

WEST INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

“Points of Pride”

2008-2009 Accomplishments

Good Things Continue to Happen @ WEST

Now that we have reached the end of the 2008-2009 school year, it is time to reflect on what we have accomplished.

Our school, like your own family, has triumphs and challenges.

We need to celebrate both the big and small events—the everyday joys and moments that sustain us.

The items listed are just a few things that helped make this school “the middle school of choice” in the mid-Michigan area for approximately 530 young adolescents this school year.

1. Our School Improvement Team (S.I.T.) was busy involving the faculty in many activities in our efforts to provide a better learning experience for all students. We planned monthly Faculty meetings which were quite focused on three School Improvement goals. We planned the October 15th, November 13th, and January 19th Professional Development Day activities. Some S.I.T. members attended Central Michigan University’s Center for Excellence Middle School Leadership Seminars on a monthly basis. Team Leaders meetings were held once/month. The 2nd half of the school year was focused on managing the reduction in teaching staff and teaching sections for 2009-2010, as well as working on a Restructuring Plan for 2010-2011. PLEASE SEE THE 2009-2010 CHALLENGES DOCUMENT POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE.
2. A large number of students continued to excel academically, as evidenced by those listed on the Marking Period Honor Rolls. Our students participate in a large number of academically challenging classes and enrichment activities. Examples include science programs at Central Michigan University, as well as students taking math courses at Mount Pleasant High School. Our M.E.A.P. scores were very respectable; please refer to the 2008-2009 Annual School Report for West Intermediate School. Students in the various music programs (choir, strings, and instrumental band) continue to bring many honors to the our school. Our Art students are recognized for their work, as well as students who enter competitions in the various academic areas.

3. The new required 8th Grade Computer class is now part of our curriculum. This caused us to adjust our Exploratory/Elective program structure and offerings for both 7th and 8th Grade students.
4. We continue to provide assistance to struggling English Language Arts students. 2nd semester we invited 15 students in each grade to enroll in a 2nd English Language Arts class in an effort to make positive achievement gains in their areas of deficiency.
5. Our October 2008 M.E.A.P. testing period posed new scheduling challenges with the new mandated schedule by the Michigan Department of Education. We successfully met that challenge. Our 2008 scores were very respectable. We also continue to have further discussions at the building and district-level on ways to assist our special education students to be more successful when taking the M.E.A.P. so that this subgroup can score above the A.Y.P. cut-off.
6. Interdisciplinary units of instruction continued to be a part of students learning experiences at WEST. Listed below are some of those:

<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
Untouchables	Holocaust/Immigration
Habitats/Climates	Pascal's Triangle/Pressure

7. Service Learning Projects continue to be an integral part of a student's learning experience at WEST. Teams participated in some type of Service Learning Project this year through Advisory groups. Each group selected Service Learning Projects either in the school or community. The Service Learning Projects gave students the opportunity to contribute to our community as they learned and practiced academic skills and behaviors of responsible citizenship. *Listed in a related document are some of those projects carried out during 2008-2009. Perhaps the grandest project was the 6th annual school-wide "Miles for Miracles" Cancer Campaign in which \$15,000 was raised by WEST students.*
8. Our Advisory program followed a schedule each week in which Wednesday mornings were devoted to an activity related to one of our School Improvement Goals.
9. The "new student group" initiated last school year has been continued. Monthly meetings were held. This group gathered over juice and rolls during Advisory to discuss various topics of interest to new students at our school, as well as to foster adult advocacy with new students.

10. Numerous Positive Behavior Referrals have been forwarded to the Assistant Principal's office this school year. This program has the potential to be extremely powerful for our school and the families that we serve as we acknowledge the fine young people doing good things during the school day.
11. Our P.E.A.K. program continued to flourish as we moved forward in our joint venture between the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and the City of Mt. Pleasant. We brought on board a new site coordinator last fall. Our students also participated in a wide number of clubs, organizations, activities, and athletic teams. The tradition of the spring Talent Show continued. We have a new after-school reading club that has become very popular with many of our students.
12. Students continued to take pride in the appearance of the hallways and cafeteria. Students also participated in outdoor cleanup and recycling projects.
13. We celebrated Veteran's Day, led by Team A, with another beautiful program. This continues to gain a great deal of positive public relations.
14. New staff members have made their mark this school year. This included a few new teachers, a new custodian, new lunch supervisors, a new secretary/instructional staff assistant and new P.E.A.K. program site coordinator. They all made significant contributions to our program. Returning staff members continued to remain caring and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young adolescents. We also said "good-bye" to Special Education teacher Ms. Claire Bowen, Health/Social Studies teacher Ms. Cathy McHalpine, Science teacher Mr. Larry Russell, and Language Arts teacher Mrs. Chris Zeien, all who retired. Life Skills teacher Mrs. Kathy Gray is moving to California, Music teacher Mr. Nick Stokes is taking a high school teaching position in Baltimore, Maryland, and music teacher Mr. Rick Phelps will be teaching in Texas in the fall. Math teacher Ms. Amy Scheerhorn and Language Arts teacher Mr. Josh Spence is transferring to M.P.H.S.
15. Seven special education teachers, including one new teacher, worked with students of various handicaps, many whom were mainstreamed. Some of those students continued to be responsible for our various recycling programs.

16. We continued to emphasize relationships and effective communication amongst staff. Discussion and planning was ongoing at daily Team meetings, 2X/month Faculty meetings, 2X/month “A-Team” meetings, 2X/month office staff meetings, monthly Team Leader meetings, monthly School Improvement Team meetings, monthly Tech. Support Group meetings, bi-monthly department meetings, monthly Parent Involvement committee meetings, monthly district-wide Administrative Cabinet meetings, monthly Sports Boosters meetings, and at Mt. Pleasant/Midland-Bay City-Saginaw athletic league meetings. In addition, members of the Administrative Team at West met monthly with the Isabella County Trial Court juvenile probation officers and Judge Bill Ervin. We continue to have a strong relationship with the Gratiot-Isabella R.E.S.D. Truant Officer and local law enforcement. We continue to have a full-time police liaison officer assigned to us from the Youth Services Unit.
17. More teachers and staff participated in the district’s Purchasing Card program. This has streamlined the ability to teachers and staff to purchase materials and supplies for their programs/departments with their budget allocation via the use of a district-issued credit card.
18. We continued to participate in the district’s Energy Savings Program, supporting its concepts. We are realizing a significant costs savings by embracing this program.
19. Technology has been a focus, especially this fall. We completed a new 8th Grade Computer Lab to house the required semester-long 8th Grade Computer class. Further hardware and software has found its way into our classrooms, primarily through Tribal 2% Grants.
20. Numerous Tribal 2% Grants were again written this fall, and West Intermediate received just over \$78,000 in funding for various projects. May 2009 we received over \$37,000.
21. We continued to cultivate our relationship with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. They once again provided our Native American students with a full-time advocate and tutor in our school. We regularly attended scheduled Native American Education Advisory board meetings. We participated in the annual Pow-Wow.
22. We continued to work at providing a safe and orderly environment. Building Emergency Response Team (B.E.R.T.) training and meetings were conducted on a regular basis, and our emergency plans have been tested and improved. Results of work in the area of school safety include improved plans for reunification after an event, as well better planning for evacuation during possible situations involving a fire in the school. We spent more time with the topic of bullying—specifically cyber-bullying.

23. The “Canine Detection Program” was again in place this school year to help us maintain a drug-free school environment. No illegal drugs have been detected via this program for at least the past ten years, including random checks this school year. The dogs are trained to check the exterior of a locker and alert the handler if the odor of illegal drugs is detected. Should illegal drugs be detected, consequences would be followed as outlined the Handbook portion of the *Premier School Agenda (Planner)*.
24. Our Parent Involvement Committee (P.I.C.) was active and organized. They met each month during the course of the school year. They were once again able to raise in the neighborhood of \$5000 at the annual Arts and Crafts show in November. In addition, they assisted with events such as after-school parties and athletic contests. They also sponsored our annual end-of-the year party for 8th Graders. They have responsible for funding many “mini-grant” projects that teachers applied for on behalf of students.
25. We had good attendance by parents at our August Orientation Sessions for 7th and 8th Grade students, as well as at our “back-to-school” Open House.
26. We continued to cultivate a strong relationship with C.M.U., sharing our school with numerous mid-tier students and student teachers. We once again enjoyed and benefited by working with the C.M.U.’s “Center for Excellence” middle school leadership seminar series program and hope that we are able to continue to do so once again next school year.
27. Spring/summer 2008 Building and Grounds projects were wrapped up. This was also possible with the passage of the May 2007 Bond Proposal. Heating work included replacing univent heating units, replacing air handling units in the gym, locker rooms, and cafeteria, and the replacement of temperature controls. Windows were also repaired. Furthermore, the south parking lot was resurfaced, as well as the drive/parking area on the west side of the school. A P.E. teaching station addition (weight room) was finished, and a 6 lane running track was constructed on the west side of the school. The portable at the rear of the school, formally the weight room, was renovated and is now being used as a storage building. In addition, a renovation of the locker rooms in the gym took place. Outdoor speakers were added to the west side exterior via Tribal 2% Grant funds. Tribal 2% Grant funds also paid for the creation of the new 8th Grade Computer Lab (this includes computers and related equipment, as well as the installation of air conditioning). Tribal 2% Grant funds will also cover the costs for the complete resurfacing of the gym floor and new gym bleachers in the summer of 2009. New shop classrooms dust collection systems are also going to be installed during he summer of 2009.

28. Our athletic program continues to be effectively managed by our Assistant Principal/Athletic Director.
29. 8th Graders participated in an enjoyable “Fun Afternoon” late May.
30. We continue to evaluate all office operating practices and procedures.

We have survived the daily challenges that have come our way.

**IT IS EVIDENT THAT GOOD THINGS CONTINUE TO HAPPEN AT WEST!
We continue to have hopes and dreams for an even brighter future for West Intermediate.
Please continue to watch us, as we are always going to be “work in progress.”**

West Intermediate Service Projects: 2008-2009

ProjectDescription

Words of Wisdom Daily Announcements

Sports Equipment For Burkina Faso

School Recycling Programs

St. Jude's Bike-a-thon

Community Cancer Luminaries

American Red Cross Child Care Project

Veteran's Day Celebration

Letters To a Vet

Refreshments For Open House

Thanksgiving Placemats: Community Dinner

"Pluck A Turkey" Community Food Drive

School Grounds Cleanup

Women's Aid Shelter Personal Care Kits

Animal Rescue/Humane Society

Candy Cane/Hot Chocolate for Christmas Outreach

Welcome to West Bookmarks

Have a Heart Commission on Aging Baskets

Calzones for Eagle Village

Violin Chin-rests for Strings Students

Human Society Fundraising Project

Refreshments For Parent/Teacher Conferences

Sponsor/Participants

School-wide Advisories

Mrs. Gray's Advisory

Mrs. Keelor's students

Mr. Epple's students

Mrs. Maxon's Advisory

Mrs. Gray's Lifeskills Students

Team A/ School-wide Event

Mrs. Russell's students

Mrs. Gray's Cooking Students

Team D students

8th Grade Student Council

Mr. Epple's Advisory

Mrs. Gray's Sewing Students

Ms. Muszynski's Advisory

8th Grade Student Council

Mrs. Zeien's Language Arts Students

Team D Advisories

Mr. Jason Russell's Students

Mrs. Gray's Sewing Students

Ms. Scheerhorn's Advisory

Mrs. Ruble's Cooking Students

Cancer Awareness Activities/Fundraisers

Sixth Annual Miles For Miracles
School-wide Project

Kick-off Assembly

Advisory Cancer Education Speakers

\$15,000 raised by West Students
\$16,000 raised by MPHS Students

Advisory Cancer-related Writing Assignment

\$31,000 in gifts presented to:

Mr. Hug/Mr. Roed's Bear Projects

American Cancer Society
Community Cancer Services
Hospice of Central Michigan
Morey Cancer Center--CMCH

Wednesday Teacher Jean Day

Penny War for Miles For Miracles
Sponsored by Mrs. Gray's Advisory

Pink Ribbon Tattoos—Mrs. Epple's Students

Miles For Miracles T-shirt Campaign

Team C Candy Sale

Mrs. Quast's Cookie/Muffin Sale

8th Grade Student Council Hot Chocolate/Muffin Sale

Paver Sales For Memorial Garden

Eighth grade Student Council "Fun Friday"

Seventh Grade Student Council Carnival

Relay For Life "Defeat Cancer" Campaign

Miles For Miracles Memorial Garden Project
Mrs. Scott's Advisory

Fifth Annual Miles For Miracles Walk/Run

Miles For Miracles Celebration: Assembly
Student/Staff "Locks For Love"
and Head Shaving