



# ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT

**2008-2009**





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### **Buchanan Community Schools Mission ...**

is to provide an appropriate learning environment that is physically and psychologically safe for students and staff and which is, therefore, conducive to acquiring academic knowledge, sound ethical attitudes and positive social skills.

The District will also provide an appropriate educational program encompassing physical, social and emotional growth with the goal of helping them become responsible, productive citizens capable of successfully realizing their own personal goals.



### **Board of Education**

John Colip	President
Tom Gordon	Vice-President
Kay Welsh	Secretary
Karen Worvey	Treasurer
Marlene Gauer	Trustee
Harvey Burnett	Trustee
Lloyd Miller	Trustee

Regular board meetings are the third Monday of each month and the first Tuesday/third Monday in May and June at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited.

### **Central Administration**

Superintendent	Diana Davis
Business Manager	Richard Bell
High School Principal	Sharon Steinke
Asst. HS Principal	Chris Machiniak
Middle School Principal	Mark Kurland
Athletic Director	Fred Smith
Moccasin Principal	Mark Nixon
Ottawa Principal	Karen Falkenstein
Stark Principal	Karla Hurlbutt

### **CORE CURRICULUM**

Buchanan Schools continue to develop and modify curriculum, instruction and assessment based on the Michigan High School Content Expectations and the Grade Level Content Expectations approved by the Michigan Department of Education. Curriculum maps have been developed for all subjects in every grade to ensure that every student has access to a rigorous curriculum taught by a highly qualified teacher. These maps are available on our website.

Buchanan High School added instructional time in the core areas by instituting a six-period day. The goal is to improve student achievement as evidenced by scores on the Michigan Merit Exam.

Buchanan Middle School's core curriculum is organized around grade level teams. Teachers use an interdisciplinary approach, working on mastery of skills and knowledge in the core subjects.

The elementary curriculum is aligned with the Grade Level Content Expectations with a focus on mastery of skills and knowledge in the core subjects. Non-core teachers use their subject areas to reinforce what is being taught in the core areas.

### Accreditation

Accreditation is a process whereby staff, district personnel and the Board of Education in a district undergo a set of preconditions or standards identified as necessary for a quality education. These standards are identified by an external source such as the North Central Association or the State of Michigan.

Buchanan High School has been accredited by the North Central Association since 1924. The high school hosted a visit in the spring of 2008.

Buchanan's three elementary schools and its middle school received interim accreditation under the State's Education Yes! program in 1995-96 and continue to be accredited.

### Retention/Dropout of High School Students

The retention rate for a high school means the percentage of ninth graders who graduate within four years. The annual dropout rate means the percentage of students who leave school in any one year, adjusting for those who move in or out of the District.

The official drop out rate for the 2008-2009 school year will be calculated in March of 2010. The official drop out rate for the class of 2008 and projected drop out rates for the classes of 2009 & 2010 are listed below.

Class of 2010	Class of 2009	Class of 2008	Class of 2007
3.0%	3.0%	7.26%	3.85%

### Dual Enrollment & Direct Credit

Twenty-two students took advantage of dual enrollment opportunities at Lake Michigan College and Southwestern Michigan College in 2008-2009. In addition, direct credit from Lake Michigan College was offered in Honors Composition and Honors Literature.

Students involved in College Credit Classes	
2008-2009	
COURSE	TOTAL
Honors Composition	12
Honors Literature	10

### School Improvement Plan

The purpose of school improvement plans is to improve outcome (academics, social, physical, etc.) for all students in the school district. The goals of the current plan, that will be implemented between 2007 and 2010, are:

#### 1. Language Arts

All students will demonstrate, analyze, and reflect upon skills and processes used to communicate through reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing.

#### 2. Mathematics

All students will develop mathematical knowledge and skills to participate fully as a citizen and worker in our contemporary world.

#### 3. Science

Students will use, construct and reflect on scientific knowledge.

#### 4. Social Studies

All students will become responsible global citizens who display social and historical understanding and make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good.

## American College Test

Approximately 109 students in the Class of 2008 took the ACT test.

This test covers English, mathematics, reading, and science. The test is included in Michigan's MME (state testing for juniors).

ACT COMPOSITE SCORES				
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
District Average	20.8	21.1	17.3	18.1
State Average	21.5	21.5	18.8	19.6



## Adequate Yearly Progress

The State of Michigan expects that each school will meet achievement criteria to exhibit adequate yearly progress in reading and mathematics. AYP is based largely on MEAP scores.

The Michigan Department of Education requires that all students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades be tested each year in reading, writing, listening and mathematics. All students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are tested in social studies. Students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade are given the MME high school test in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. All students in the district are tested. One hundred **nineteen** Juniors took the MME in **2009**.

## Buchanan High School

Buchanan High School failed to meet the AYP requirements for the 2008-2009 school year. Failure to meet AYP was due to the number of economically disadvantaged students who did not test at the proficient level in math only.

Following are the High School MME results for 2008-2009.

	MME	MME
	Overall % Satisfactory	
	2008	2009
English Language Arts		
District	39	44
State	52	52
Level 1 (passing)	1	3
Level 2 (passing)	38	42
Level 3	39	47
Level 4	21	8
Reading		
District (Levels 1 & 2)	49	55
State (Levels 1 & 2)	62	62
Level 1 (passing)	1	3
Level 2 (passing)	48	53
Level 3	26	29
Level 4	25	15
Writing		
District (Levels 1 & 2)	31	33
State (Levels 1 & 2)	41	41
Level 1 (passing)	0	3
Level 2 (passing)	31	30
Level 3	55	59
Level 4	14	8
Math		
District (Levels 1 & 2)	35	38
State (Levels 1 & 2)	46	46
Level 1 (passing)	3	7
Level 2 (passing)	32	31
Level 3	19	18
Level 4	46	44
Science		
District (Levels 1 & 2)	51	55
State (Levels 1 & 2)	57	57
Level 1 (passing)	3	6
Level 2 (passing)	48	49
Level 3	19	15
Level 4	30	30
Social Studies		
District (Levels 1 & 2)	78	82
State (Levels 1 & 2)	80	80
Level 1 (passing)	38	43
Level 2 (passing)	40	38
Level 3	15	16
Level 4	7	3

All of the Buchanan elementary schools and the Buchanan Middle School met Adequate Yearly Progress goals for 2008-2009. Following are the MEAP results for grades 3 through 8.

**DISTRICT ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL MEAP RESULTS**  
**Overall % Satisfactory (passing) Score**

	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>		<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>		<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>		<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>		<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>		<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>English Language Arts</b>												
District	83	77	79	76	79	82	81	78	79	83	84	83
State	81	83	76	77	78	78	82	79	74	80	75	77
State Requirement	60	60	59	59	57	57	56	56	54	54	53	53
<b>Reading</b>												
District	86	80	87	83	83	82	84	81	78	84	85	85
State	86	87	84	83	82	81	82	80	72	79	77	76
<b>Writing</b>												
District	63	65	49	43	58	61	62	71	74	81	73	83
State	57	61	44	44	59	63	73	76	77	78	70	74
<b>Math</b>												
District	97	86	91	89	78	78	79	83	80	85	81	85
State	90	91	86	88	74	77	73	80	73	83	72	75
State Requirement	67	67	65	65	62	62	60	60	57	57	54	54
<b>Science</b>												
District					89	88					92	87
State					82	83					79	77
<b>Social Studies</b>												
District							73					
State							74					

## Equity Issue

For school improvement purposes, the test data is analyzed on the basis of socioeconomic status. The resulting disaggregated information is used to improve curriculum and instruction. Data is not analyzed on the basis of race because the percentage of minorities within the District renders the information statistically inappropriate.

At the high school level, students are encouraged to enroll in non-traditional classes and they have participated in the Women in Technology Conference since 1996.

Elementary grades have a gender equity program that brings adult role models into classrooms to discuss careers and career opportunities.

## Parent Involvement

One of the most important factors in a student's success in school is the involvement of parents or guardians in the educational process. Realizing this, the District encourages parent involvement throughout the year and sets aside regular times each fall and spring to hold conferences with our parents. A large percentage of parents take advantage of these opportunities to meet with their children's teachers.

Percent of Parents Attending Conferences						
	Fall			Spring		
SCHOOL	06-07	07-08	08-09	06-07	07-08	08-09
Elem.	98	98	98	98	98	97
M.S.	76	65	71	64	62	69
H.S.	62	61	60	56	49	40

In addition to conferences, parents are involved in various capacities, including serving on various advisory boards, attending school activities and sports events, volunteer chaperones and parent support groups.

The District's School Board Policy on parent involvement is available at any school office or the Buchanan District Library.

## A Quality Faculty

Also contributing to our students' success is the highly trained and motivated faculty. Of the total 99 teachers 72, or 73%, have a Master's Degree or above. [Among the staff, 20% have provisional credentials, 48% professional, and 32% continuing certificates. Parents who desire information on a particular teacher's qualifications should contact the Superintendent's Office at 269-695-8401 located at 401 W. Chicago St. in Buchanan.](#)

In order to ensure a quality staff that understands the importance of teaching for learning, our faculty attends numerous conferences, workshops, networking meetings and in-service activities throughout the year. Additionally, many staff members take graduate level college classes and work to update their knowledge and skills.

Among the conferences attended by our teachers are:

- Cooperative Learning Workshop
- Student Intervention Training
- Vocational Education Conference
- Middle School Conference
- Reading Recovery Conference
- Leading the Future Technology Training
- Michigan Mathematics Leadership Conference

## Our Building & Grounds

Each year the District spends approximately \$130,000. This is funded by a .8 mil building and site tax that was renewed for a 5-year period by the district voters in May of 2005.

## **Education for Employment**

The Buchanan Community Schools have been active participants in the Berrien County School to Work program. Buchanan High School is a career path high school, with students able to select courses that will lead to their professional or technical career goals. A School to Work Director supervises the Education for Employment program in Buchanan.

Elementary students toured local businesses and industries. They participated in Junior Achievement classes taught by local business and industry leaders. Students also took the E-WOW career interest study.

Middle school students learned about future careers through videos, computer programs and guest speakers through a Career Class. Beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, each student develops a personalized EDP. The purpose is to start the thinking process of likes/dislikes and careers of interest. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade the EDP is continued to include class options available through the Math/Science Center, our high school and local colleges. Students met with the counselor to discuss their EDP/4-year plan.

A career pathways handbook is distributed to all high school students. All 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders reviewed their four-year plans. The PLAN test and the ASVAB Career Exploration Test were administered. Students participated in apprenticeships, work experience, cooperative education, job shadowing and work study throughout the year.

## **Specialized Programs**

### **VOCATIONAL CONSORTIUM**

#### **BERRIEN RESA**

A consortium of Berrien County schools supervised by the BRESA provides vocational training to high school students in a variety of areas. Students are advised by their high school counselor regarding admittance.

### **SCHOOL OF CHOICE**

Parents of elementary students are offered the opportunity to apply to send their children to an elementary school outside their normal attendance area. All students have equal opportunity for enrollment in available space and in educationally appropriate programs.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The Buchanan Special Education Program serves students with handicapping conditions, including learning disabilities, mental impairment, emotional impairment, speech and language impairment and physical impairment. Each Buchanan School has on-site special education services and children K-12 are served.



## **SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS**

Specialized schools provide educational alternatives and opportunities for handicapped students as well as meeting their special needs. These programs are an integral part of the continuum of educational services available to special students in Berrien County. Following is a brief description of the specialized schools that serve Buchanan Community Schools students.

### **BLOSSOMLAND LEARNING CENTER** BERRIEN REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The purpose of Blossomland Learning Center is to provide services to students who have been diagnosed as moderately to severely mentally impaired up to age 26, who reside within the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency district. The school assists students in preparing for entry into their respective communities. Sixteen (16) Buchanan Community Schools residents attended this program during the 2008-2009 school year. Students are placed in the program through an Individualized Educational Planning Committee composed of local district and Berrien RESA diagnostic and educational staff.

### **LIGHTHOUSE EDUCATION CENTER** BERRIEN REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY **ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN**

The Lighthouse Education Center program is operated as a therapeutic and educational program for students diagnosed as severely emotionally impaired up to age 26 who reside within the Berrien Regional Education Agency district. These students exhibit a severity of emotional difficulties which prohibits them from regular attendance within the resident district. During the 2008-2009 school year, one (1) Buchanan Community Schools District resident attended this program, with the goal being eventual re-integration into the resident district's educational system.

### **HEARING IMPAIRED PROGRAM** BERRIEN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Berrien County Hearing Impaired Program provides educational services for hearing impaired students from Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. During the 2008-2009 school year, nine (9) students from Buchanan Community Schools District attended the program, which includes children from pre-school age through 26 years. This program is

operated by the Berrien Springs Public Schools and is funded by the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency. In addition to classroom and teacher consultant services, the program also serves as a diagnostic center and employs an audiologist for the purpose of assessing severity and type of hearing loss. Some students, when determined educationally appropriate by an Individualized Educational Planning Committee, are educated in their resident district with the support of a teacher consultant provided by the Hearing Impaired Program.

### **SOUTHSIDE PROGRAM** NILES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NILES, MICHIGAN

Niles operates center-based programs for low incidence special education students needing full-time placement.

The program for the Severely Emotionally Impaired (SEI) includes students with severe emotional or behavioral problems. These students receive a very strict, highly structured program designed to change inappropriate behavior patterns and allow learning to take place. Expectations for performance are high with the goal being the student's successful readmission to their former school. Classroom programs serve students ages 6 through 25.

Students in the Pre-Vocational program have below average ability levels, making success in their local high schools extremely difficult. Often their low ability is compounded by a weak self-concept and inadequate social skills. Once at Southside, a few may pursue a diploma, but most will follow a curriculum designed to promote independent living. Classrooms are available to serve ages 16 through 25.

During the 2008-2009 school year, six (6) students from the Buchanan Community Schools District attended this program.

### **MATH/SCIENCE CENTER** ANDREWS UNIVERSITY BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Berrien Regional Education Service Agency operates a Math/Science Center on the campus of Andrews University. Approximately 15 students from Berrien & Cass County schools attend this center one-half days to receive their math, science and computer classes. Entrance into the program is competitive, based on SAT scores.