. Before-school care is available in many of these schools.

Programs are designed to bring cutting edge technology to the classroom.



Photo/Nancy Pierce

CMS staff members regularly win national performance awards.



Photo/Nancy Pierce

New Facilities with Higher "IAQ"

With bulldozers rolling and construction crews hard at work, CMS is currently undergoing the largest building, construction and renovation program in the system's history. The district will open five newly constructed schools by 2007. Additional new facilities and renovation projects are scheduled over the next decade to address the facility needs that arise from rapid growth and aging buildings.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CMS builds healthy, high-performance schools by following the guidelines of EPA's Indoor Air Quality Design Tools for Schools program. The district was recognized and awarded the EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools 2004 Excellence Award.

In CMS, one thing is certain: every child deserves and can expect to receive the best education possible. To find out more about Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the opportunities available to every child, log on to www.cms.k12.nc.us, check out CMS-TV 3 or contact the Public Information Office at (980) 343-7450.

Business Partnerships

64 CMS Schools were named Schools of Excellence or Distinction by the State of North Carolina. CMS is fortunate to have many business and community partners that provide resources and volunteer support to our schools. In 2005-2006, more than 59,000 volunteers contributed more than 980,000 hours. Approximately 4,378 business partners provide assistance to the schools through more than \$17 million in school-business partnerships.

Transportation

North Carolina law requires all school systems to offer free transportation to any student who lives 1.5 miles or more from his or her assigned school. Special needs students are also guaranteed free transportation. Currently, more than 1,175 buses serve CMS students and provide more than 5,200 routes daily. The system travels more than 130,000 miles each day and more than 102,000 students use these services.

Education Dollars

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community shows consistent dedication to quality education. The community passed a \$275.5 million bond referendum in 2000 and another \$224 million bond referendum in 2002 to renovate older facilities and build four new schools. These new facilities will help address the growing population in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, as well as equity. The 2005-06 total operating budget for CMS is \$1.05 billion with funding support from County, State and Federal sources. Per pupil expenditure is \$7,439.

Other School Alternatives

Nearly 23,000 students are enrolled in 58 independent, non-public and charter schools. Among them is a growing Catholic school system of elementary, middle and high schools, in addition to a variety of denominational church schools and non-church related institutions. A complete list of these schools is available from the Chamber.

For Public School Information Contact:
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