



# Constellation Schools

*The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children!*



**2006-2007 Annual Report • 2007-2008 School Calendar**

**PURITAS COMMUNITY MIDDLE**



# Mission Statement

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Puritas Community Middle • 15204 Puritas Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44135 • Phone: 216.251.1596 • Fax: 216.688.0609

## Mission

Constellation Schools creates and provides diverse superior educational opportunities for a community of learners, built on a foundation of character education in a safe environment, ensuring the success of all children in our advancing technological society.



## Value

As a school of choice, we believe all children deserve a superior education in a safe, caring, nurturing environment. We will create a community of learners where children excel, become responsible citizens, and are exposed to the highest ethical standards.

## Organization Slogan

*The Right Choice for Parents  
and a Real Chance for Children!*

## Vision

Constellation Schools will create a premiere learning community characterized by high expectations and academic excellence.

Our students will be engaged in the process of learning and will become responsible, involved citizens. They will be life long learners, technologically proficient, and perform to their maximum potential.

Our parents will be positively engaged in the education of their children and be participants in school activities.

Our personnel will be committed, competent, compassionate individuals who will consistently exemplify the highest ethical and professional standards.

Our management team will provide superior leadership, resources and support to facilitate the optimal operations of our school.

Our Board of Directors will guide the organization in creating a culture of excellence and success.

## Character Education Slogan

*We all have Choices.  
Choices have Consequences.  
Be Smart and Make the Right Choice!*

Constellation Schools and Puritas Community Middle admit students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin, and will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, age or gender in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, hiring, and employee retention policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.



# Constellation Schools & History

**Constellation Schools • 5983 West 54th Street • Parma, Ohio 44129 • Phone: 440.845.7688 • Fax: 440.845.7689**

Constellation Schools is an Ohio nonprofit corporation, and IRC 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization, that was established in 1999 to create and operate high quality community (charter) schools offering a superior, safe learning environment. Currently there are sixteen (16) schools in Constellation's community of schools; they are: Old Brooklyn Community Elementary, Old Brooklyn Community Middle, Parma Community Elementary, Middle and High, Elyria Community Elementary, Lorain Community Elementary, Lorain Community Middle, Westpark Community Elementary, Westpark Community Middle, Mansfield Community Elementary, Puritas Community Elementary, Puritas Community Middle, Stockyard Community Elementary, Madison Community Elementary, Lorain Gifted Academy, Outreach Academy for Children with Disabilities and Westside Community School of the Arts.

Our learning communities are characterized by small classes, high expectations, involved parents, and engaged students. We provide safe and secure buildings; the best available curriculum; current textbooks; and, extensive use of computers and other technology. Constellation Schools hires only highly qualified, state-certified/licensed teachers and provides extensive and on-going professional development for all personnel.

Character education is the cornerstone of our program. Students are expected to adhere to a demanding code of behavioral conduct, including a dress code, and are held accountable for their actions through a comprehensive and strict disciplinary policy.

Parents are expected to be active participants in the education of their children, support the school policies, supervise homework and attend conferences.

**Constellation Schools Puritas Community Middle School Sponsor**  
**Patricia Hughes, Ed. D., Director, Community School Division**  
**Buckeye Community Hope Foundation**  
3021 East Dublin-Granville Road • Columbus, Ohio 43231  
614.403.2239 • 614.942.2000 fax

## Constellation Schools Grades K-4

**Old Brooklyn Community Elementary** (1998)  
**Cherie Kaiser, Principal**

4430 State Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
216.661.7888 • 216.661.5975 fax

**Westpark Community Elementary** (2001)  
**Macey Baldizzi, Principal**

16210 Lorain, Cleveland, Ohio 44111  
216.688.0271 • 216.688.0273 fax

**Lorain Community Elementary** (2001)  
**Melisa Shady, Principal**

201 West Erie Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44052  
440.204.2130 • 440.204.2134 fax

**Puritas Community Elementary** (2003)  
**Donald Disantis, Principal**

15204 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44135  
216.688.0680 • 216.688.0609 fax

## Constellation Schools Grades K-9

**Parma Community Elementary,  
Middle & High** (2000)

**Linda Geyer, Principal**  
**Elementary**

7667 Day Drive, Parma, Ohio 44129  
440.845.5490 • 440.888.5890 fax

**Middle and High**

5983 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129  
440.845.2587 • 440.845.2834 fax

## Constellation Schools Grades K-12

**Outreach Academy for Children with  
Disabilities** (2006)

**Mary Wideman-Blake, Principal**  
3326 Broadview Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
216.661.6655 • 330.732.2497 fax

## Constellation Schools Grades K-8

**Lorain Gifted Academy** (2004)

**Richard Hronek, Principal**  
307 West 7th Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052  
440.244.0855 • 440.244.0857 fax

## Constellation Schools Grades K-6

**Mansfield Community Elementary** (2002)  
**Bethany Young, Principal**

455 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44906  
419.522.4578 • 419.522.2705 fax

**Stockyard Community Elementary** (2004)  
**Audrey Petsche-Sims, Principal**

3200 West 65th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102  
216.651.5143 • 216.651.9515 fax

**Madison Community Elementary** (2004)  
**Kathryn Fiorillo, Principal**

2015 West 95th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102  
216.651.5212 • 216.651.9040 fax

## Constellation Schools Grades K-8

**Elyria Community Elementary** (2001)  
**Lee Henderson, Principal**

300 North Abbe Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035  
440.366.5225 • 440.366.6280 fax

## Constellation Schools Grades 5-8

**Old Brooklyn Community Middle** (2006)  
**Amy Mobley, Principal**

4430 State Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
216.351.0280 • 216.661.5975 fax

**Westpark Community Middle** (2006)  
**Karil Sako, Principal**

16210 Lorain, Cleveland, Ohio 44111  
216.251.7200 • 216.251.7220 fax

**Puritas Community Middle** (2006)

**Donald Disantis, Principal**  
15204 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44135  
216.251.1596 • 216.688.0609 fax

**Lorain Community Middle** (2006)  
**Jennifer Cairns, Principal**

307 West 7th Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052  
440.242.2023 • 440.242.2044 fax



# Message from the Chairman

Constellation Schools continues to grow and improve. During the 2006/2007 school year we have implemented many things designed to ensure our schools have the resources necessary to assist students, and that our teachers know how to use these resources.



Every teacher in every classroom is using AIMSweb to assess student performance on an ongoing basis. Where students are not advancing as expected, interventions can be implemented nearly immediately. Professional development for teachers and staff has always been a high priority for us, however, this year we greatly expanded and improved our professional development program. Our special education program remains second to none, and this year we have expanded our use of alternative assessments to ensure the success of all children. We have also focused on standardizing our curriculum, our summer school program, and our kindergarten readiness screening. Because of the growth we have experienced, and our expected future growth, we implemented a Principal Training Program. Two interns spent the entire year working with our experienced principals and administrators to ensure they will be ready to open and effectively operate Constellation schools for the 2007/2008 school year.

Despite our growth, student and school performance continue to improve. For the 2005/2006 school year, Westpark Community Elementary and Lorain Gifted Academy were rated "Excellent," and Old Brooklyn Community Elementary and Parma Community Elementary, Middle & High were rated "Effective" by the Ohio Department of Education. Most other Constellation schools are rated "Continuous Improvement" but all are focused on improving student performance.



Our expansion plans for Old Brooklyn Community Elementary/Old Brooklyn Community Middle, Westpark Community Elementary/Westpark Community Middle, Lorain Community Elementary/Lorain Community Middle, Stockyard Community Elementary and Parma Community Elementary, Middle & High continue with groundbreaking expected at Old Brooklyn and Westpark during the 2007/2008 school year. To accommodate the expansion we are currently seeking a \$20 million bond issue and expect to have the transaction finalized by fall. Our purchase of the Schaaf Community Center building in Parma will also allow us to initiate our first high school during the 2007/2008 school year.

Our specialty schools, Lorain Gifted Academy and Outreach Academy, continue to meet the needs of underserved populations. Gifted students at our Lorain Academy are flourishing with the rigorous program we have established. And, the profoundly disabled/medically fragile children served by Outreach Academy also flourish with the compassionate program we have created there.

Besides initiating our first-ever high school program, we will also open a school dedicated to bringing a high quality arts program to Cleveland's west side during the 2007/2008 school year.

Strategic planning continues to play a major role in the development of our organization and our schools, and our focus remains on one thing – providing a high quality education to all children.





# Administrative Staff & Board Members



## Puritas Community Middle Board Members

*Left to Right:*  
**Heidemarie Chernushin – Secretary**  
**Kathryn Delzani**  
**Dan Ziemba – Chairman**  
**Laura Horvath**  
**Jody Falsey**

## Constellation Schools' Board Members



**Richard Lukich,  
Chairman**



**Gerald Preseren**



**Rebecca Keeney**

**Gerald Preseren**  
*Executive Director*

**Thomas Babb**  
*Treasurer*

**Jean Sandler**  
*Accountant*  
**Dee Ann Bruner**  
**Edie Myhre**  
*Administrative Assistants-Finance*

**David Calco**  
*Technology Coordinator*  
**Gary Schaefer**  
**Randall Kufel**  
**Lisa Geyer**  
*Technology Specialists*

**John Roberts**  
*Coordinator of Educational Programs*

**Roy Zeman**  
*Coordinator of Educational Services*

**Becky Jordan**  
**Lisa Stepney**  
**Sonya Lewis**  
*School Psychologists*  
**Jill Teresczuk**  
**Amanda Stricker**  
**Sandra Shaprio**  
*Speech and Language Pathologists*

**Karen Boose**  
**Frances Horvath**  
*Occupational Therapists*

**Kim Stanislo**  
**Karen Baker**  
**Lisa Stern**  
**Kelley Vazquez**  
**Diane Sauder**  
*School Nurses*

**Sharon Morgan**  
*Coordinator of Staff & Professional Development*

**Penny Hockey**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Deborah Kilbane**  
*Principal In-Training*

**Richard Hronek**  
*Coordinator of Gifted Services*

**Jeffrey Soltis**  
*Facility Operations Manager*  
**John Allen**  
*Maintenance*

**Karen Florian**  
*Human Resource Manager*

**Menetta Szabo**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Lisa Vinarcik**  
*Manager of Marketing & Public Relations*



# Staff/Student Demographics

## About Our Students

During the 2006-2007 school year Puritas Community Middle served 40 students in grades 5-6. Students at Puritas Community Middle are taken on a first come, first served basis during the first two weeks of December. Those students who are currently enrolled are ensured a place for the following school year if they enroll during these two weeks. If more students apply than there are spots, a lottery is held and a waiting list is formed.

How do you achieve such an impressive average attendance rate? Create an environment where children want to come to school. Our teachers are tireless in their efforts to create exciting and meaningful daily lessons for our students. By using a variety of teaching tools and techniques, these "Highly Qualified" professionals establish a setting for the enjoyment of learning. In addition to the wonderful things taking place within the walls of the school, our student enjoy field trips to Cleveland's Playhouse Square to view entertaining children's theater, the Rainforest and Zoo, Education Days at an Akron Aeros Baseball game, the History Museum, and, even a trip to a local restaurant to see how spaghetti is made. Back in the school, assemblies by a children's author and an entertaining presentation by a magician to promote aspects of our Character Education Program. We are committed to continue to provide our students with a complete education fostering their desire to want to be in school.

### Staff Roster:

*Principal* Don Disantis

*Assistant Principal* Meg Paulus

*Administrative Assistant* Danelle Duwe

*Fifth Grade* Brian Belmont

*Sixth Grade* Kiersten Franklin

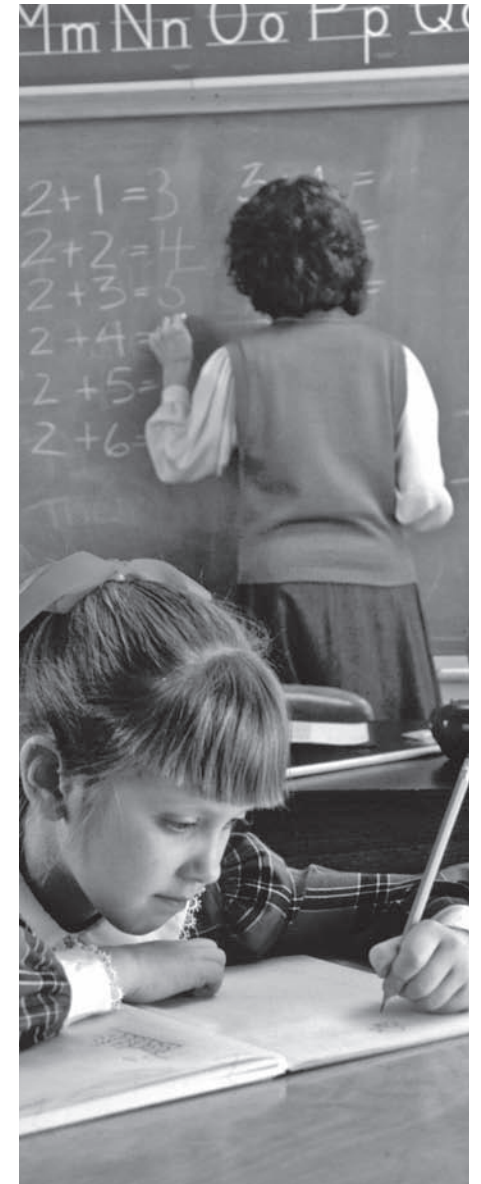
*Title I* Tammy Socausky, Jessica Majewski, Ashlee Pence, Liz Matthews

*Special Education* Cindy Beck, Sheila Miller

*Physical Education* Dan Sears

*Music Instructor* Klara Seefeld

*Teaching Assistant* Mike Durkin, Monica Dunning, Katie Griffin





# Staff/Student Attendance & Enrollment

## Enrollment

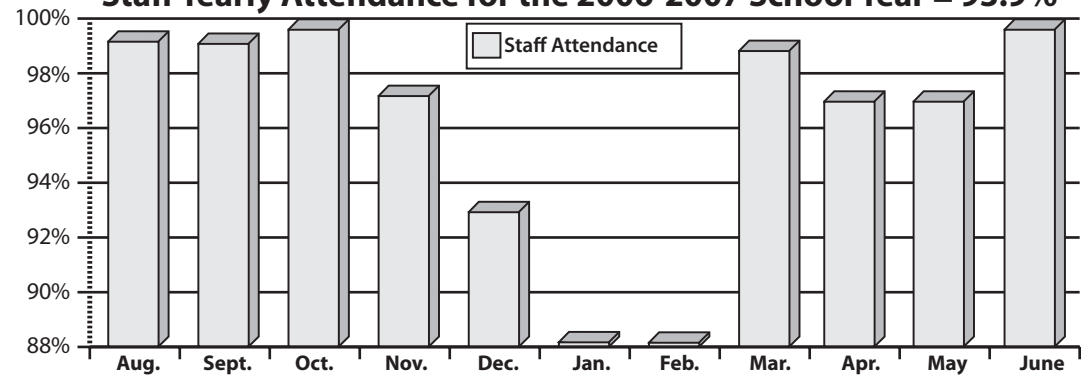
	# of Students	% of Students	Neighborhood % (Census Report)
White	12	30%	84.19%
Black	7	17.5%	10.66%
Hispanic	13	32.5%	6.31%
Asian	2	5%	Unavailable
Multi-Racial	6	15%	2.49%



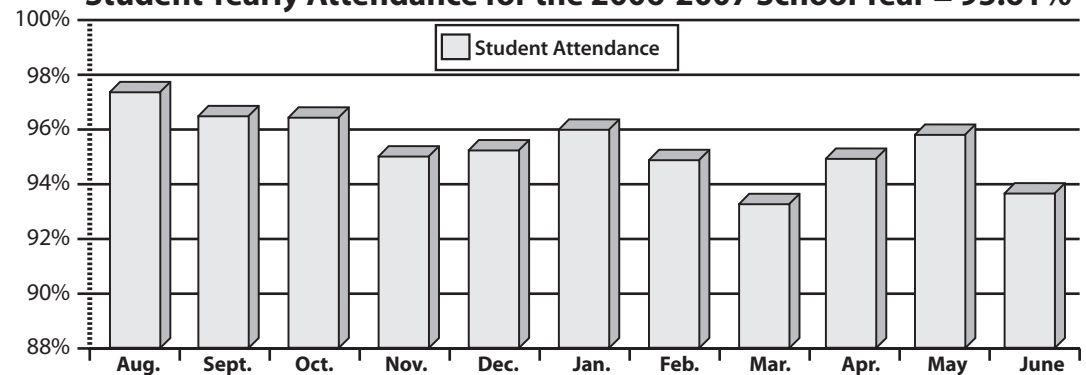
## Home School Notification

The school is a public school and students enrolled in and attending the school are required to take proficiency tests and other examinations prescribed by law. In addition, there may be other requirements for students at the school that are prescribed by law. Students who have been excused from the compulsory attendance law for the purpose of home education as defined by the Administrative code shall no longer be excused for that purpose upon their enrollment in a community school.

**Staff Yearly Attendance for the 2006-2007 School Year = 93.9%**



**Student Yearly Attendance for the 2006-2007 School Year = 95.61%**





# Education Plans/Programs

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- To provide an atmosphere of caring and concern for the well being of each student
- To assist children with learning difficulties by offering individual attention
- To limit class sizes to twenty students maintaining a workable student/teacher ratio
- To provide a sense of growth through special activities, such as, the 100th Day of School Celebration, Puritas Pals Day, music programs, book fairs, and much more
- To offer areas of enrichment through field trips and assemblies

To ensure its students are prepared for the state mandated Proficiency Tests, Puritas Community Middle chose the Ohio Academic Content Standards Educational Program as the basis for its Curriculum. The Puritas Community Middle program includes language arts, social studies, citizenship, sciences, mathematics, art, music and physical education. Saxon Phonics, along with the adoption of the Harcourt Trophies Series, helps to increase students' success in early literacy.

Art is integrated throughout the curriculum through a variety of opportunities to explore different materials and tools. Children are invited to enjoy art as a process rather than a means to a finished product. Drawing, painting, printing, collage, chalking and stenciling are only a few of the art activities students enjoy at Puritas Community Middle.

The children participate in a variety of field trips to further enhance the curriculum. This year, field trips to Playhouse Square, the Zoo and Rainforest, and a trip to Educational Days at an Akron Aeros Baseball game for our fourth and fifth graders, are just a few of the fun things our students enjoyed.

## **Community Involvement:**

The students enjoyed many opportunities to reach out to members of our immediate community, and to express their patriotism to those individuals' great distances from our community. The children made ornaments for a nearby nursing home, and brought them to the residents. Also, the students, once again, took part in a ceremony at NASA honoring those who lost their lives serving our country, and those still Missing in Action.

A wonderful example of community involvement for our students is our own parent organization, the Puritas A+. With over 2000 volunteer hours logged by this tireless organization, the students, and the school, are truly winners.

## **Parent Involvement:**

There is no denying the importance of a strong Parent Organization to the success of a school, and, there is no denying the impressive strength of the Puritas A+, "Active Parents Lending Us Support", our superb parent organization. Collectively, they log over 2000 hours of volunteer time for the benefit of the Puritas children. Each year this group sponsors, along with a variety of smaller fundraisers, one huge event which has enabled them to fund field trips, assemblies, and assist in the purchase of our playground equipment. The commitment of time and energy, by both the officers and members, of Puritas A+, is a major contributor to the success of Puritas Community Middle.

## **PURITAS A+**

### **Active Parents Lending Us Support**

#### **2006-2007 Officers**

*President* Jennifer Welsh

*Secretary* Sheryl Naro

*Treasurer* Dave Holloway

Through the tireless efforts of these people, and all of the parent volunteers of the Puritas Family of Friends, the students of Puritas Community Middle enjoy entertaining and educational assemblies, field trips and classroom activities, all of which are purchased with funds raised by this magnificent group. Throughout the school year, Puritas A+ sponsors bake sales, skating parties, snack sales, carnivals, and a variety of other fun activities with the sole purpose of raising funds for the students.

To learn more about this wonderful organization, visit their web site at: <http://www.puritasaplus.com>

THANK YOU





# Professional Development

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Constellation Schools are committed to quality professional development. Our Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) follows all state requirements to renew teaching/principal certificates and licensures. Our professional renewal process ensures a close connection between renewal activities of the educators and classroom practices. The continued development and improvement of relevant and applicable professional pedagogical skills and knowledge are essential to the education process. Through professional development we can ensure that all students reach their full potential to contribute to a democratic society including maximizing each student's abilities and encouraging self-reflection and a lifelong love of learning.

LPDC plans several professional development opportunities throughout the school year such as:

- Positive Discipline
- Classroom Management
- Saxon Math/Phonics
- Character Education in the Classroom
- Pathwise Training (How to mentor an entry year teacher)
- Differentiated Instruction
- Progressbook
- Cyberchase
- Special Education Procedures
- Instructional Reading Strategies
- First Aid Training
- Technology Conference

Constellation Schools provide teachers up to \$200 per year toward professional development and allow their teachers and staff to choose some of their own professional development opportunities. Such opportunities include:

- Crisis Prevention
- Working with Word Walls
- Practical Strategies to Enhance the Classroom and Strengthen Student Behavior
- Writing About Mathematics
- Grade Level Conferences
- Title One Conference
- Fun-Filled Learning Centers for the Classroom
- SERI
- Literacy Links
- Practical Ideas and Activities for the First Year Teacher
- Using Technology to Improve Math Instruction
- Smartboard Training
- Make-It, Take-It Workshops
- Powerful Strategies for At-Risk Readers
- Guided Reading
- Reading Plus





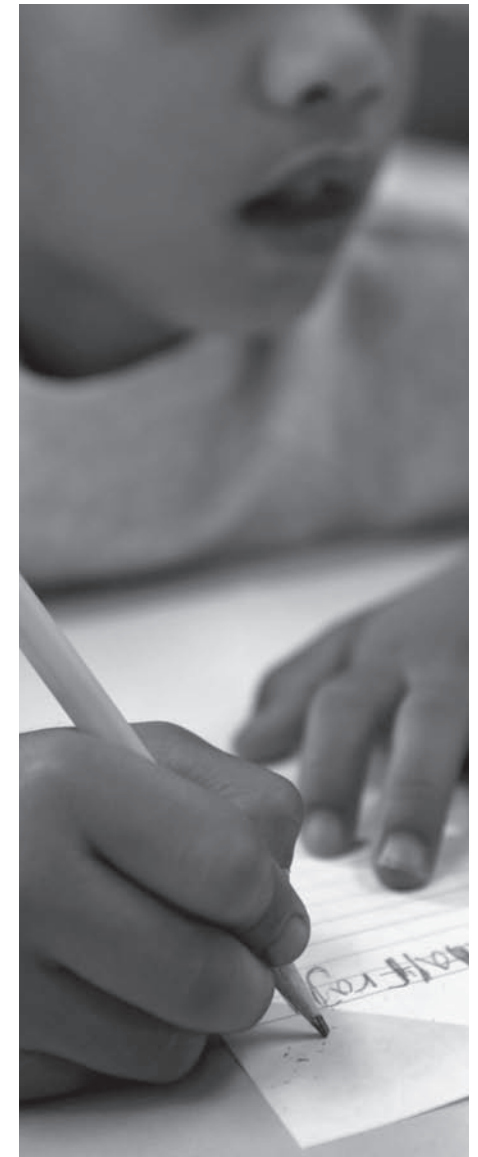
# Achievement Results

## Puritas Community Middle Achievement Test Results 2006-2007

<b>Fifth Grade</b>					
	<b>Math</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>
<b>2006-2007</b>	11.0	11.0	22.0	56.0	NT
<b>2005-2006</b>	56.0	NT	NT	69.0	81.0

<b>Sixth Grade</b>					
	<b>Math</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>
<b>2006-2007</b>	45.0	NT	NT	50.0	NT
<b>2005-2006</b>	67.0	NT	NT	67.0	NT

\*NT=Not Required to Take





# Stanford Testing Results

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During the 2006-2007 academic year, students in grades 5-6 took the Stanford 10 norm reference test in March.

The following results are listed in the normal curve equivalent (NCE). NCE is a standard score that is taken from the percentile rank. It ranges from 1-99 with a mean of 50.

<b>Fifth Grade</b>			
	<b>Spring 05</b>	<b>Spring 06</b>	<b>Spring 07</b>
<b>Total Reading</b>	n/a	49.4	43.2
<b>Math</b>	n/a	57.1	45.2
<b>Complete Battery</b>	n/a	53.4	47.3

<b>Sixth Grade</b>			
	<b>Spring 05</b>	<b>Spring 06</b>	<b>Spring 07</b>
<b>Total Reading</b>	n/a	49.4	46.3
<b>Math</b>	n/a	57.1	46.9
<b>Complete Battery</b>	n/a	53.4	46.3



# FINANCIAL REPORT for FISCAL YEAR 2007

## Highlights for the Year

- First year of operations – school opened in September 2006
- Received a \$230,000 grant for classroom technology, equipment and materials.

The Cash Basis Report of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year ended June 30, 2007 reflects the activities of Puritas Community Middle during the year. The information provided below refers to this report and the accompanying graphs.

## Revenues

The largest source of operating revenue (34%) comes from the State of Ohio School Foundation Program. This funding is earned at a base rate of \$5,403 for each student enrolled during the year. Additional funds are provided for the special needs of students, the poverty level of the community in which each student resides, and other adjustments.

State and Federal Grants (32%) supplement school operations for specific purposes. Puritas Community Middle received grants for Public Charter Schools, Entry Year Teacher Mentoring, and Statistical Reporting (EMIS).

Contributions (32%) are collected from companies and individuals and from fundraising activities. A grant was awarded during the year for program enrichment.

Materials Fees (1%) are collected from each student to provide consumable materials used during the year.

Other income (1%) includes miscellaneous items.

## Expenditures

Personnel services, combined with retirement and benefits, accounted for 29% of the expenditures for the year. These expenditures include teachers, state retirement systems, employment taxes and health insurances.

Purchased services (21%) include expenditures for field trips, professional development, management services, test scoring, equipment leases, telephone, postage, travel, marketing and printing.

Supplies and materials (41%) include textbooks, instructional supplies, testing materials, office supplies and instructional software.

Capital Outlay (7%) includes purchases of equipment and furniture.

Other (2%) includes insurances (property, liability, fidelity bond, director/officer), dues, subscriptions and miscellaneous.

## Additional Information

A more detailed set of financial statements may be obtained by calling (440) 845-7688, writing to the Treasurer, Constellation Schools, 5983 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129 or by e-mail at the following address:

[babb.thomas@constellationschools.com](mailto:babb.thomas@constellationschools.com).

During the fall of 2007 the Auditor of State will audit the financial records of the school and issue an audit report. The audit report should be available in early 2008 on the Auditor's website:

[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us).

