

The School Report

Grandview C-4

Fall
2007



Our Grand View

"The Grandview C-4 School District is committed to maximizing the achievement and personal development of all students by improving teaching, learning, and relationships."

"Our Grand View"

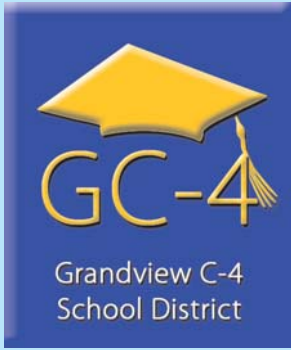
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"Where Kids Come First:
Each and Everyone"

Points of Pride...

—GHS Jazz Band were featured performers at the 2007 Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival in New York.

—"Outstanding Service of a School Nurse Award" received by Coordinator of District Health Services in 2007.

—District Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) implemented to enhance student achievement.

—Graduates received over \$1.2 Million in scholarship awards in 2007.

—ProStart career training program is featured at GHS.

Our Grand View At Grandview C-4

Kathy Meyers, President, Board of Education
"Making Our Grand View Our Grand Reality"

Over the past year the Board of Education, with great support from district staff, has worked to keep our focus on students, redefine our commitment to them and to hone in on what it is that we envision for our district.

We've chosen to call it **Our Grand View: Grandview C4 is committed to maximizing the academic achievement and personal development of all students by improving teaching, learning and relationships.**

The District has already taken steps in this direction which include:

- The establishment of Professional Learning Communities to create an environment that fosters mutual cooperation and support for sustained, substantive school improvement
- Initiation of instructional practices training to identify teaching methods that more fully engage students in learning
- Implementation of interventions for students in need of additional time and support

Parents and patrons of the district also play a vital role in Our Grand View. Parents/guardians can provide considerable support by monitoring their children's academic performance, working with teachers and staff to emphasize the importance of education and modeling a commitment to life-long learning. Businesses can provide career information, shadowing and internship opportunities. Organizations and individuals can volunteer time for mentoring, tutoring and assistance at individual schools. With your support, we have the ability to make **Our Grand View-Our Grand Reality. Editor's Note:** If you would like to volunteer, contact Dr. Lynnette Calder at 316-5076.



Kathy Meyers
President



Jon Brax
Vice President



Allen L. Meyer
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Member



Donald Fisher
Member



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Member

Grandview C-4

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Finance

The School Report is published four times yearly to give the community a review of Grandview C-4 accomplishments, events, plans and projects.

*Designer and Editor
Lane Lucas, Coordinator of Public Relations
816.316.5021
lane.lucas@csd4.k12.mo.us*

Grandview C-4 School District
13015 10th Street
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5000
816.316.5050 Fax
www.csd4.k12.mo.us

Belvidere Elementary School
15200 White Avenue
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5300

Butcher-Greene Elementary School
5302 East 140th Street
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5400

Conn-West Elementary School
1100 High Grove Road
Grandview, MO 64030
816.316.5225

High Grove Elementary School
2500 High Grove Road
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5500

Martin City K-8 School
201 East 133rd Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64145
816.316.5700

Meadowmere Elementary School
7010 East 136th Street
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5525

Grandview Middle School
12650 Manchester
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5600

Grandview Alternative School
1101 Main Street
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5150

Grandview High School
2300 High Grove Road
Grandview, Missouri 64030
816.316.5800

GRANDVIEW C-4 Mission

In an environment of dignity, diversity, and change, our commitment is to provide a spectrum of educational opportunities to instill in all students and staff the motivation for lifetime learning, and to develop and demonstrate character traits in preparation for ethically responsible citizenry.

GRANDVIEW C-4 Principals



James L. Russell
Principal
Belvidere Elementary
jim.russell@csd4.k12.



Pam Lott
Principal
Butcher-Greene Elementary
pam.lott@csd4.k12.mo.us



Mary A. Moore
Principal
Conn West Elementary
mary.moore@csd4.k12.mo.us



Rosey Brown
Principal
High Grove Elementary
rosey.brown@csd4.k12.mo.us



Lisa G. Walker
Principal
Meadowmere Elementary
lisa.walker@csd4.k12.



Cynthia Johnson
Principal
Grandview Middle School
cynthia.johnson@csd4.k12.mo.us



Dr. Barbara Schell
Principal
Martin City K-8
barbara.schell@csd4.k12.



Pat Spalding
Director
Grandview Alternative
pat.spalding@csd4.k12.mo.us



Brian Schumann
Principal
Grandview High School
brian.schumann@csd4.k12.mo.us

"Where Kids Come First: Each And Every One"

www.csd4.k12.mo.us

GHS Student Performs On National Stage

Megan Herrera, Grandview High School junior, was recently featured in USA Today highlighting her and other cast member performances in a new student-written musical Senioritis, presented by Cappies International Theatre at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Megan was a featured senior singer and part of the adult chorus number. She also performed in two other major shows featuring song medleys and one acts. The productions were part of the Cappies International Theatre Workshop held July 15 to August 17. Megan was one of only 37 high school theatre students from across the USA and Canada invited to participate.

Cappies International Theatre is part of Cappies USA (www.cappies.com), an international high school theatre critics and awards program. The summer theatre workshop provides unique, high-profile, learning experiences in theatre arts. Students learn about acting, singing, directing and professional performing arts career building under the direction of professional D.C. area performers. Participation is awarded by regional high school Cappies program members based upon exceptional student performance. Megan was chosen after receiving the Outstanding Featured Actress award for her 2006 GHS performance as Anita in *West Side Story*.



GHS Band Receives Honors

The Grandview High School Blue and Gold Brigade Band participated in the sixth annual Raytown Round-Up Days Parade and Field competition on Saturday, September 22. The band received several placement awards, including: First Place in Open Division (for the parade), Second Place in the Red Division (on the field), Fourth Place for Drum Line (indoor competition), and Fifth Place for Color Guard (indoor competition). Additionally, the band received an overall "1" rating for both the parade and field performances.

The 2007-08 Blue and Gold Brigade Band is comprised of 91 student members and directed by Danny Watring, GHS CO-Director of Bands and music teacher. Under Mr. Watring's direction, the band has received numerous superior ratings and other performance awards at district, state, and area marching band festivals.



District Welcomes New Teachers

Grandview C-4 School District welcomed 46 new teachers for the 2007-08 school year at the New Teacher Orientation held August 6, 7 & 8, 2007. Orientation took place within the district Instructional Services Center (ISC) building located at 13007 10th Street.



New teachers were placed at: Belvidere (Third, Fourth, Fifth Grade and counseling), Butcher-Greene (Special Education), Conn-West (Kindergarten and Third Grade), Martin City (Kindergarten, Physical Education, Special Education Autistic, Speech Pathologist and Language Arts), Meadowmere (First Grade, Special Education and Third Grade), Grandview Middle (At Risk, Sixth Grade, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Counseling), Grandview Alternative (History), and Grandview High (Industrial Tech., Language Arts, Journalism, Math and Social Studies). Pictured are new GHS teachers: Michelle Perria (Language Arts) and Ashley Heskett (Language Arts/Journalism).

GHS Teacher Awarded Urban Education Grant

Jean Darby, Special Education teacher at Grandview High School, was awarded an Excellence in Urban Education Grant in the amount of \$3,000 from UMKC this summer. A reception to honor her and other area grant recipients was held on June 21 at the UMKC school campus.



These grants showcase ideas, projects, and programs within Kansas City area urban school districts, emphasizing the high quality work of counselors, teachers and students.

Jean's grant project, (Building Success Through a School Supplies Store on Wheels), will provide a "student store", where GHS students can purchase school supplies at reasonable prices. Special-needs students will staff the store, giving them opportunities to learn life skills such as making change, bookkeeping, problem solving, and professional business interactions.

GMS Performs In Nashville

The Grandview Middle School Select Choir performed in the America Sings! Festival held in Nashville, Tennessee on May 3-5, 2007. GMS students presented their own 20 minute concert as well as performing in the final event extravaganza, the Massed-Choir Finale Celebration (a group song and dance spectacular). America Sings! is a non-profit organization which creates massive, non-competitive choral music festivals featuring hundreds of school and community singing groups from across the United States.

GMS staff and students held numerous fundraising activities throughout the year to assist students with attending costs. Select Choir members attending were: Laurel Britton, Marissa Stockton, DeeAnn Moore, Bianca Anthony, Breeshe' Humphrey, Kyle DeWeese, Joseph Brown, Chris Estrada, Darryl Strong, Josh Kinsey, Erica Camargo, Natalie Reed, Syera White, Jamel Reynolds, Mark Buggs, Kevin Gerhards, Brooke Purnell, Erin Farste, Kaelen McDonald, Karla Castro, Jake Carr, Austin Willoughby, Jhima Brock, John Scofield, Christina Towne, Caitlin Hynson, Krystal VanBuskirk, Jessica Bowers, Alexis Pickett, Ky'Airra Mullen, Karia Tucker, Shane Guyette, Ariel Anthony, Monica Cruse, Daniel Hale, Chloe Butler, Marsadi Franklin, Tyleka Miller, and Brianna Greene.



GHS IT Intern Recognized

Nick Troyer, Grandview High School Senior, was recently recognized by Mr. Larry Finley, Grandview City Engineer, for his satisfactory participation in the GHS Industrial Technology (IT) Summer Internship Program at the City of Grandview. Mr. Finley stated that Nick had surpassed his expectations and displayed a good work ethic including being on time, doing tasks assigned, and having a positive attitude. Nick created true to scale Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) drawings of the city's streets to be used as a base map for the creation of other maps and assisted in updating the city sidewalk inventory, including fieldwork, mapping, and records.

The GHS IT Summer Internship Program was created by Ivan Robison, GHS Industrial Technology teacher. Interns receive "hands-on" CADD related work experience through their placement at area companies. Pictured left to right are student interns; Tyler Nissen, senior (worked as CADD Drafting Technician at Walter P. Moore and Associates), Caitlin Miller, senior (worked as Survey Technician at Schaffer, Kline & Warren), Nick Troyer, Megan Ryan, senior (worked on residential design drawings at Brewer CADD Services), and teacher Ivan Robison.



District PLC Initiative Update

The district has implemented Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) as a way to structure adult learning within the school day. This is a critical component of improving student achievement. Teachers meet regularly (second Wednesday of each month) in their PLCs. During this time, teachers collaborate with each other as they analyze student and teacher work to ensure that high levels of achievement are maintained throughout the year. Teachers evaluate and focus their efforts around these questions, working toward the commitment that **ALL students can learn**:

1. **What do we want students to learn?**
2. **How will we know they are learning?**
3. **What are we going to do if they don't learn?**
4. **What do we do if students already know it?**



The district believes that teacher learning and collective work that strives to answer these questions will raise the achievement scores and make sure all students are reaching their potential. During PLC early release days, teachers have been doing book studies, looking at student assignments, analyzing MAP data—all to improve teaching and learning. PLC time provides each school as a whole uninterrupted time to work together—an opportunity not present during the regular school day. During the early release time, teachers are becoming experts in finding solutions to make improvements in teaching and learning.

Technology Plan Approved

The Grandview C-4 Technology Plan for the 2007-2010 school years has been approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the district Board of Education. Funds for the effective use of technology in our classrooms, including data systems to manage the flow of district information, have been approved by the BOE. A District Technology Advisory Committee will be overseeing the Technology Plan implementation. The plan has five major categories: (1) Student Learning, (2) Teacher Preparation, (3) Administration, Data Management, Communications, (4) Resource Distribution and (5) Technical Support.

One of the first action steps of the plan is to create classroom and school technology standards (both hardware and software). After examining various products, the committee has made recommendations to meet this step. Additionally, the committee will be examining data management systems, including a district-wide Instructional Management System. The technology plan can be viewed at www.csd4.k12.mo.us/its.htm.



21st Century Grant Award

Dr. Lynnette Calder, Curriculum and Instruction Grant Coordinator, recently announced that the Grandview C-4 School District has been awarded a \$1.23 million (over the course of five years) 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant for the 2007-08 school. This will be an enhancement for the district Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) Initiative. The grant funds will make it possible to provide student after school and weekend tutor programs, transportation for students participating in these programs, and funding for additional staff to organize these activities. The grant will provide for the hiring of three part-time program coordinators.

The PLC early release days (second Wednesday of each month through May) had caused community concern over the possible lack of supervised after school activities for students. This grant will help relieve this concern by providing the means for after school activities which provide academic enrichment opportunities as well as needed interventions. Additionally, it is hoped that a parent engagement program can be established to provide parent activity evenings and family cultural events.

District Awarded Zero Interest QZAB Bonds

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently awarded \$1,397,000 of zero interest federal Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) to the Grandview C-4 School District, following a state-wide competition. These bonds must be used for the renovation of older school buildings. The bonds were recently purchased by Bank Midwest, who will receive tax credits from the federal government in lieu of interest. The term of the bonds will be fifteen years, with principal to be repaid to Bank Midwest in five equal payments beginning in 2018.

According to the District's bond underwriter L. J. Hart, the District will save \$726,440 in interest expenses over the life of the bonds. The District will save a total of \$3,878,991 in interest over the life of the \$6,500,000 of QZAB bonds won by the school district over the past five years. Chet Neumann, Assistant Superintendent, noted that the success of this recent bond issue, along with the significant savings to the District, would not have been possible without the hard work and determination of Bank Midwest. The Grandview C-4 School District and its patrons owe a great debt of gratitude to Bank Midwest for this achievement.

2007 Bond Projects Begin, 2004 Bond Projects Near End

2007-2011 Bond Issue

The Grandview C-4 School District received an overwhelming (70%) voter approval rate for the April, 2007, \$6 million bond issue. This four year no-tax-increase bond will provide \$1.5 million per year for selected school improvements for existing buildings during the 2008-2012 school years. Primary on the list of new school building improvements are safety and security projects, such as security camera systems, fencing, and new heavy duty classroom doors and locksets (photo of new Grandview High School classroom door is shown). All of the priority safety and security projects are either completed or underway.

In addition to these safety and security projects, the Bond Projects Committee (consisting of Board of Education members, district employees and patrons) presented detailed lists of recommended school improvement projects (including budgets for each school) to the Board of Education at their July 2007 meeting. The approved projects are to be completed over the next four years. Project updates will be shared with patrons in upcoming School Reports.



2004-2008 Bond Issue

In the meantime, the District is also in the final year of school improvement projects from the \$9 million four year school improvement no-tax-increase bond issue of April 2004, which provided for improvements to every district school from 2004 to 2008. The beautiful new windows and doors recently completed at the Martin City Elementary School (photo shown in this article) were part of projects scheduled for this final year of the 2004 bond issue.

This overlap in the 2007-2008 school year of two bond issues (completion of the 2004 bond issue projects occurring at the same time as the start-up of the 2007 bond projects) makes for a complicated work schedule, especially during the summer. The Bond Project Advisory Committee, chaired by Grandview High School alumni Donna Albin (GHS '66) and Charles Chancellor (GHS '56), is working hard to make this challenging schedule of school improvement projects a big success.



GEF Delivers Grant Awards

On Thursday, September 6, the Grandview Education Foundation (GEF) delivered twelve Grant Award checks totaling \$5,500 via their "Prize Patrol" bus to winning teacher applicants within the Grandview C-4 School District. Grant project titles included; Interactive Artistic History Tour, An Evening of Literacy, and Touch Math, to name a few.

Teachers received award checks at: Grandview High School; Jenna Rhodes (\$250 & \$750) and Brad Rackers (\$250), Grandview Middle School; Lorena Howell (\$1,000) and Jennifer Masden (\$250), Martin City K-8; Stephen Sampsell (\$750) and Rachael Baca (\$1,000), Butcher-Greene Elementary; Lynn Bennett, Denise Schmidt, Kathie Miles, Tisha Toth and Kristine Norton (\$250), Pat Nussbaum (\$250), Lynn Bennett (\$250) and Rebeka McIntosh, Pam Harvey and Sheila Gill (\$250), and Belvidere Elementary; Carol Kunce (\$250). Project descriptions, photos and a movie clip are posted at www.csd4.k12.mo.us/foundation.htm. Pictured are Jenna Rhodes, GHS Science & Ecology teacher, and Kathy Meyers, Board of Education President and GEF member.

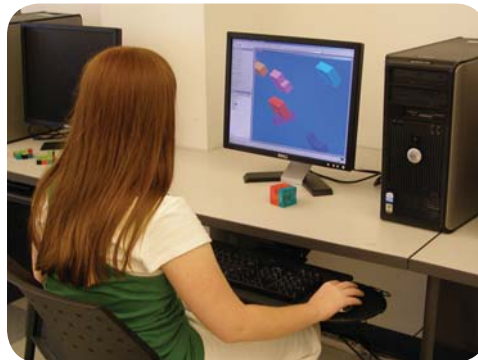


STEPS Academy 2007

This summer, students from Grandview and Martin City Middle Schools, participated in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Preview Summer (STEPS) Academy offered through the team efforts of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation and Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a national engineering and engineering technology curriculum program. STEPS Academy establishes a "stepping stone" for middle school students to enroll in the high school PLTW program, leading to post secondary education and career training.

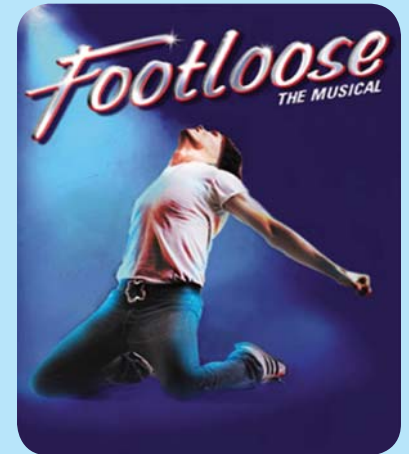
Students were given the task of completing two engineering projects: Creating a Rubik's Cube puzzle out of wood, using Inventor software, and Building a virtual functioning elevator, using Fischertechnik software. The Rubik's project required building each puzzle piece and then displaying how they were assembled, while the elevator

project required students to program the elevator to move between three floors. Additionally, students participated in two field trips (Harley Davidson Plant and Black and Veatch Company) where they received tours and spoke with engineering professionals. The STEPS course was conducted by teachers Andy Leech, Kathryn Rabolt, and Joe Lebar.



GHS 2007-08 Theatre Season

The 2007-08 Grandview High School theatre season will include Footloose (contemporary musical, November 14-17, 2007), Aladdin (classic children's play, February 6-9, 2008), The Haunting of Hill House (thriller play, April 16-19, 2008), and The Wiz (musical scheduled for late June, 2008). All performances take place in the GHS auditorium, starting at 7:00 pm each night.



The GHS theatre department is continuing Season Ticket Card offerings (on a limited availability basis), which provide attendees first and best seating choice for the entire season with no waiting in line. Opening night dinner theatre is included with special season ticket purchases. A season ticket ordering form and GHS auditorium chart are posted at www.csd4.k12.mo.us/upcomingevents.htm. Performance information and ticket purchasing is available by calling 816.309.7131 or by email at ghstheatretix@aol.com.

A Message From The Superintendent

Dr. Ralph Teran, Superintendent of Schools

Focus On Student Achievement: "Stay-Put Year On A Rising Floor"

It has been a great privilege being Superintendent in the Grandview C-4 Community during the last year. The Board of Education and district staff are dedicated to one thing: Increasing student achievement for all students. "Our Grand View," displayed on the front cover, defines our commitment to the district students.

As this academic year unfolds, we will report student achievement information and other district progress indicators. At this juncture, we have preliminary data on 2007 Mathematics and Communication Arts for the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Assessments.

What do the preliminary results from the 2006-07 school year tell us? That it was a "stay-put" year on a rising floor. Mostly, the performance of districts in our area was flat, with only slight increases or decreases. It appears that holds constant for the entire state.

The same holds true for our district. For example, the percentage of students proficient on the MAP Mathematics Assessments was exactly the same as last year (26.3%). However, the state expectancy level (the rising floor) to meet No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) increases each year. So while 26.3% was just a "shave" off the State AYP Target (26.6%) for 2006, it is significantly distant from the 35.8% target for 2007. The following page (10) features charts comparing the preliminary data for district MAP assessment performance to the State AYP Target for Communication Arts and Mathematics (2002 to 2007). The increased proficient levels, the "rising floor" if you will, increases each year until the year 2014 - where the goal is 100% student proficiency. We have quite a hill to climb.

It is important to stress that these graphs report district averages. At the individual school level, we saw significant increases in student achievement at several schools and grade levels. We will report school level information in upcoming *School Reports*.

What does all this mean? First, we have a lot of work to do. Our staff is working hard to increase the academic achievement of all students. We need to continue to increase interventions for students needing extra help, and provide rigorous and engaging curriculum and instruction for all students, including students working at high levels.

During the upcoming election year, the merits or lack thereof of NCLB legislation will be hotly debated. Regardless of the outcome, whether NCLB survives, is modified, or goes away, we know that we have to continue to improve the academic achievement of all students. Accountability will not and should not go away.

While test scores are important, they are not the entire story. We have a great school district meeting the needs of highly diverse learners. I look forward to reporting to you on the many facets of student achievement during the upcoming school year. We appreciate your support and help toward increasing student achievement for each and every student in the Grandview C-4 School District.



Ralph Teran, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
ralph.teran@csd4.k12.mo.us



Barbara A. Tate
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction
barbara.tate@csd4.k12.mo.us



Chester H. Neumann
Assistant Superintendent
Finance
chester.neumann@csd4.k12.mo.us



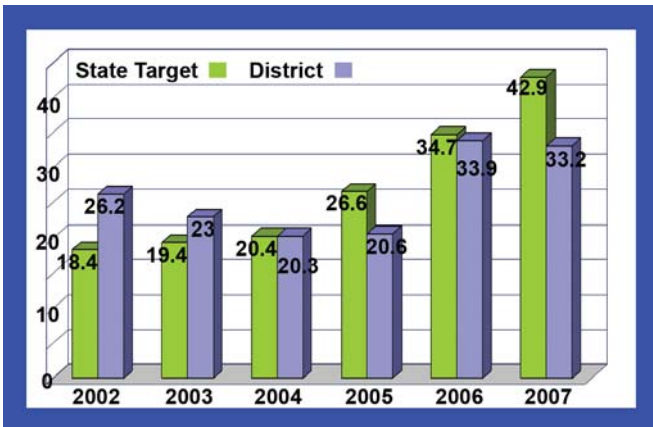
Debra Nelson
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resource Development
debra.nelson@csd4.k12.mo.us

Preliminary District MAP AYP Charts 2002-2007

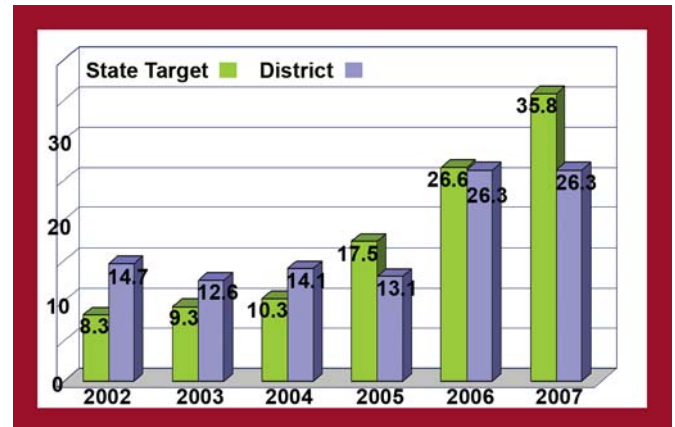
Presented below in the preliminary Chart 1 (Communication Arts) and Chart 2 (Mathematics) is the Grandview C-4 District performance (purple) compared to the State Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target (green).

The charts illustrate the “stay- put” flat performance of our district for the 2006-07 school year along with the continuing “rising floor” state target expectations. We will illustrate final district performance results (coming in early November) as compared to the state target and district performance at the secondary (middle and high school) levels in upcoming *School Report* issues.

Preliminary Chart 1
All Students Communication Arts MAP AYP
State Target - District Comparisons 2002-2007



Preliminary Chart 2
All Students Mathematics MAP AYP
State Target - District Comparisons 2002-2007



GHS Featured On Channel 9 Morning Show

On Friday, September 28, Grandview High School hosted “Match-Up Mania” (a televised high school pep rally) featured on the Channel 9 morning show from 5:30 to 7:00 am. The event was filmed live at the GHS gymnasium. Over 400 attendees (students and staff) were present to celebrate the upcoming football game against Raytown South that evening. Everyone enjoyed showing their school spirit by displaying signage, wearing GHS sports clothing, and chanting school cheers and songs. The morning show segments featured student and staff interviews as well as special performances by the GHS Varsity Cheerleaders and Blue and Gold Brigade Band.

Attendees were offered complimentary breakfast items, t-shirts, and the opportunity to win special prizes by participating in contest games. Lisa Teachman, Match-Up Mania host, indicated to principal Brian Schumann that GHS had succeeded in providing one of the largest and most enthusiastic crowds the show had ever featured. Lane Lucas, Coordinator of Public Relations, booked the event and Steve Robertson, Athletic Director at GHS, coordinated it. Numerous GHS staff members provided volunteer support throughout the morning. Pictured is Lisa Teachman conducting a live segment of the event with several attending GHS students.



Grandview C-4 sports information (GHS, Grandview Middle and Martin City Middle) is available online at <http://www.csd4.k12.mo.us/athleticshome.htm>. The district athletics page features complete sports news and schedules along with essential downloads and external links.

2007-08 Revised* School Calendar

**Senate Bill No. 64 passed by the Missouri General Assembly caused a revision to the 2007-08 School Calendar. The new law requires six make-up days be included in school calendars. The Board of Education approved the revision (changing our make-up days from three to six) on 09/13/07. This change has no practical effect on the calendar, as the last day of school has always been adjusted depending on the number of school days missed for weather or other emergencies.*

August 6, 7 & 8.....	New Teacher Orientation
August 13.....	Orientation/District Professional Development
August 14.....	Teachers in Buildings
August 15.....	First Day Of School (Early Release For Students)
September 3.....	No School (Labor Day)
September 12.....	District PLCs/Prof Dev'l (Early Release For Students)
October 10.....	District PLCs/Prof Dev'l (Early Release For Students)
October 12.....	First Quarter Ends
October 19.....	District C&I (No School For Students)
October 25.....	Parent-Teacher Conferences PM (Early Release For Students)
October 26.....	No School (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
November 14.....	District PLCs (Early Release For Students)
November 21, 22 & 23..	No School (Thanksgiving Holiday)
December 12.....	District PLCs/Prof Dev'l (Early Release For Students)
December 21.....	First Semester Ends
December 24-31.....	No School (Winter Break)
January 1.....	No School (Winter Break)
January 2.....	Teacher Work Day
January 3.....	Second Semester Starts (All Day)
January 9.....	District PLCs (Early Release For Students)
January 21.....	No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
January 22.....	District C&I (No School For Students)
February 13.....	District PLCs/Prof Dev'l (Early Release For Students)
February 18.....	No School (President's Day)
March 12.....	District PLCs (Early Release For Students)
March 14.....	Third Quarter Ends
March 17-21.....	No School (Spring Break)
April 9.....	District PLCs/Prof Dev'l (Early Release For Students)
April 25.....	District MSIP Planning Day (No School For Students)
May 14.....	District PLCs (Early Release For Students)
May 26.....	No School (Memorial Day)
May 27.....	Last Day Of School (Early Release For Students)
May 28.....	Teacher Work Day

Six emergency make-up days are built into this calendar. Should they not be used, or should more than six days be used, the last day of school will be adjusted.

First And Last School Day Student Schedules:

—All Elementary Schools.....	9:05 am to 12:05 pm
—Middle Schools.....	8:15 am to 11:15 am
—Grandview Alternative School.....	8:25 am to 11:25 am
—Grandview High School.....	7:35 am to 10:35 am

Regular School Day Student Schedules:

—All Elementary Schools.....	9:05 a.m. to 3:55 pm
—Middle Schools.....	8:15 a.m. to 3:05 pm
—Grandview Alternative School.....	8:25 a.m. to 3:15 pm
—Grandview High School.....	7:35 a.m. to 2:25 pm

Early Release School Day Student Schedules:

—All Elementary Schools.....	9:05 am to 1:05 pm
—Middle Schools.....	8:15 am to 12:15 pm
—Grandview Alternative School.....	8:25 am to 12:25 pm
—Grandview High School.....	7:35 am to 11:35 am



"Where Kids Come First:
Each and Everyone"

Points of Pride...

—Faculty and staff are paid in the top one-third of all metro KC school districts.

—GHS was the first area high school to bring in the Project Lead The Way curriculum.

—One of the first area districts to bring Project Lead The Way curriculum into middle schools.

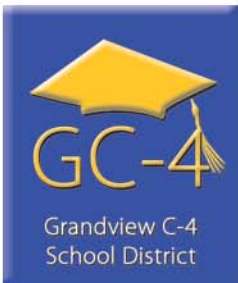
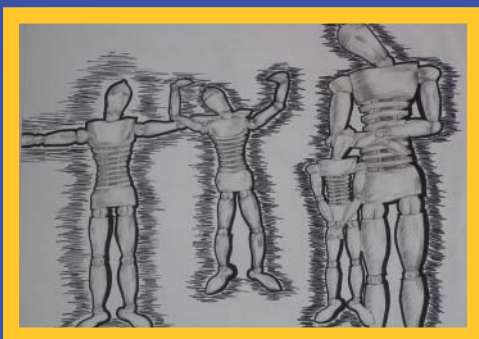
—National Honor Society were 2007 recipients of the "Most Active Chapter" and "Best Service Project" awards.

—District has been recognized for achieving significant energy savings.

Student Artwork Is On Display Throughout The Year In The Board Of Education Room



Samples Of
Grandview High
School Student
Artwork Displayed
This Summer



Grandview C-4 Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and there shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex, race, creed, national origin, age or disability. The school district is committed to providing appropriate educational services for children with disabilities in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act. The district is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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