

CHARLOTTE

Innovation and Excellence in Education

REACH FURTHER. GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS starts here. The Charlotte community is proud of what Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) offers, and the district's slogan matches their vision. CMS provides a strong foundation in the basics — reading, writing and mathematics — and much, much more to prepare students to be globally competitive.

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, including classical studies, culinary arts, information technology and the highly acclaimed International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Diploma programs.

THE **CHARLOTTE** COMMUNITY'S DEEP AND **CONTINUING** COMMITMENT TO **SUPERIOR** EDUCATION IS **EXEMPLIFIED** IN THE **QUALITY** OF THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG **SCHOOL SYSTEM.**



Quality and Growth

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community treats education as its most precious resource, 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. CMS won the 2011 Broad Prize, which is presented annually to four school districts in the country for elevating their achievement levels. As a winner, the district received \$250,000 in scholarships. CMS was a finalist for the Broad Prize in 2004 and 2010.

CMS recently renewed its district accreditation from AdvanceEd, the world's largest education network. CMS was the first large urban district in North Carolina and in the country to earn accreditation over a decade ago.

CMS serves 134,951 students in Pre-K through 12th grade. As the 18th largest district in the country, CMS has 159 schools and over 18,000 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.

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

Top Quality Employees

CMS employs nearly 8,900 full-time teachers, 6,320 student support staff and approximately 993 administrative staff. More than 3,400 of the district's certified teachers have advanced degrees.

CMS ranks second nationwide and first among school districts in NC for newly certified National Board teachers. For the 2011-2012 school year, 1,377 CMS teachers were National Board-certified. 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 2010, 14 CMS high schools were ranked among America's top 1,600 out of more than 27,000 high schools surveyed by *Newsweek* Magazine. Myers Park High School ranked 66th, the second highest in the state. Additionally, 18 CMS graduates were named 2010 National Merit Scholars, joining 8,400 other distinguished high-school graduates nationwide.

Enrollment in AP courses increased from 4,079 students in 1995-96 to 13,080 in 2010-11. As a result of the district's commitment to academic excellence, CMS was selected as one of 28 school systems across the country to award the first AP diplomas. CMS has increased the number of exams





©PATRICKSCHNEIDERPHOTO.COM

taken from 2,200 in 1995-96 to 9,526 in 2010-11. Of the 134 IB Diploma candidates, 64 students earned the IB Diploma.

Above Average SAT Scores

In CMS, 68.5 percent of graduating seniors took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The top 10 percent of CMS graduates outperform their public and private school peers nationwide, scoring an average of 1757 compared to 1734 for the top 10 percent 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 2010-11, 7,473 students graduated from the 28 Charlotte-Mecklenburg high schools. Last school year, CMS graduates earned more than \$63 million in academic and 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, 37 schools offer specialized

MORE THAN 6,600 STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS IN 2009.

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 16,000 students in nine different programs.

Classrooms on the Cutting Edge

As a result of business and community support, technology is a strong focus in all CMS schools. An example of this dedication to technology includes the Computer Access in Neighborhoods Program located within the community at various school sites.

Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology and Garinger New Technology are the district's magnet technology high schools, offering students an array of upper level technology courses necessary for certification exams. Officials at schools collaborate with business professionals and higher education institutions to ensure they concentrate on current and future high demand IT career areas.

A Model Pre-K Program

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, 2,734 four-year-olds are enrolled in this program.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

	Writing	Math	Critical Reading	Total
Mecklenburg	495	521	508	1,524
N.C.	474	508	493	1,475
National	498	514	497	1,500



©PATRICKSCHNEIDERPHOTO.COM

37 CMS SCHOOLS WERE NAMED
SCHOOLS OF **EXCELLENCE** OR
DISTINCTION BY THE STATE OF
NORTH CAROLINA.

Committed to Meeting Special Needs

The goal of CMS is to provide educational opportunities that encourage, challenge and motivate all students. Through programs for the Exceptional Children, students with disabilities are encouraged to develop and flourish through individualized instruction in the least restrictive environment. Programs are available throughout Mecklenburg County and are determined by addressing each student's needs through Individual Education Programs.

A Multitude of 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 program offers assistance to students whose native language is not English. More than 15,000 CMS students have been identified as limited English proficient; 1465 native languages are spoken, and nearly 170 countries are represented.

The After-School Enrichment Program 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 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.

Effective Business Partnerships

CMS is fortunate to have many business and community partners who provide resources and volunteer support to schools.



©PATRICKSCHNEIDERPHOTO.COM

Tens of thousands of volunteers have contributed more than a million hours. More than 1,000 business partners provide assistance to the schools through more than \$17 million in school-business partnerships.

Superior 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, 956 buses serve CMS students and provide more than 24,000 stops daily. The CMS buses travel more than 106,000 miles each day, and more than 118,000 students use these services.

Efficient Education Dollars

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community shows consistent dedication to quality education. The community passed a \$516 million bond referendum in 2007 to renovate older facilities and build six new schools. These new facilities were constructed to address the growing population in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, as well as equity. The 2011-12 total operating budget for CMS is \$1.17 billion with funding support from county, state and federal sources. Per pupil expenditure is \$8,473.

New Facilities

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 IAQ Design Tools for Schools program. The district was recognized and awarded the EPA's 2007 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools National Model of Sustained 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.

Other School Alternatives

Nearly 25,000 students are enrolled in 90 private schools and charter schools. This growing system includes elementary, middle and high schools with various religious affiliations as well as independent institutions. A complete list of these schools is available from the chamber online or in print.

Additional Community Support

Many organizations in Mecklenburg County support CMS' efforts to maintain excellence in education for students. The largest of these is the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, which supports literacy and educational success through its early literacy efforts to prepare children for school, student-oriented programs and homework help after school, teen programs to help transition to college and the workforce and summer reading programs to help students maintain academic achievement levels during summer break. More information at www.cmlibrary.org.

For Public School Information Contact:
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
701 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28202
(980) 343-7450 www.cms.k12.nc.us

