

# NEIL REID

## School Improvement Annual Report 2008-09

**The mission of Neil E. Reid High School is to enhance students' affective and cognitive skills, enabling them to make a successful transition to their home high school and community as productive, lifelong learners.**

Neil Reid High School provides services for students between the ages of 14 and 26 who have severe emotional impairments. Our enrollment as of May 2009 was 97 and our average daily attendance rate was 83%.

### Status of School Improvement

Prior to the 2008-09 school year, all of our students scored at a basic level or below on standardized assessments (MEAP, MI-Access, ACT Plan and MME). An analysis of the data indicated that the low scores were due to the fact that our students' writing lacked details and organization. Therefore we decided our goal for the 2008-09 school year would be:

**Goal:** At least 70% of students will score 3 or above on a persuasive essay, based on the ACT rubric.

During fall of 2008, students were assigned the task of writing a five-paragraph persuasive essay. When their work was scored, just 24% achieved a score of 3 or above. Throughout the year we implemented a variety of strategies designed to help students with their writing, including quick writes, concept mapping, focus questions, rubrics, five paragraphs, peer editing and talking to the text. When we conducted a follow-up assessment in the spring of 2009, 35% of students scored a 3 or above—an improvement of 11% over the course of the year.

### Curriculum

The curriculum at Neil Reid High School adheres to the current content expectations and benchmarks provided by the Michigan Merit Curriculum. All classes provide students the opportunity to obtain credit with individualized curricular support. Students are challenged to become lifelong learners by enhancing their academic, as well as their affective skills. The curriculum at Neil Reid mirrors that of the local high school. The individualized instruction provides students with strategies to enhance their learning and experience academic success.

### Use of Technology

During the 2008-09 school year, all students participated in Career Cruising, an online program that allows them to work on their career readiness skills, explore career options and plan future education and training. Students were provided with AlphaSmart notepads to use with writing assignments. The math department performed a simulated calculator training session for students, and provided them the opportunity to participate in E2020 Algebra 1, an online math class. The English department worked collaboratively to create digital story boards, using Windows Storyboard 3. In technology classes students participated in an online typing program to improve their keyboarding skills. In the reading lab, students used the Scholastic Reading

Inventory Program, a computer-based assessment program that enables teachers to monitor progress, assess a student's reading level and manage data related to performance. Finally, our school implemented Data Director which allows staff to analyze standardized test results and target students' individual needs.

## Student Achievement

Progress reports are sent home every five weeks. The Woodcock Johnson III assessment of academic achievement is completed every two years. Individual results are available to parents and reviewed at Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team meetings.

During the 2008-09 school year, 27 of our students graduated from 12 different Macomb County school districts. In addition, 29 students were able to attend their local high school part time and 11 returned full time.

All students were eligible to participate in standardized assessments:

- 12 ninth graders took the MEAP social studies test; 50% had "proficient" scores.
- 27 eleventh and twelfth graders took the MME/ACT. Results are shown below.
- 18 tenth graders participated in the ACT Plan to prepare them for taking the ACT.
- 4 students took the MI-Access, the state's alternative for special education students when MEAP, even with accommodations, is not appropriate.

The next table shows Michigan Merit Exam (MME) results for the last two years.

### Michigan Merit Exam

Students who met or exceeded performance expectations

	Math		Science		Social Studies	
	tested	met/ exceeded	tested	met/ exceeded	tested	met/ exceeded
<b>2008-09</b>	26	0	26	0	26	8
<b>2007-08</b>	22	3	22	7	22	10

	Reading		Writing		English Language Arts	
	tested	met/ exceeded	tested	met/ exceeded	tested	met/ exceeded
<b>2008-09</b>	27	6	27	3	26	2
<b>2007-08</b>	22	6	20	1	20	3

## Use of Community Resources

Vocational training is an integral part of our curriculum and a key component of our students' transitional plans. This year, 21 students participated in Neil Reid's pre-employment program (PEP). PEP focuses on fostering the skills necessary for students to pursue, obtain and maintain employment within their community and career interest area. A total of 13 businesses worked in direct collaboration with Neil Reid to ensure a successful partnership between school and workplace, providing an opportunity for "real world" job experience. In addition, three students went on to further develop the skills acquired in PEP by participating in our Vocational Training program. This program is similar to PEP, but with greater focus on increasing independence at the workplace.

## Staff Development

Professional development opportunities support our goals and last year included:

- Teacher Leader Cohort III
- Strategic literacy
- SWIFT (Strategic Writing Instruction for Teachers)
- Data Director
- Power standards (for ELA, algebra and science)
- Civics content and instructional strategies

Other training opportunities related to transition, facilitating school improvement, co-teaching and differentiated instruction, engaging readers and writers, CPR and the automated external defibrillator (AED), the adolescent brain, and race relations.

## Parent Participation

During fall 2008-09 IEP team meetings, 100% of parents/guardians participated; 100% also took part in spring parent/teacher conferences. A parent group met several times during the year.

## Points of Pride!

- Seniors were partnered with staff from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to establish transition goals and participate in job shadowing.
- One student won a \$400 scholarship from the SET-SEG Foundation for a summer leadership camp.
- Our Student Council raised \$166 for the Macomb County Humane Society, \$117 to save the red-eyed tree frog, \$280 for Free the Children, and \$417 for homeless students in Macomb County.
- Students collected 151 pounds of food for the Macomb Food Service.
- Students participated in a book club sponsored through the American Library Association, receiving a grant from Oprah's Angel Network.
- During our ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) activity, students walked with water-filled buckets and baskets on their heads to promote awareness of conditions in third world countries.
- We initiated a schoolwide breakfast program.



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### Neil E. Reid High School

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