



Constellation Schools Lorain Community Elementary

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



Reaching for the Stars!

2008-2009 Annual Report

2009-2010 School Calendar



Mission, Vision, Value Statements & Slogans



Mission

Constellation Schools create and provide 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 premier learning community characterized by high expectations and academic excellence.

Our students will be actively 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 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

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



Constellation Schools & Its History

Constellation Schools is an Ohio not-for-profit corporation, and IRC 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization, that was established in 1999 to create and operate high quality community (charter) schools by offering a superior, safe learning environment. Currently there are sixteen (16) schools in Constellation's community of schools.

Constellation Schools offer families a real choice for their children to receive a high-quality education. Our schools are privately operated public charter schools of choice. An education at Constellation starts during the early years of kindergarten, where we begin to prepare students to become successful, well-rounded, life-long learners by developing their academic foundation and providing them with the tools to be successful in their future endeavors. 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. 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. Constellation Schools hires only highly qualified, state-certified/licensed teachers and provides extensive and on-going professional development for all personnel.

In addition, our schools offer parents a real opportunity to be involved in the education of their child by creating a learning community where teachers, parents and students work together to ensure academic success for all students. Parents are expected to be active participants in the education of their children, support the schools policies, supervise homework and attend conferences.

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)

Meg Paulus, Principal

15204 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44135

216.688.0680 • 216.688.0609 fax

Westside Community School of the Arts (2007)

Deborah Kilbane, Principal

3727 Bosworth, Cleveland, Ohio 44111

216.688.1900 • 216.688.1902 fax

Constellation Schools Grades K-7

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)

Gregory Cek, Principal

2015 West 95th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102

216.651.5212 • 216.651.9040 fax

Constellation Schools K-6

Elyria Community Elementary (2001)

Tracey Frierson, Principal

300 North Abbe Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035

440.366.5225 • 440.366.6280 fax

Mansfield Community Elementary (2002)

Bethany Young, Principal

215 North Trimble Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44906

419.522.4578 • 419.522.0045 fax

Constellation Schools Grades K-3

Mansfield Visual & Performing Arts (2008)

455 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44906

419.522.3563 • 419.522.2705 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

4400 West 140 Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44135

216.251.7200 • 216.251.7220 fax

Puritas Community Middle (2006)

Donald Disantis, Principal

15204 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44135

216.251.1596 • 216.251.3540 fax

Lorain Community Middle (2006)

Debbie Thoren, Principal

307 West 7th Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052

440.242.2023 • 440.244.0857 fax

Constellation Schools Grades K-10

Parma Community Elementary, Middle & High

(2000)

Linda Geyer, Principal

Elementary

7667 Day Drive, Parma, Ohio 44129

440.888.5490 • 440.888.5890 fax

Middle and High

5983 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129

440.845.2587 • 440.845.2834 fax

Constellation Schools K-12

Outreach Academy (2006)

Mary Wideman-Blake, Principal

3727 Bosworth, Cleveland, Ohio 44111

216.688.1900 • 216.688.1902 fax

Constellation Schools

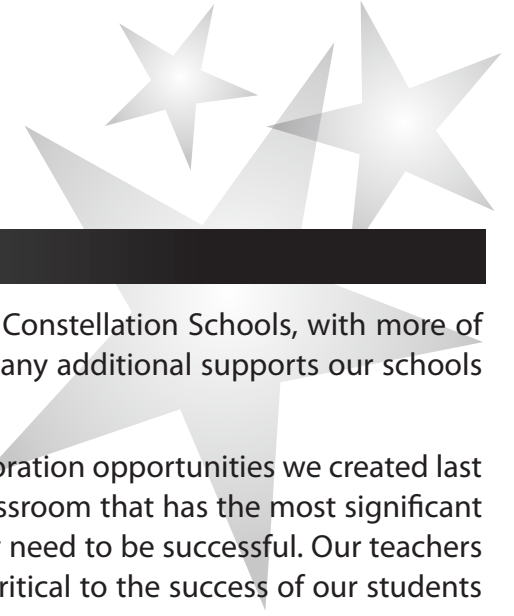
Administrative Office

5983 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129

440.845.4200 • 440.845.4201 fax



Chairman's Message



Preliminary results from the Ohio Department of Education indicate that this will be a banner year for the Constellation Schools, with more of our schools rated "Excellent" and "Effective" than ever before. This is exciting news as it indicates that the many additional supports our schools adopted and implemented this past year have been effective in helping students become successful.

Our continued commitment to professional development and training for our teachers, as well as the collaboration opportunities we created last year, appear to be paying off. As more and more research confirms; it is the quality of the teacher in the classroom that has the most significant impact on student learning. We continue to support our teachers and provide them with the resources they need to be successful. Our teachers and schools also benefit from the overwhelming support of our parents. Supportive, involved parents are critical to the success of our students and our schools.

We are pleased with the exception of our Stockyard multi-purpose room addition, construction projects at all of our schools were completed during the 2008/2009 school year. The improvements at Parma and Madison were completed during the first half of the school year; Old Brooklyn's middle school students began occupying the new addition during the second half of the school year; and Westpark middle school students will return to the Lorain Road location for this coming school year. We still face many challenges with respect to facilities; however we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish to improve the educational environments in many of our buildings, especially in these difficult economic times.

We also owe a great debt to our many parents who actively supported our schools during this year's tough state budget fight. Charter schools throughout the state were threatened with extinction, and our parents stood up for their right to choose the school best suited for their children.

Our Parma Community High School also continues to be a source of great pride. Introduced during the 2007/2008 school year, our high school grew dramatically for the 2008/2009 school year, and we expect strong growth for the coming year and into the future. However, more important than the physical growth of the school is the fact that our students are successfully passing the Ohio Graduation Test during 10th grade. Initiating a high school was a real challenge for us, but early results are demonstrating that it was a worthwhile endeavor.

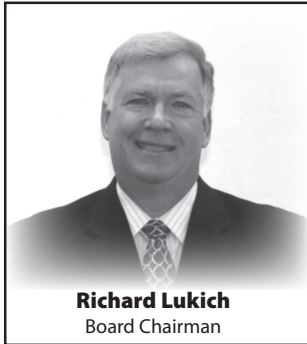
Our Leadership Training Program continues to play an important role in the growth of the organization. Each year we provide our program candidates with the experiences and knowledge they will need to be effective leaders in the Constellation organization.

We fully expect that when the performance results are finally released that Constellation schools will again make up the majority of high performing community schools in northeast Ohio and throughout the state, proving once more that Constellation schools are:

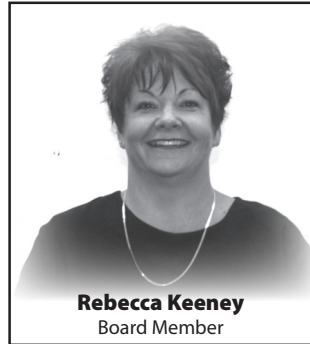
The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children.



Constellation Schools Board & Administrative Staff



Richard Lukich
Board Chairman



Rebecca Keeney
Board Member



Gerald Preseren
Board Member

Constellation Schools Lorain Community Elementary Sponsor

*James George, Director of Community Schools
Lucas County Educational Service Center
Collingwood Center • 2275 Collingwood Rd.
Toledo, Ohio 43624 • 419.295.4150*

Executive Director

Gerald Preseren

Treasurer

Thomas Babb

Accountant

Jean Sandler

Administrative Assistants/Finance

Dee Ann Bruner
Edie Myhre

Technology Coordinator

David Calco

Technology Specialists

Gary Schaefer
Randall Kufel
Lisa Geyer
Shawnda Thombs

Coordinator of Educational Programs

John Roberts

EMIS Manager

Rebecca Novak

Coordinator of Educational Services

Roy Zeman

School Psychologists

Becky Jordan
Lisa Stepney
Heather Zeman

Speech and Language Pathologists

Jill Teresczuk
Amanda Stricker

Occupational Therapists

Karen Boose
Frances Horvath

School Nurses

Kimberly Stanislo
Karen Baker
Lisa Stern
Kelley Vazquez
Diane Sauder
Julia Howerton

Coordinator of Staff & Professional Development

Sharon Morgan

Manager of Staff Development

Shelia Woidke

Coordinators' Administrative Assistant

Marybeth Oko

Facility Operations Manager

Jeffrey Soltis

Maintenance

John Allen

Human Resource Manager

Karen Florian

Administrative Assistant/ Human Resources

Amy Spears

Receptionist

Crystal Victor

Manager of Marketing & Public Relations

Lisa Vinarcik



Lorain Community Elementary Board & Staff



Lorain Community Elementary Board Members

Board President - Mark Stypczynski

Board Members - Donald Disantis - Anna Hogan
Deborah Kilbane - Laura Trivison

The entire teaching staff at Lorain Community Elementary have professional certificates and meet the "Highly Qualified Requirements" of the *No Child Left Behind Act*. The staff of Lorain Community Elementary strives to ensure that the educational, cultural, and developmental needs of all students are met on a daily basis in a safe environment.

Principal

Melisa Shady

Administrative Assistants

Monica Rinella
Gladys Ramos Llorens

Kindergarten

Maria Workman
Lindsay Moser

First Grade

Elizabeth Baker
Jennifer Limpert

Second Grade

Myrna Jones
Megan Stineman

Third Grade

Maggie Frey
Sarah Steele

Fourth Grade

Diane Mason
Chrystal Urbansky

Title 1

Laura Moore
Kammera Rice

Special Education

Katherin Maybaum

Physical Education

Mason Cooley

Music

Alison Ortenzi

Spanish Teacher

Astrid Araque

School Psychologist

Heather Zeman

Speech & Language Pathologist

Amanda Stricker

Occupational Therapist

Arlene Sikorski

Aide

Sarah Whatley

Nurse

Julia Howerton

Custodian

Patricia Balas

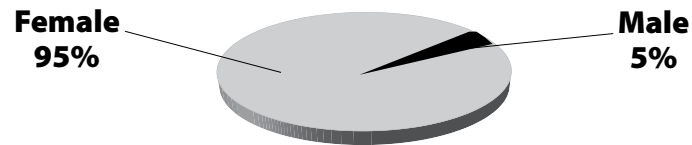
Building Substitute

Amy Herkenhoff

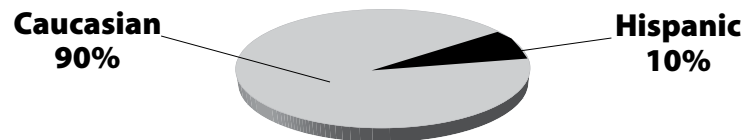
Food Service

Maggie Szalia

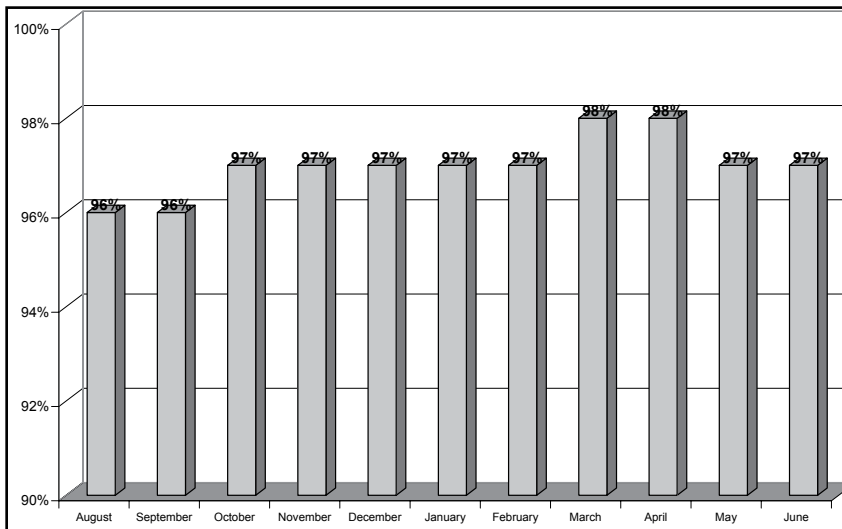
Staff Gender



Staff Demographics



Staff Attendance Percentages

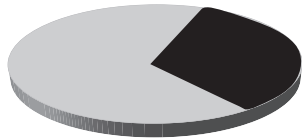




Student Enrollment, Attendance & Demographics

Student Gender

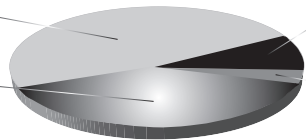
Female
57%



Male
43%

Student Demographics

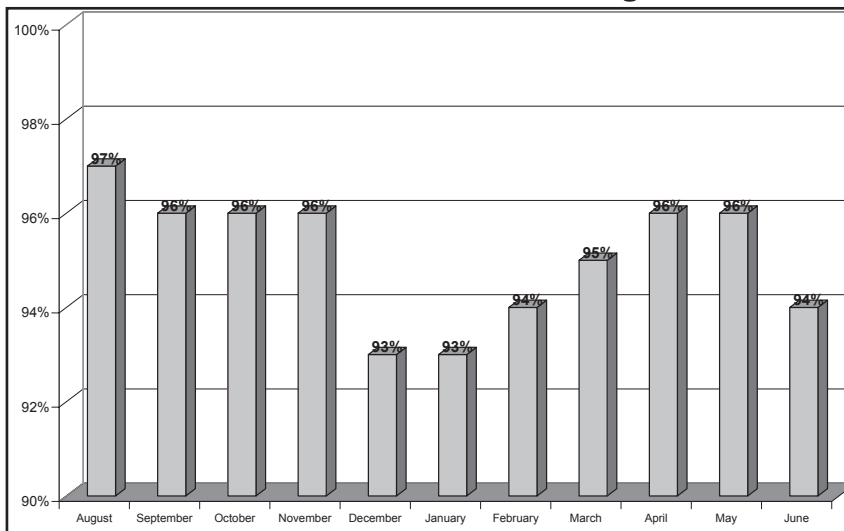
Caucasian
40%



Mixed Ethnicity
17%

African American
14%

Student Attendance Percentages



About Our Students

Students at Lorain Community Elementary 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.

Student per Class/Teacher Ratio for the 2008-2009

20 Students : 1 Teacher
 182 Students Enrolled
 73% Eligible for Low Income

Demographics

14% African American
 40% Caucasian
 30% Hispanic
 17% Mixed Ethnicity

Home School Notification

The school is a public school and students enrolled in and attending the school are required to take achievement 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.



Educational Plans/Programs



During this academic year, all Constellation Schools utilized the Ohio Academic Content Standards Education Program to prepare our students for the Ohio Achievement Tests at Grades 3-8 and the Ohio Graduation Test at Grade 10.

All of our curriculum is selected and reviewed annually by our Curriculum Council and ultimately approved by each of our School's Boards. Our curriculum is aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards and is designed to guide students toward their grade level goals. Content areas include: Reading/Language Arts, Spelling/Phonics, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music, Physical Education/Health, Computers and Spanish.

Teachers establish high academic measures for achievement and behavior in their classrooms. Through age appropriate teaching methods, all students will reach or exceed their maximum potential. The cornerstone of our academic program is our strong emphasis on Character Education. Character Education permeates throughout our curriculum. All of our classrooms and hallways have a variety of posters and bulletin boards that define acceptable character. Good behavior and appropriate manners from everyone is a constant expectation of our students and staff. Character Education enhances our educational plan while securing a safe and nurturing learning environment for all of our students.

Title 1 services (small grouping with a reading/math teacher) and Special Education Services are implemented to assist students who qualify for special services. Furthermore, our classroom instruction is enhanced through the use of technology in our computer labs, integrating classroom projects with such programs as word processing, power point presentations and internet research. Many of our classrooms are utilizing Smart Board Education and all of our schools are utilizing the latest in technology innovations.



Professional Development

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.

Several professional development opportunities throughout the school year are provided such as:

- Positive Discipline
- Classroom Management
- Saxon Math
- Character Education in the Classroom
- Pathwise Training (How to mentor an entry year teacher)
- Differentiated Instruction
- Progressbook
- Teaching Strategies
- Special Education Procedures
- Technology Conference



Constellation Schools provide teachers up to \$300 per year toward professional development and allow their teachers and staff to choose some of their own professional development opportunities. Such opportunities include:

- Strategies for Teaching Beginning Readers and Writers
- Crisis Prevention
- Practical Strategies to Enhance the Classroom and Strengthen Student Behavior
- Grade Level Conferences
- Title One Conference
- Motivating Difficult Students
- Practical Ideas and Activities for the First Year Teacher
- Using Technology to Improve Math Instruction
- Smartboard Training
- Reading Plus

Entry Year Teacher Program

A full year program is provided to all entry year teachers. This program offers monthly meetings, support, and information that will enhance the first year teacher's experience. The preparation for the Praxis III assessment is a large part of the entry year teacher program.

Leadership Training Program

A one year intern program that provides an intense hands-on experience for highly qualified, successful teachers who wish to become leaders. The professional development internship is ongoing, highly focused, and designed to meet the individual needs of each intern.



Ohio Achievement Test



STATE INDICATORS	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT AND ABOVE THE PROFICIENT LEVEL		
	Lorain Community Elementary 2008-2009	School Comparison Group ¹ 2008-2009	State 2008-2009
3rd Grade Achievement			
<i>The state requirement is 75 percent</i>			
1. Reading	82.4	56	77.4
2. Mathematics	94.1	58.7	81.3
4th Grade Achievement			
3. Reading	65.7	68.3	82
4. Mathematics	71.4	59.1	78.4
5. Writing	77.1	74.8	84.4



PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE

The Performance Index Score reflects the achievement of every tested student. The score is a weighted average of all tested subjects in grades 3-8 and 10. The most weight is given to the advanced students (1.2), and the weights decrease for each performance level. This creates a scale of 0 to 120 points, with 100 being the goal. Looking at the Performance Index Score over time shows trends in school achievement.

Performance Index Score Over Time	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007
	94.6	89.5	92



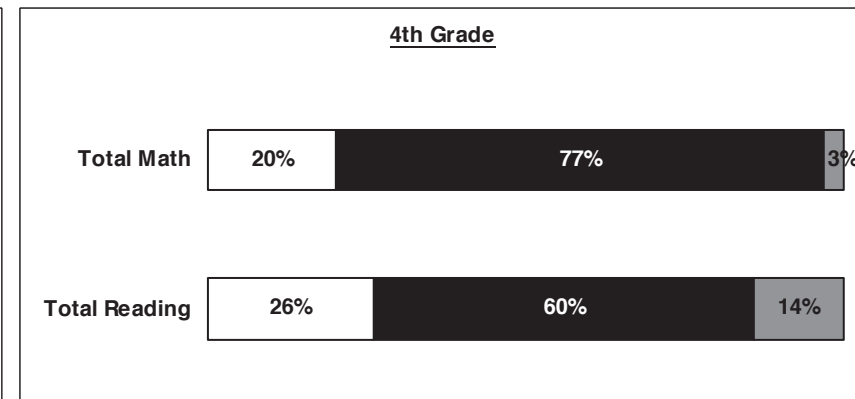
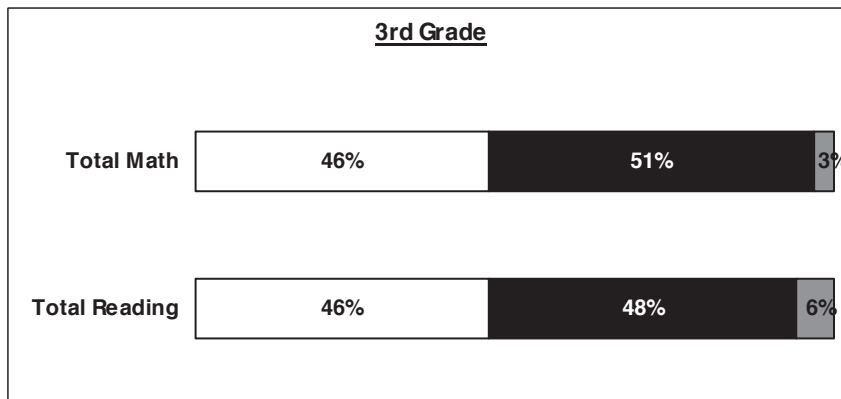
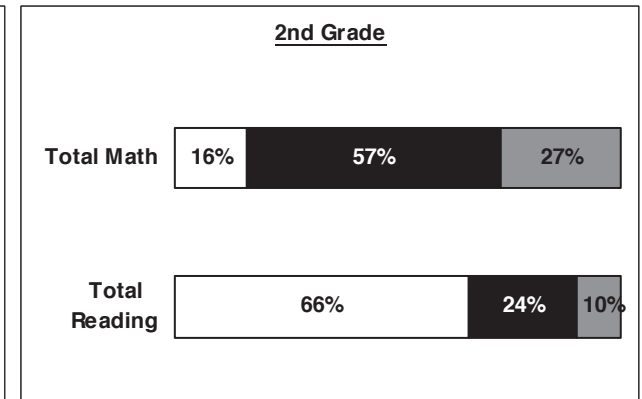
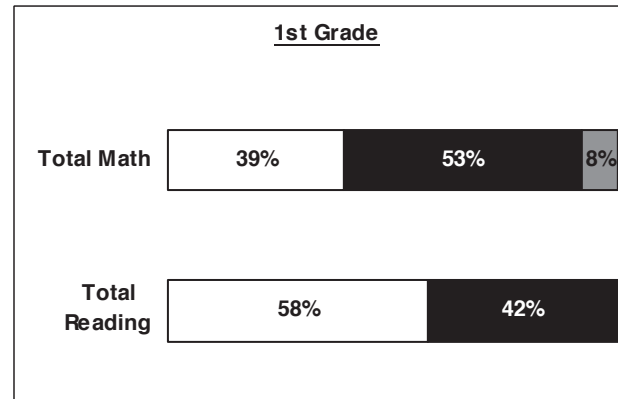
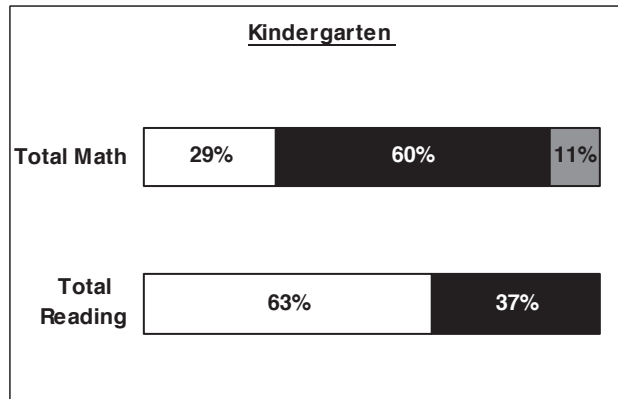
¹ Your school comparison group is based on the performance of all schools in Lorain City School District.



Stanford Achievement Test



The Stanford Achievement Test—Tenth Edition is administered annually in grades K-8 to determine student progress within and across the curriculum. The results below are reflective of the most recent administration in March of 2009. The data indicates the percentage of students within each grade level who performed below average (white), average (black) or above average (gray) in the areas of Math and Reading.





Constellation Schools

Lorain Community Elementary

Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2009

Highlights for the Year

- 7th annual audit issued for 2008 with an "unqualified opinion" (best opinion available)

The Cash Basis Report of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year ended June 30, 2009 reflects the activities of Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Elementary during the year. The information provided below refers to this report and the accompanying graphs.

REVENUES

The largest source of operating revenue (82%) comes from the State of Ohio School Foundation Program. This funding is earned at a base rate of \$5,732 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

State and Federal Grants (15%) supplement school operations for specific purposes. The school received grants for Title I Reading, Professional Development, Technology, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Innovative Programs, Special Education, Child Nutrition Services, Entry Year Teacher Mentoring, Statistical Reporting (EMIS) and Electronic Communications.

Materials Fees

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

Other income

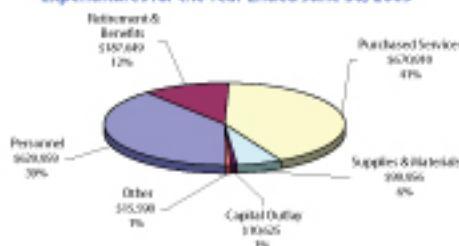
Other income (2%) includes interest earned on bank account activity, contributions and donations, lunch collections, services provided to Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Middle and other miscellaneous items.

Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Elementary Cash Basis Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year ended June 30, 2009 (Unaudited)	
Beginning Cash - July 1, 2008	\$ 747,234
Revenues	
State Foundation	\$ 1,355,567
State & Federal Grants	\$ 247,962
Material Fees	\$ 22,715
Other Income	\$ 37,717
Total Revenue	\$ 1,663,961
Expenditures	
Personnel	\$ 628,858
Retirement & Benefits	\$ 187,648
Purchased Services	\$ 670,910
Supplies & Materials	\$ 99,896
Capital Outlay	\$ 10,625
Other	\$ 15,590
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,614,689
Ending Cash - June 30, 2009	\$ 796,506

Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Elementary Cash Basis Revenues for the Year Ended June 30, 2009



Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Elementary Cash Basis Expenditures for the Year Ended June 30, 2009



EXPENDITURES

Personnel services, combined with retirement and benefits, accounted for 51% of the expenditures for the year. These expenditures include principal, support staff, teachers, state retirement systems, employment taxes and health insurances.

Purchased services

Purchased services (41%) include expenditures for student support services (speech, psychologist, health, physical therapy and occupational therapy), Spanish instruction, field trips, professional development, management services, test scoring, facility lease and operations, equipment leases, telephone, postage, travel, marketing, printing and food services.

Supplies and materials

Supplies and materials (6%) include textbooks, instructional supplies, testing materials, office supplies, medical supplies, instructional software and maintenance supplies.

Capital Outlay

Capital Outlay (1%) includes purchases of equipment, furniture and building renovations.

Other

Other (1%) includes audit fees, insurances (property, liability, fidelity bond, directors & officers), dues and subscriptions and miscellaneous.

Additional Information

A more detailed set of financial statements may be obtained by calling (440) 845-4200, 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

During the fall of 2009 an audit of the school's financial records for the year ended June 30, 2009 will be completed. The audit report should be available during the winter at the above address and on the Auditor of State's website: www.auditor.state.oh.us.