



August 17, 2010

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2009-2010 educational progress for the Discovery Arts and Technology Academy. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Mr. Hurt, Chief Administrative Officer, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.discoveryartstech.org or you may obtain a copy from the main office at your child's school.

For 2009-2010, Discovery Arts and Technology Academy made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading and mathematics. Science and social studies are not currently used to determine AYP. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

The building Title I School-wide School Improvement Plan is evaluated annually by all Discovery Arts and Technology Academy staff, parents, and community members. Student achievement data, demographic data, and school process data is collected and reviewed. Parent input on the effectiveness of the plan is collected via surveys twice during the school year. Teacher and student surveys on program effectiveness are done annually. Revisions to our school-wide plan are considered after the presentation of the above analyzed data to the school improvement team that includes staff, parents and community members. The school improvement team attempts to determine the reasons for the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the current plan strategies. We then research and choose best practices to implement in our renewed attempts to improve student achievement.

Discovery Arts and Technology Academy is a public charter school located in Inkster, MI. Discovery Arts and Technology Academy was opened in September 2005. We currently have open enrollment for all students grades Pre-K-8th, using a lottery process when applicants exceed our capacity. Discovery Academy has 100% African American students with approximately 96% of the student body eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Discovery Arts and Technology Academy implements a thematic, interactive program that incorporates multiple learning styles and provides differentiated instruction to better meet the needs of our students. Mornings are dedicated to building solid skills in the core subject areas of reading, writing, math and science. The afternoons are



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reserved for foreign language, music, physical education, and a daily 90-minute block of Discovery Arts and Technology Academy's Paragon humanities curriculum. The Paragon curriculum is interdisciplinary, engaging, discovery-based and multi-cultural. The hands-on approach of Paragon addresses the multiple intelligences and individual learning styles. This enhances students' communication skills, analysis and self-expression.

Discovery Arts and Technology Academy offers an emotionally and physically safe learning environment. Students have ready access to computers and technology, committed, highly qualified teachers, and other support staff including a counselor, social worker, speech therapist, and behavior intervention specialist. The school offers multiple opportunities for parental involvement and has a parent liaison to facilitate school – home communications. Teachers conduct regular goal setting conferences with individual children and their parents, to ensure the each student's success. Individual and small group interventions are provided for students at risk of not meeting the Michigan Standards and Benchmarks in the core academic subjects. These sessions are held during the regular school day, during after school tutoring programs, and during summer school.

Parents are encouraged to access Discovery Arts and Technology Academy's curriculum by visiting the main office or arranging an appointment with any classroom teacher. Discovery implements the Michigan K-8 Curriculum and Standards approved by the State Board of Education and is available online at www.michigan.gov/mde. The school's curriculum is aligned to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations. Instructional staff utilizes Open Court Reading, Step-Up to Writing, Real Math, Harcourt Science and the Mosaica designed Paragon Humanities program to implement the curriculum.

Discovery Arts and Technology uses the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills to assess student achievement. The full battery assessment is administered in the fall for Kindergarten, first graders, and all new students entering our school, then for all students K-8th in the spring. Results are used to adjust instruction to assure the highest level of student achievement. The 2008-2009 average proficiency level in mathematics was 40% and increased to 56% proficiency in 2009-2010. The 2008-2009 average proficiency level in reading was 41% and increased to 42% in 2009-2010. The staff at Discovery Arts and Technology Academy is continuously working to improve student achievement.

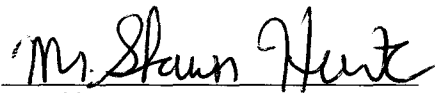
Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled three times throughout the school year in November, March, and May. During the 2008-2009 school year, an average of 59% or 104 out of 176 students were represented by a parent during parent-teacher conferences. During the 2009-2010 school year, an average of 65% or 136 out of 209 students were represented by a parent during parent-teacher conferences. For the 2010-2011 school year, we have plans to increase parental involvement participation and develop a procedure to gather additional data pertinent to the various subgroups represented at Discovery.



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We would like to thank all of our parents and community members who continue to support our efforts at Discovery Arts and Technology Academy. We are very excited about the 2010-2011 school year and anticipate the returning and new faces that will grace our halls. Parents, please stop by the main office to visit with our new administrative team, take a tour and/or voice your opinions or concerns. Our doors are always open. Again, thank you for sending your child/ren to Discovery Arts and Technology Academy where each child will "Discover the Pathway to Leadership".

Sincerely,



Mr. Shawn Hurt
Chief Administrative Officer



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