CELEBRATING SUCCESS

milestones over the years
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The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office thanks all of its charter schools and photographers — Renee Aleisa, Daymon J. Hartley, and Jim Hill — for allowing the use of their wonderful photographs in this report.
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Since its establishment in 1994, the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office has grown to authorize 71 schools, serving more than 34,000 students. Take a moment to learn about our office and how we support our schools.
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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT THOMAS J. HAAS, PH.D.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS.
PROVIDING CHOICE.

Grand Valley State University is committed to providing academic choice to families across Michigan. Twenty years ago, the first Grand Valley-authorized school opened. Now the GVSU Charter Schools Office authorizes 71 schools, serving more than 34,000 students and providing more than 200 professional development activities for 1,800 teachers and principals.

Grand Valley’s Charter Schools Office recently underwent an accreditation evaluation through AdvancED®, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that conducts rigorous reviews of school systems. I am extremely proud of the Charter Schools Office’s high scores, making them the nation’s first university charter authorizer to receive AdvancED accreditation and highlighting why we have some of the most successful charter schools in the state.

Please join us in celebrating the success of our charter schools over the past year. We look forward to the next 20 years of providing high-quality educational options to Michigan families.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Haas, Ph.D., President

Thomas J. Haas, President
I am a strong supporter of Grand Valley’s charter school activity. The schools authorized by the university are among the state’s very best schools. The university’s Board of Trustees is especially pleased that Grand Valley is the first authorizer in the nation to be recommended for accreditation by AdvancED. This underscores the transparency and high performance we expect of ourselves and from our partners.”

— David S. Hooker, Chair
Grand Valley State University Board of Trustees
The Charter Schools Office staff continuously strives to develop high-quality education opportunities for students across Michigan. Our vision, mission, values, and goals direct our efforts to shape and craft charter schools that rank among some of the highest performing schools in the state.

Values
We believe that
• school performance is measured at the individual student level;
• data is critical for informing decisions;
• accountability includes student achievement, compliance, and fiscal responsibility; and
• student success equals strong educational leadership, great teachers, effective governance, diversity, respect, and continuous improvement.

Goals
The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office's (GVSU CSO) goals and objectives spring from the university's values and have been developed to move the CSO toward its vision. Our goals and objectives also provide a way to measure and report progress to university and charter school stakeholders.

Goal One
The GVSU CSO educates K–12 students by authorizing and supporting quality charter schools.

Goal Two
The overall growth rate of the charter schools using a nationally recognized norm reference test will achieve at the 50th percentile or higher across all grades and subjects for which the test is designed or will successfully achieve completion of the ACT or ACT WorkKeys assessment.

Goal Three
To maintain the highest level of portfolio academic performance, the GVSU CSO actively recruits competitive applications with strong evidence for improving student performance.

Goal Four
The GVSU CSO uses a standardized start up process to assist new schools in being successful.

Goal Five
The GVSU CSO is accountable to its stakeholders and the general public for providing information about student achievement, compliance, and financial decisions.

Goal Six
The GVSU CSO strategically manages its presence in Detroit.

Goal Seven
The GVSU CSO will collaborate with the broader university.
When the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office (GVSU CSO) established its “Growth with Quality” initiative in 2011, its mission was not only to enable student growth through high-quality schools, but also to provide high-quality opportunities for teachers to grow because successful schools are filled with many strong and influential teachers. Through the initiative, the GVSU CSO strives to find unique ways for educators to enhance their skills and in turn enhance the learning environment of their schools.

The GVSU CSO gives teachers the chance to grow by annually providing more than 200 professional development workshops led by GVSU CSO staff members, GVSU college professors, and other successful education professionals from across Michigan. Thousands of teachers attend workshops focused on literacy instruction, data assessment instruction, online testing, technology in the classroom, and classroom behavior management. The GVSU CSO also has seven staff members who provide in-school consultation and work with teachers in our academies on these topics.

Principals and deans are offered professional development opportunities, as well. On seven different occasions throughout the year, the GVSU CSO hosts The Learning Network with Richard Lemons, Ph.D., co-founder of the Harvard Change Network, and our Leadership Network with Greg Dale, Ph.D., of Duke University; these two seminars, highlighted in this report, bring school leaders together to collaborate and dissect issues in their schools. We believe student success is directly correlated to strong leadership, and the success and high attendance of these programs show how our schools’ leaders reflect that belief.

Additionally, we offer assistance to board members who oversee our schools. Board members for new schools receive training from our field service representatives so that they are properly prepared for their first year to govern their academy. Members from all of our schools are invited to board symposiums to meet with each other and discuss best practices.

We are thankful that we have the ability to provide a wide variety of support options to our schools and proud of the participation in our programs. It is important for our educators to keep striving to reach their highest potential. Building the foundations to a strong and effective classroom or school can serve as the catalyst to student improvement and growth. Successful students come from influential and effective leaders, leaders who shape successful schools into longstanding community pieces parents can trust.

We invite you to read the GVSU CSO annual report to view a sample of the successes in our schools. We take a look at schools celebrating historic milestones, as well as a handful of people and programs that help make Grand Valley-authorized charter schools some of the best education options for Michigan families.

Sincerely,

Timothy H. Wood, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Charter Schools
HERE TO SUPPORT

Grand Valley State University Charter School Office members hold graduate degrees, including 3 Ph.D.s combined years working in K–12 education prior to joining GVSU CSO

7 field representatives attend every school board meeting

17

shown above, left to right
Michael Cousins
Ram Ravikumar
Sherri Hall
Jill Weber
Elizabeth Russell
Dan Warren
Bob Fortin
Wendy Miller
Larry Spencer
Lori Davis
Dan Matthews
Randy Remenap
Erin Abel
Lisa Brunan
Tona Ambrose
Amirah Vasburch
Cheryl Edwards-Cannon
J.D. Smith, Ph.D.
Rob Kimball
Alissa Thelen
Pat Olds, Ph.D.
Alyson Murphy
Arturo Armijo
Timothy H. Wood, Ph.D.
GVSU CSO Earns Accreditation

In March, the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office (GVSU CSO) underwent a third-party external review to get feedback on the effectiveness of its operations and functionality. Representatives from AdvancED and charter authorizers visited Grand Rapids and spent three days interviewing members of our office, as well as more than 100 other stakeholders who are closely connected to the CSO. Stakeholders included teachers, principals, board members, parents, and members of GVSU’s leadership team.

At the end of the examination, the review team recommended the five year maximum accreditation to the CSO, saying the office goes above and beyond in many of the areas it investigated. The accreditation made GVSU the first charter school authorizer in the nation to earn such an honor.

GVSU Athletes Teach EBLI

This year, the CSO strengthened its partnership with the GVSU Athletic Department by collaborating to provide a unique literacy tutoring experience. Throughout the fall semester, the CSO’s reading specialists trained GVSU student athletes on basic Evidence-Based Learning Instruction (EBLI) techniques. This training not only prepared the athletes to help others who may struggle with literacy, it also gave them more tools to improve their own reading skills.

After a semester of training, the student athletes joined the reading specialists at GVSU-authorized charter schools to assist with reading instruction and EBLI techniques. The student athletes worked as a group to show K–12 students how to properly break apart and spell challenging words.

The CSO and the Athletic Department plan to expand this tutoring opportunity in the upcoming school year.
Teachers Receive Honors

The 2014 school year saw many teachers in GVSU-authorized schools winning awards for their exceptional work in the classroom. Eighth-grade teacher Adam Horos from West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics, third-grade teacher Rebecca Sandee from Walker Charter Academy, and fifth-grade teacher Samantha Hill from Chandler Woods Charter Academy were all named WGVU Cool Teachers. The teachers were rewarded with a pizza party for their classroom and a field trip to Chicago.

Byron Center Charter School fourth-grade teacher Audra Kowalski received the Michigan Lottery’s Excellence in Education award just after the start of the school year. The award provided $500 to Kowalski for classroom supplies and was presented to her by Michigan State University men’s basketball coach Tom Izzo.

The CSO also celebrated alongside two teachers who were recognized as outstanding educators. Jennifer McMillan, a second-grade teacher at Detroit Achievement Academy, was named the 2015 Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year, and first-grade teacher Megan Dziedzic of South Canton Scholars Charter Academy took home the inaugural CSO Teacher of the Year award.

Learning Styles

The CSO furthered its partnership with Richard Lemons, Ph.D., and the Learning Network to provide training on learning styles and their implementation in the classroom. Learning styles is a strategy in which teachers and students identify how individuals learn new information best. Lemons worked with school administrators to implement learning styles into each school and helped them understand their benefit.

While students take in new information through all of their senses, how they absorb new content best is the essence of knowing students’ learning styles. Some students learn best visually, while others achieve greater understanding as auditory learners. Students knowing this about themselves and advocating for their individual learning environment helps create a community of strong learners.

Learning styles group common ways that people retain information. The CSO encouraged teachers and administrators in GVSU-authorized schools to use learning styles research and teaching strategies to help them better understand how each student learns best. In 2014, 1,800 teachers took the Learning Styles Inventory to determine their own preferred style of learning. In the fall of 2015, all GVSU charter school students will be offered the opportunity to take the Learning Styles assessment, and the CSO will provide that information to each student’s teacher.

5 teachers throughout various GVSU charter schools were recognized with honors in the 2014 school year
Grand Valley State University’s Charter Schools Office has a record of authorizing some of the most successful charter schools in the state. Whether a school is reaching a milestone or recognizing strong school leadership, we have a lot to celebrate. Here are just a few examples of the success you can find at our schools.
CELEBRATING SUCCESS
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The GVSU Charter Schools Office is proud to authorize schools that become longstanding academic institutions in their communities. In this year’s report we take a look at three schools that are getting ready to celebrate notable milestones during the 2015-2016 school year.
SCHOOL MILESTONES

Twenty Years of Excel-lence

Excel Charter Academy — Grand Rapids, MI

Dale Mowry, board president for Excel Charter Academy, vividly remembers when construction started for the school. “It was literally across the street from my house,” he said with a smile. Like many other members of his community, Mowry was skeptical about what was happening in front of his eyes. Charter schools were a new and somewhat vague concept at the time, only being approved by Michigan voters one year earlier. Mowry and other parents were concerned about what this new school would mean for their children, so he investigated.

“I went right to J.C. myself,” Mowry said, retelling a story he has shared countless times about his encounter with J.C. Huizenga, the founder of National Heritage Academies (NHA). “I explained my concerns and when I was done he said, ‘Dale, how about we have lunch.’” Mowry said that Huizenga fully explained his intentions with Excel Charter Academy during that two-hour lunch. By the end of the meal, Mowry was on board. “I became filled with conviction that this was a good thing,” he said. When the school opened in September of 1995, Mowry was already part of the school board.

The 2015-2016 school year will mark Mowry’s 20th year on the board. More importantly, it will mark the 20th year of operation for Excel. When it opened in 1995, it served 174 students. Today the K–8 school serves more than 750 students. Students at Excel annually perform well above the select peer average and state average on MEAP tests. They also annually show significant gains in Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) test scores and are frequently found as one of the top performing schools in the GVSU portfolio.

Principal Dan Bartels has worked at Excel for 18 years, the last six as the school’s leader. To him, the high academic and NWEA scores are certainly a positive, but he is also quick to appreciate the outcomes of quality performance results. “A great success is simply having a full building,” he said, noting that more and more families want to send their children to Excel. He also mentioned the large number of “parent positives” the school received as feedback from surveys they sent to parents.

A key to Excel’s success comes from a school-wide acceptance of positive behavior. The staff has a similar contract called Excel Values, detailing the culture that is expected from them. “We have a high care, high expectations attitude,” Bartels said.

Student involvement outside of the classroom has been a major priority at Excel, as well. A high percentage of the student body participates in some type of extracurricular activity, whether it is involving athletics, music, or service activities. Bartels said that over half of the middle school students are on a sports team. Ryan Winter, the middle school dean, detailed a comprehensive list of organizations that have partnered with Excel for service events and charity drives. The list included well-known names like Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, and Kids Food Basket. Students also work with familiar nonprofits in Grand Rapids such as Mel Trotter and Dégagé Ministries, the Baxter Community Center, and Maple Creek senior living center. Winter and Bartels said each year they dedicate one day close to Martin Luther King Jr. Day for the entire school to participate in a service project. “On that day, we have students all across the city volunteering with our partners,” Bartels said.

The National Heritage Academies website states that NHA schools are founded on four major characteristics: academic excellence, moral focus, parental partnership, and student responsibility. When looking back at his time working with Excel, Mowry is proud of how the school’s success has been shaped along these structures. “I truly believe we’ve lived out J.C.’s dream here,” he said, before quickly adding, “but I also think we still have a ways to go.”

Bartels shared a similar sentiment, saying he is pleased with the growth he has seen at Excel, but he doesn’t want to get comfortable with their achievements. “We don’t want to plateau,” he said. “We want to keep doing better and better.” He and his staff are focused on the National Heritage Academies 2020 goal, which is to have 90 percent of students on the college readiness path in both reading and math by the year 2020. To ensure his team accomplishes this feat, Bartels reflects on a simple phrase that pushes him to keep going. “Never rest,” he said. “Never rest.”
SCHOOL MILESTONES

Longevity on the Lakeshore
Black River Public School — Holland, MI

Black River Public School (BRPS) opened its doors in 1996. Principal Shannon Brunink recalled the school’s humble beginnings that year. “When I was hired, we didn’t yet have access to a building,” he said with a laugh. Today, BRPS is thriving. It has transformed from a 6–12 school to a K–12 school, now serving 850 students. In fact, demand to attend BRPS is so high that the school expanded to add 100 seats for students in the 2015-2016 school year.

This school year marks Brunink’s eighth as principal and 19th total with BRPS, and he believes the school still does an excellent job creating strong students. “The one biggest success we’ve had is sticking to the mission of being a college preparatory school,” he said. “If we call ourselves that and our students can’t get into college, then we aren’t doing our job.”

According to Brunink, the mission itself is built around five major clauses. Possibly the most significant piece is the college requirement clause, which requires each senior to be accepted into a four-year college in order to graduate and receive a diploma. Some initially saw it as controversial. “People thought we were trying to weed out kids who couldn’t achieve that, when in fact that has not happened at all,” Brunink said. He said many parents choose BRPS because they feel their child has the skills to achieve such a goal, no matter what hardships the student has faced outside of school. “It’s really cool shaking the valedictorian’s hand when they cross the stage, but it’s even better to shake the hand of a kid who went through all types of struggles, who nobody really believed in, who rose to the challenge and was able to do it.”

The students take the clause and mission seriously. “We’ve never had a student not achieve that [requirement],” Brunink said. Their drive has created some serious results, too. Each of the last four years, a student has been accepted into Yale or MIT. One student was accepted to Stanford. The composite ACT score for 2014-2015 was the highest in school history.

BRPS school board members believe the school’s success also stems from its environment. Board President Stephanie Elhart noted that there is an “engaging community feel” inside and outside of the school. “We have high parent involvement here, and everybody takes up and participates,” she said. Former board member Barb Ellis agreed with Elhart. “Black River has a truly caring staff that creates a community of lifelong learners. The high test scores and state rankings are just side effects,” she said.

To Brunink, that community feeling is strengthened through the trust staff members have in each other and the school leadership. “We want the teachers to be the expert at what they are teaching…we don’t want to micromanage them,” he said. This extra level of autonomy allows teachers to use unique instruction techniques and take some risks, which resonate with the students. “I think our kids feel safe here and safe to learn what really interests them,” Brunink said.

The future plans for BRPS are to develop an outdoor learning center and explore new ways to enhance the learning environment. Brunink also wants to investigate new teaching concepts that could be influential for his staff members. No matter what changes come, he says the main goal will always remain the same: go forward while staying true to the mission.
University Preparatory Academy (UPA) Middle School opened its doors in 2000. Originally located in the basement of a church on the east side of Detroit, the middle school served just 116 sixth grade students in its first year.

Since that first year, UPA Middle School has grown into an institution that provides families stability and promise in a city with an ever-shifting education landscape. UPA Middle School is now full, serving approximately 400 students in grades 6–8. It has settled into a state-of-the-art building located in the heart of Detroit's midtown neighborhoods, just blocks away from Wayne State University and the Detroit Institute of Arts. It is also the original school in a UPA family that includes a high school and two elementary schools.

The longevity of UPA Middle School makes it somewhat unique compared to other schools in the area. “You see a lot of schools pop up, or come and go,” said Principal Aisha Scott, “but we are always here, working hard to get it right.”

Edward Parks, the board president for UPA Middle School, also noted the importance of the school’s longevity. “It means the world to me and the rest of the board,” he said. “The school has provided over 25,000 scholastic years for its students, which really says something.”

The 2015-2016 school year will be Scott’s second year as the UPA Middle School leader, and upon arrival she immediately implemented changes to her building’s culture. “We are moving from a big picture view to more of an individualized focus, so we can laser in on our students,” she said. “It makes it more personal for them,” Scott said. “They know what they have to do when they get to school.”

New goals have been established for the staff, too. She is working to make the idea of leadership more inclusive. “We have a goal of shared leadership in the school,” she said. “We are creating a big circle of collaboration and we have already seen many teachers step up and take charge.”

All of Scott’s plans play into the desire to make sure UPA Middle School remains a staple in its community. Scott, who worked at UPA High School for 10 years prior to being principal, said she often recognizes students in UPA Middle School who are younger siblings or relatives to the students she taught at the high school. “We have so many parents who believe in our ways that bring their kids and even their grandkids to our schools,” she said, “and we are in it for the long haul. We are in it to see the betterment and evolution of our kids.”
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

The GVSU Charter Schools Office is always looking for new, innovative learning opportunities for the students, teachers, administrators, and board members associated with our schools. Here are a handful of programs that we offer.
ArtPrize®
Education Days

Since 2011, the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office (GVSU CSO) has annually brought more than 2,000 students to downtown Grand Rapids to participate in ArtPrize education programming. The schools that attend the ArtPrize Education Days are provided with transportation, lunch, an ArtPrize gift, and a hands-on art project. It also gives students who have never visited Grand Rapids the opportunity to experience ArtPrize, one of the world’s largest art competitions. The CSO estimates more than 3,000 students will participate in ArtPrize Education Days during the 2015-2016 school year.

Summer Enrichment Camp

For two back-to-back weeks in July, the GVSU CSO welcomes students from GVSU-authorized charter high schools to settle into Grand Valley’s Allendale Campus for a weeklong Summer Enrichment Camp. The camp lets the students, who are juniors or seniors in high school, experience what it’s like to be a college student. During the week, they live in dorms, engage in mock-style college courses, and take part in interactive sessions led by various Grand Valley department leaders. The students also tour Grand Rapids, Grand Valley’s Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus, and parts of the Lake Michigan coastline. At the end of the week, students leave with an increased vision of higher education and with tools to help them make successful choices and positive decisions for their futures.

Campus Visits

The GVSU CSO sponsors campus visits for eighth grade and eleventh grade students throughout each academic year. Eighth grade students visit in the spring, while eleventh grade students come to Grand Valley in the fall. While on campus, the students get to work closely with a current GVSU student ambassador. The GVSU student ambassadors give the students a tour around campus, introduce them to key GVSU personnel, and discuss what the students should do to be best prepared for college. The tours last 4–5 hours and give the visiting students an in-depth look at college life.
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

Charter Schools Office

Tuition Reimbursement

The GVSU CSO offers 50 percent tuition reimbursement for its teachers and administrators working on a Master of Education degree at Grand Valley State University. Through the program, knowledge of teaching and school leadership is enhanced. Most of the participants are able to complete their degree quickly thanks to the reimbursement. Many of the current teachers and administrators in GVSU-authorized charter schools are currently enrolled or have completed a master’s program.

Northwest Evaluation Association

The GVSU CSO believes it is important for teachers to get quick, measurable results after their students take a test. It provides that opportunity by offering schools the Northwest Evaluation Association’s Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessment. NWEA MAP is used in grades 2–8 in GVSU charter schools. It measures instructional growth in reading, language usage, and math. Students take the test multiple times a year, making the results of each test an extremely accurate measure of growth. To help those using NWEA MAP, the GVSU CSO employs two data assessment specialists to train and guide teachers through the testing procedure.

Alissa Thelen and Lissa Brunan, NWEA MAP Assessment Specialists
SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training

In this program, CSO Field Service Representative Dan Matthews invites education professionals to learn how to safely dissolve situations involving anxious, aggressive, or violent individuals at the earliest possible stage. Matthews, a behavior specialist and certified Crisis Prevention Institute instructor, gives teachers the proper tools to prevent hostile moments. The program is considered the worldwide standard for crisis prevention and intervention training.

Learning Network and Leadership Coaching

Administrators and additional staff members from every GVSU-authorized charter school meet five times each year for the Learning Network, a full day set aside for small teams from each school to focus on their leadership strategies. Led by Richard Lemons, Ph.D., deputy director of the Connecticut Center for School Change, the school leaders collaborate to increase overall achievement in their schools through targeted teaching improvements.

Principals for GVSU-authorized schools are also invited to attend Leadership Coaching with Greg Dale, Ph.D. Dale, a professor at Duke University, is a renowned expert on leadership practices. Leadership Coaching is held twice each year and allows principals to work together to enhance their guidance techniques.

Start-up Assistance

New charters preparing to open are offered start-up assistance from the GVSU CSO to ensure a smooth and successful first year. New schools receive support from Dan Warren, a field service representative with over 40 years in education. Dan meets with members from each new school (administration, board members, management company representatives, etc.) to review the various tasks the schools have to complete, explain the roles and responsibilities of the authorizer, review the contract standards, and answer any questions.

Dan Warren,
Field Service Representative
The success of our charter schools couldn’t be achieved without the hard work and dedication from the people who lead them. The GVSU portfolio of schools is filled with principals and school boards that consistently guide their schools in the right direction. Here is just a small sample of the great leadership found in GVSU-authorized charter schools.
SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP

Sandra Terry-Martin

Detroit Merit Charter Academy — Detroit, MI

Like many other leaders at GVSU-authorized charter schools, Sandra Terry-Martin has worked at her school since the day it opened. She first served as a teacher and then as the dean for grades 3–5. Now, as Terry-Martin enters her sixth year as principal to start the 2015-2016 school year, she recalls some of the difficulties the school faced when it started and knows the time and effort it took to overcome them.

“We were something like eight percent proficient across the board for reading and math,” Terry-Martin said. Those early struggles didn’t deter the Merit team. As the years passed, the hard work of the staff started to show. “It became an exciting time to be a part of the school because there were so many dramatic improvements,” she said.

Those improvements turned into sustained success with Merit annually named a “Beating the Odds” school. “To move from there to where we are now, there are so many things to be proud of,” Terry-Martin said, “and now we are proud that we haven’t slid backward.”

Terry-Martin described the school environment as caring, clean, safe, and honest. That atmosphere stems from all staff members pitching in to help students. “I think the students here feel supported and loved,” she said. The school’s positive environment has now made it a staple in the neighborhood. “The community now embraces us and we have a lot of partnerships, which give our students unique learning experiences.”

Terry-Martin is not only proud of those high scores, but also the benefits such scores have for her students. Almost one third of 2014-2015 eighth grade students were accepted to private high schools on academic scholarships. She said that the academic success built in Merit seems to continue even after her students move on. “We are now getting graduation speakers who attended Merit and are now current college students thriving at their schools,” she said.

“I think the students here feel supported and loved.”

– Sandra Terry-Martin
SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP

Amanda Brown
Forest Academy — Kalamazoo, MI

When Forest Academy opened in 2011, it introduced a leader who would create a foundation for school success. Before arriving at Forest Academy, Principal Amanda Brown taught for eight years at Oakland Academy. During that time, she was named the 2006 21st Century Miracle Worker Charter School Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA). When Brown started with Forest Academy, she quickly built a positive culture. The high-quality learning environment Brown established earned her a finalist nomination for MAPSA’s 2013 Administrator of the Year award.

Under Brown’s guidance, Forest Academy’s enrollment has increased annually. The K–6 Kalamazoo school serves about 200 students and offers multiple sections of each grade. Brown also has established key programs to help build student involvement and good behavior. One program she is especially proud of is Bully Busters. In the program, students from grades 3–6 are designated “bully busters” and are in charge of monitoring the playground and hallways for bad behavior from fellow students. “Not only does it create a friendlier environment, but our students look forward to their roles,” Brown said. “They feel distinguished and more mature.”

The key to the school’s success is the high level of involvement she sees in her hallways. “The teachers and students all know each other here,” Brown said. “Their familiarity creates a family-like atmosphere, which produces a lot of collaboration between staff and students.” Brown credited an extremely active parent teacher organization for the collaborative culture. She said the strong bonds between staff members and parents benefit the students. “It is not uncommon to see staff interacting with students and families outside of the school, giving the students extra opportunities for support.”

Brown also credited the support from leaders who aren’t in the school every day. “I’m very thankful for our school board...they are very involved,” she said. “They like to hear from our teachers and want to know everything that is going on in the school.” Additionally, Brown said her students connect with role models aside from parents and teachers through its partnerships with businesses and nonprofits near the school. Brown sees these partnerships as means that help at-risk students. One partnership she highlighted is with Kids Hope USA, a program that pairs each student with a responsible, caring adult. Brown said the one-on-one connections provide an extra mentor who will “stick with each student as long as they attend Forest.”

The teachers and students all know each other here. Their familiarity creates a family-like atmosphere.”

— Amanda Brown
Aquan Miles

Taylor Preparatory High School —
Taylor, MI

With all the difficulties that come with leading a new school, Principal Aquan Miles makes the task seem simple. In the two years since Taylor Preparatory High School opened, the school has already experienced significant advancement.

“We’ve seen growth all around,” Miles said. “In our first year of NWEA testing, our growth was 500 percent. That was amazing.” Those scores were not an anomaly either. At the midway point of the 2014-2015 school year, Taylor Prep had shown 280 percent growth, well on track to duplicate its success.

Miles praises her staff for the outstanding gains, saying she feels fortunate to have a team of teachers dedicated to the school’s mission and vision. “They come to work and give 110 percent, and that’s the expectation everybody has of each other,” she said. Such dedication creates a positive school culture and a strong bond between all faculty members. “If there is one thing I am most proud of at Taylor Prep, it will always be my staff,” Miles said, “because when we talk about teachers who are changing the lives of students, I believe I have a school full of them.”

Miles also recognized the school board, saying it is extremely invested in the mission of the school. “They are always questioning, in a positive way, what is going on in the school and looking for ways they can assist,” she said. Miles said she believes the diversity of the board is a huge strength, helping her receive feedback from a variety of viewpoints.

The board unanimously agreed that the culture Miles has built in the school directly impacts the students. “All of the students understand what is expected of them, so we are seeing a lot of student leaders here,” said board member Tonishia Holloway. Board President Jim Dinnan said the school’s culture directly impacts the board, too. “Knowing you have a strong staff and leader in the building in turn provides a good balance between principal and school board leadership, which allows the board to perform its role without overstepping its boundaries.”

Future goals for Miles and the board include expanding into the community by establishing outreach programs. They also want to add more students and fulfill the goal of making each student ready for college. “We have parents who are constantly saying, ‘My student never thought about college before coming into your building. Now college is a real goal,’” Miles said.
Grand Valley State University’s Charter Schools Office strives to provide academic choice to families across Michigan, serving those who seek high-quality educational options. Take a look at the schools we authorize throughout the state.
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ACHIEVE CHARTER ACADEMY

3250 Denton Rd., Canton, MI 48187
T (734) 397-0960
F (734) 397-0968
www.nhaschools.com/schools/achieve

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2009
Current Enrollment: 749
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Conley
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Bradley DeFoe*, Chadwin Childers, Judith Draplin, Richard Gordon, Michael Iacopelli

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 11%
Special Education Population: 5.2%

Points of Pride:
• Performed in the 94th percentile on the MEAP assessment in Fall 2013 among all schools in MI.
• Hosts an annual multicultural event celebrating its diversity as a school.
• Hosts an annual robotic competition sponsored by Lawrence Technological University.

“The staff, parents, and students all work together collaboratively to reach each child’s potential.”
—Teacher, Achieve Charter Academy

ARBOR ACADEMY

55 Arbor St., Battle Creek, MI 49015
T (269) 963-5851
F (269) 964-2643
www.arbor-academy.org

Grades Offered: K–6
Year Opened: 1998
Current Enrollment: 214
School Leader: Ms. Melissa Martin
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
Board Members: Philip VanVranken*, Janette Frantz, Donald Gilmer, Carrie Phillips

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 83%
Special Education Population: 9.3%

Points of Pride:
• 82.5 percent of Arbor students met their NWEA MAP goals in all subject areas Spring 2014.
• 100 percent attendance reached at parent teacher conferences.
• Implemented a Bully Buster program three years ago, resulting in no reported cases of bullying since then.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL

491 Columbia Ave., Holland, MI 49423
T (616) 355-0055
F (616) 355-0057
www.blackriverpublicschool.org

Grades Offered: K–12
Year Opened: 1996
Current Enrollment: 852
School Leader: Mr. Shannon Brunink
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Stephanie Elhart*, Gregory Christie, Jane Clark,
Ruth Crouch, Timothy DuMez, Thomas Pietri, Mary Mims, Brian Porter,
Maria Carrizales-Alonzo

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 18%
Special Education Population: 10.8%

Points of Pride:
• Five years in a row, all graduating seniors were accepted into a four-year college or university.
• Juniors scored a composite 24.3 on the ACT in 2013-2014.
• Expanding school in order to accept more students from our wait list.

“The teachers and staff are very approachable and have a genuine desire for our kids to excel.”
— Parent, Byron Center Charter School

BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL

9930 Burlingame SW, Byron Center, MI 49315
T (616) 878-4852
F (616) 878-7196
www.byroncentercharter.org

Grades Offered: K–12
Year Opened: 1996
Current Enrollment: 216
School Leader: Mr. Tom Berriman
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Rebecca Mohrman*, Michael Alber, Anne Brouillette,
Mary Buiter, Laura Buchanan, Konrad Gielow

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 32%
Special Education Population: 13%

Points of Pride:
• Consistently score higher than the state average on the ACT test.
• Hosted three blood drives, bringing in scholarship money for seniors who donated blood.
• Qualified students for state band competitions.

* board president
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

CANTON PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

46610 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton, MI 48188
T (734) 656-0003
F (734) 656-0009
www.cantonprep.com

Grades Offered: 9–11
Year Opened: 2014
Current Enrollment: 215
School Leader: Mr. Matthew Chesney
Management Company: PrepNet, LLC.
Board Members: Carl Berry*, Franklin Brooke, Theodore Lang, Marco Lollio, Ashlee Sherman

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 23%
Special Education Population: 14%

Points of Pride:
• Opened its doors this year with 225 students in 9th and 10th grades.
• Received more than 330 applications for their 9th grade class, resulting in an extensive waiting list.

“The staff is friendly, caring, and communicative.”
— Parent, Canton Preparatory High School

CHANDLER WOODS CHARTER ACADEMY

6895 Samrick Ave. NE, Belmont, MI 49306
T (616) 866-6000
F (616) 866-6001
www.nhaschools.com/schools/chandlerwoods

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1999
Current Enrollment: 700
School Leader: Mr. Joe Hammond
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Violet Rohrer*, Loretta Florida, Ralph Holewinski, Brian Sullivan, Mark Potter

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 22%
Special Education Population: 11.4%

Points of Pride:
• Participates in the National Junior Honor Society.
• Offers a Young Fives program.
• Provides real-world, hands-on learning in the sciences.
CORNERSTONE HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL

17351 Southfield Rd., Detroit, MI 48235
T (313) 486-4260
F (248) 430-6950
hhs.cornerstonecharters.org

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2012
Current Enrollment: 281
School Leader: Mr. Jared Davis
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: Kevin Schnieders*, Robert Dutkiewicz, Anne-Maré Ice

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 86%
Special Education Population: 11%

Points of Pride:
• Partners with Grand Circus to expose students to coding and computer programming.
• Proud of its first varsity girls and boys basketball teams.
• Moved into a newly renovated, state-of-the-art location.

“This school uses technology to prepare my daughter for college and career training beyond high school.”
– Parent, Cornerstone Health and Technology School

COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY
DETROIT (EAST)

7600 Goethe, Detroit, MI 48214
T (313) 267-4315
F (313) 267-4320
www.covenanthouseacademy.org/east

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2013
Current Enrollment: 251
School Leader: Mr. Michael Springs
Management Company: Youth Vision Solutions
Board Members: Lawrence Givens*, Thomas Lynch, Jean-Claude Lewis, Christine Surdock, Caroline Chambers, Mary Downey, Jeffrey Guella, Shannon McCuiston

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 96%
Special Education Population: 9.6%

Points of Pride:
• Retains 62 percent of the at-risk students who started here.
• Graduated approximately 47 students over three years who would otherwise not have graduated.
COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY DETROIT (CENTRAL)

2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Detroit, MI 48208
T (313) 899-6900
F (313) 899-6910
www.covenanthouseacademy.org/central

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2013
Current Enrollment: 305
School Leader: Ms. Anna West
Management Company: Youth Vision Solutions
Board Members: Lawrence Givens*, Thomas Lynch, Jean-Claude Lewis, Christine Surdock, Caroline Chambers, Mary Downey, Jeffrey Guella, Shannon McCuiston

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 83%
Special Education Population: 9.6%

Points of Pride:
- Retains 61 percent of the at-risk students who started here.
- Graduated approximately 70 students who would otherwise not have graduated.

“This school is like my family. I have matured and become more responsible because of the teachers.”
– Student, Covenant House Academy Detroit (Central)

COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY DETROIT (SOUTHWEST)

1450 25th St., Detroit, MI 48214
T (313) 297-8720
F (313) 297-8730
www.covenanthouseacademy.org/southwest

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2013
Current Enrollment: 218
School Leader: Mr. Derek E’Lon
Management Company: Youth Vision Solutions
Board Members: Lawrence Givens*, Thomas Lynch, Jean-Claude Lewis, Christine Surdock, Caroline Chambers, Mary Downey, Jeffrey Guella, Shannon McCuiston

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 88%
Special Education Population: 9.6%

Points of Pride:
- Partners with Southwest Solutions for a student leadership program.
- Students are positive participants in the Upshots program.
- Partners with LA VIDA, a program of the Community Health and Social Services Center.
**GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS**

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**COVENANT HOUSE ACADEMY GRAND RAPIDS**

50 Antoine St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
T (616) 364-2000  
F (616) 726-6210  
www.CovenantHouseAcademy.org

**Grades Offered:** 9–12  
**Year Opened:** 2013  
**Current Enrollment:** 327  
**School Leader:** Ms. Doreen Mangrum  
**Management Company:** Youth Vision Solutions  
**Board Members:** Dan Weingartz*, Jason Coppens, Michael Homrich, Gary Van Rooyen

**Free or Reduced Lunch Population:** 100%  
**Special Education Population:** 10.7%

**Points of Pride:**
- Participated in nationwide candlelight vigil for youth homelessness.
- Serves students ages 16–22.
- Connects students with programs in the community to give them character-building skills, resiliency skills, and work experience.

“Crossroads Charter Academy has a challenging and cutting-edge curriculum and way of doing things.”  
– Parent, Crossroads Charter Academy (K–6) 

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**CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY ELEMENTARY (K–6)**

215 N. State St., Big Rapids, MI 49307  
T (231) 796-9041  
F (231) 796-9874  
www.ccabr.org

**Grades Offered:** K–6  
**Year Opened:** 1998  
**Current Enrollment:** 337  
**School Leader:** Mr. Christopher White  
**Management Company:** Self-managed  
**Board Members:** Olukemi Fadayomi*, Kathryn Lake, Jimmie Rodgers, Douglas Sanders, Victor Piercey

**Free or Reduced Lunch Population:** 58%  
**Special Education Population:** 16.5%

**Points of Pride:**
- 2013-2014 median NWEA growth percentile for reading, math, and language usage for grades 2–6 is in the 97th percentile.
- Examines data frequently and the needs of all students are addressed.
- Students participated in various opportunities to raise funds for community organizations.

* board president
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

CROSSROADS CHARTER ACADEMY MIDDLE/HIGH (7–12)

215 W. Spruce St., Big Rapids, MI 49307
T (231) 796-9041
F (231) 796-9790
www.ccabr.org

Grades Offered: 7–12
Year Opened: 1998
Current Enrollment: 307
School Leader: Mr. Ross Meads
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Olukemi Fadayomi*, Kathryn Lake, Jimmie Rodgers, Douglas Sanders, Victor Piercey

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 48%
Special Education Population: 16.5%

Points of Pride:
• Competed for the first time in the FIRST robotics competition, placing 17 out of 40 teams.
• Both the middle and high school bands received straight “1s” at the district festival.
• The average ACT composite score for juniors has been above the state average for the last five years.

“Crossroads has instilled morals and values in my life that have equipped me for my future.”
– Student, Crossroads Charter Academy Middle/High (7–12)

DETROIT ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY

7000 Outer Dr., Detroit, MI 48235
T (313) 468-9518
F N/A
www.detroitachievement.org

Grades Offered: K–3
Year Opened: 2013
Current Enrollment: 61
School Leader: Ms. Sharon Yaecker Roesser
Management Company: Expeditionary Learning
Board Members: Lewis Butler*, Jared Stasik, Sarah Beaubien, Meghan Moynihan, Michael Hernandez

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 97%
Special Education Population: N/A (fewer than 5 students)

Points of Pride:
• Featured on the Ellen DeGeneres Show twice and visited by Madonna.
• Second graders interviewed local Detroit innovators and shared their learning with those leaders and the greater community.
• Scored as well as a third year school on the Annual Implementation Review given by Expeditionary Learning while still in their first year.
DETROIT ENTERPRISE ACADEMY

11224 Kercheval St., Detroit, MI 48214
T (313) 823-5799
F (313) 823-0342
www.nhaschools.com/schools/detroitenterprise

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2004
Current Enrollment: 523
School Leader: Ms. Chanavia Patterson
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Steven Wade*, Katherine Grisson, Alicia Miller, David Rudolph, Jamita Lewis

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 99%
Special Education Population: 8.8%

Points of Pride:
• Glee Club received first place rating for four consecutive years at the 2014 Trills & Thrills Music Festival.
• Proud of their Diamond Award teacher, Mrs. Enkelejda Tomini, who helps students achieve high NWEA scores in math.
• Hosts an annual Fine Arts Showcase, connecting students and community.

“Detroit Merit is exceeding our expectations and our daughter is thriving and loves the challenge.”
— Parent, Detroit Merit Charter Academy

DETROIT MERIT CHARTER ACADEMY

1091 Alter Rd., Detroit, MI 48215
T (313) 331-3328
F (313) 331-3278
www.nhaschools.com/schools/detroitmerit

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2002
Current Enrollment: 747
School Leader: Ms. Sandra Terry-Martin
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Glenn Clark*, William Beddoes, Robert Farhat, Janis Ramsey, Paul Schaap

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 90%
Special Education Population: 10.2%

Points of Pride:
• Awarded the Beating the Odds school recognition as designated by the State of Michigan.
• Earned an Academic State Champ award for academic excellence in 2014 from the Center for Michigan.
DETROIT PREMIER ACADEMY

7781 Asbury Park, Detroit, MI 48228  
T (313) 945-1472  
F (313) 945-1744  
www.nhaschools.com/schools/detroitpremier

Grades Offered: K–8  
Year Opened: 2005  
Current Enrollment: 742  
School Leader: Mr. James Kinsey  
Management Company: National Heritage Academies  
Board Members: Renee Shepherd*, John Sloan Jr., Christine Wade, Arecia Williams, Teressa Williams

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 96%  
Special Education Population: 9%

Points of Pride:  
• Earned a Gold Rating for band, orchestra, and show choir from the Performing Arts Consultants in Ohio.  
• Five teachers from the 2013-2014 school year were nominated for the Excellence in Teaching award from National Heritage Academies.  
• Sponsors weeklong college tours to Ivy League and HBCUs for students.

“Early Career Academy has given me the chance to come out of my shell and to not be afraid of myself.”  
– Student, Early Career Academy

EARLY CAREER ACADEMY

1522 East Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48303  
T (248) 524-1800  
F (248) 524-1965  
www.earlycareeracademy.com

Grades Offered: 11–12  
Year Opened: 2014  
Current Enrollment: 36  
School Leader: Ms. Amy Boyles  
Management Company: ITT Educational Services, Inc.  
Board Members: Brian Fifelski*, George Corser, Joyce Memminger, Elisabeth Nevitt

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 42%  
Special Education Population: N/A (fewer than 5 students)

Points of Pride:  
• Students take specific career-focused electives in information technology.  
• All students have laptops.  
• Students may earn an associate’s degree after graduation from ITT-Tech.
EAST ARBOR CHARTER ACADEMY

6885 Merritt Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
T (734) 484-5506
F (734) 547-3078
www.nhaschools.com/schools/eastarbor

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2011
Current Enrollment: 768
School Leader: Ms. Tanesha Newby
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Kirk Schneemann*, Vanina Gilmore, Taisha Fountain, Matthew Hudson

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 32%
Special Education Population: 9.4%

Points of Pride:
• Out performed our neighboring district and the state average in 16 out of 17 categories on the MEAP test in the 2013-2014 school year.
• Recognized as one of the top performing schools in the National Heritage Academies network in academic growth in 2013 and 2014.

“East Arbor is special because they value my children as individuals.”
—Parent, East Arbor Charter Academy

ENDEAVOR CHARTER ACADEMY

380 N. Helmer Rd., Springfield, MI 49037
T (269) 962-9300
F (269) 962-9393
www.nhaschools.com/schools/endeavor

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1998
Current Enrollment: 615
School Leader: Ms. Angela Wyckoff
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Nola Batch*, Linda Wendt, Erich Henkel, Barbara Rupp, Rachel Ham

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 67%
Special Education Population: 8.6%

Points of Pride:
• Proud of their Diamond Award teacher, Ms. Amy Cook, for closing the student achievement gap.
• Implemented the Be Nice anti-bullying program.
• Enjoys an active parent volunteer program.

* board president
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

EVERGREEN ACADEMY

2121 Hudson Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008
T (269) 488-6324
F (269) 731-5246
oneamazingclass.org/evergreen-academy

Grades Offered: K–6
Year Opened: 2012
Current Enrollment: 54
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Anderson-Rolfe
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
Board Members: Larry Harris*, Gerald Hollaway, Nancy Lindahl

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 52%
Special Education Population: 11.1%

Points of Pride:
• Participates in community outreach activities such as a holiday mitten tree and an Earth Day clean up project.
• Held a free parent appreciation gym night during National School Choice Week.
• 78 percent of students met or exceeded their NWEA spring goals in May 2014.

“I could not be happier that my daughter chose Evergreen Academy for my grandson. He has flourished.”
— Grandparent, Evergreen Academy

EXCEL CHARTER ACADEMY

4201 Breton Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512
T (616) 281-9339
F (616) 281-6707
www.nhaschools.com/schools/excel

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1995
Current Enrollment: 758
School Leader: Mr. Dan Bartels
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Dale Mowry*, Kris Mauren, Sydeon Harvey, Patti Zehr, Aaron Brander, Camden Breiden, Mark Brieve

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 44%
Special Education Population: 7.6%

Points of Pride:
• On the last MEAP test taken, Excel’s overall school results were higher in proficiency in all five subjects than in the year prior.
• 98 percent of parents said they are satisfied overall with the school, including 72 percent who indicated they are highly satisfied.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

FAXON LANGUAGE IMMERSION ACADEMY

28555 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334
T (248) 702-6272
F (248) 702-6376
www.faxonacademy.com

Grades Offered: K–7
Year Opened: 2012
Current Enrollment: 98
School Leader: Ms. Rosalie Cohen
Management Company: American Charter Education/P.I.E. Management, LLC
Board Members: Paul Potts*, Terrance Goff, Michele Jones

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 27%
Special Education Population: N/A (fewer than 5 students)

Points of Pride:
• Experienced a dramatic rise in NWEA MAP scores.
• Visited by Tuskegee Airmen.
• Took field trips to the new Michigan Aquarium and the Henry Ford Museum.

“Forest Academy holds the highest standards for education.”
– Teacher, Forest Academy

FOREST ACADEMY

5196 Comstock Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49048
T (269) 488-2315
F (269) 488-2317
www.oneamazingclass.org/forest-academy

Grades Offered: K–6
Year Opened: 2011
Current Enrollment: 172
School Leader: Ms. Amanda Brown
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
Board Members: Nancy Murray*, Dave Nieuwenhuis, Kimberly Lamp, Whitney Wilkins

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 63%
Special Education Population: 11%

Points of Pride:
• Provides a 10:1 ratio of students to teachers.
• Offers weekly student preview and progress reports.
• Holds monthly assemblies where students present the next character trait through simple skits and music.

* board president
GLOBAL HEIGHTS ACADEMY
23713 Joy Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
T (313) 624-3400
F (313) 624-3401
www.globalheights.gee-edu.com

Grades Offered: K–5
Year Opened: 2010
Current Enrollment: 246
School Leader: Mr. Shawn Robson
Management Company: Global Educational Excellence
Board Members: Hussein Mahmoud*, Mohamad Bouhamdan, Eman Naura, Muneer Bawayeh, Sigmon Stephen

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 89%
Special Education Population: 9.3%

Points of Pride:
• Named a 2013 State of Michigan Reward School.
• Awarded a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grant to improve students and staff healthy eating habits.
• Joining the 4-H program and beginning a school-wide garden.

“Global Heights students are always happy to be in school. It’s a great atmosphere to be a part of.”
– Staff Member, Global Heights Academy

GRAND RIVER ACADEMY
28111 Eight Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152
T (248) 893-6100
F (248) 479-1996
www.nhaschools.com/schools/grandriver

Grades Offered: K–6
Year Opened: 2014
Current Enrollment: 435
School Leader: Mr. Alan Harper
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Laura Dikeman*, Paul Beasley, Jideofor Dallah, Beauty Ikeri, Rashida Goudeaux

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 43%
Special Education Population: 6.7%

Points of Pride:
• Accomplished enrollment goals.
• Achieved lower attrition than many local schools.
• Devoted significant number of hours to faculty professional development.
GRAND RIVER PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

650 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49548
T (616) 261-1800
F (616) 261-1853
www.grandriverprep.com

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2008
Current Enrollment: 622
School Leader: Mr. Doug Wilson
Management Company: Prep Net, LLC
Board Members: Andrew DeVries Jr.*, Pamela Cuthbertson, John Booy

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 49%
Special Education Population: 7.6%

Points of Pride:
• Named in the U.S. News and World Report as the second best school in the state, with the school earning a Gold Award.
• Named one of the most challenging schools in the nation, as well as the state, for the second consecutive year.
• Ranked the second most diverse school in the state by the Niche report.

“Learning happens continuously at Hanley.”
– Student, Hanley International Academy

HANLEY INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

2400 Denton St., Hamtramck, MI 48212
T (313) 875-8888
F (313) 872-9113
www.hanleyacademy.com

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2005
Current Enrollment: 624
School Leader: Ms. Shameka McPherson
Management Company: The Romine Group
Board Members: Jeffrey Leib*, Chaffaye Carter, Richard Kaufman, Stella Szczesny, Farrokh Nassirpour

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 84%
Special Education Population: 3.9%

Points of Pride:
• Five of Hanley’s teachers have been nominated by MAPSA to receive the Sontag Prize in Urban Education.
• Ranked second charter in Hamtramck District actively making strides toward Number One status.
• Beat their select peer district by an average of 15 percent on the MEAP in 2013-2014.

* board president
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

HENRY FORD ACADEMY: SCHOOL FOR CREATIVE STUDIES ELEMENTARY (K–5)

10225 3rd St., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 826-1159
F (313) 731-0400
www.hfaes.hfi.org

Grades Offered: K–5
Year Opened: 2012
Current Enrollment: 396
School Leader: Mr. Seth Petty
Management Company: Henry Ford Learning Institute

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 89%
Special Education Population: 10.1%

Points of Pride:
• Celebrates the diversity of our school of students and their families from all over the world.
• Provides a process for creative problem solving, innovation, community connections, and parent involvement through Design Thinking.

“...I was very prepared for college through the art exposure and programs I participated in as a student.”
– Alumni, Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies Middle/High School (6–12)

HENRY FORD ACADEMY: SCHOOL FOR CREATIVE STUDIES MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL (6–12)

485 W. Milwaukee St., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 481-4000
F (313) 481-4001
www.schoolforcreativestudies.org

Grades Offered: 6–12
Year Opened: 2009
Current Enrollment: 840
School Leader: Mr. Curtis Lewis, Ph.D.
Management Company: Henry Ford Learning Institute

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 84%
Special Education Population: 10.1%

Points of Pride:
• Provide a dual enrollment program with the College for Creative Studies.
• 100 percent of 2014 graduates completed Senior Mastery Process Career Exploration and Internship program.
**KNAPP CHARTER ACADEMY**

1759 Leffingwell NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
T (616) 364-1100  
F (616) 364-9780  
www.nhaschools.com/schools/knapp

Grades Offered: K–8  
Year Opened: 1997  
Current Enrollment: 773  
School Leader: Mr. Dave Turcotte  
Management Company: National Heritage Academies  
Board Members: Zoe Wilson*, Elaine Meredith, Michael Golder, Cheryl Elmer, Keith Lang  

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 60%  
Special Education Population: 7.5%

Points of Pride:  
- Selected to continue with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Salmon in the Classroom project.  
- Staff partner with Habitat for Humanity leading to three more homes being dedicated in the fall to in-need families.

“They take the time to show you they care about your child and the parent.”

– Parent, Legacy Charter Academy

**LEGACY CHARTER ACADEMY**

4900 E. Hildale St., Detroit, MI 48234  
T (313) 368-2215  
F (313) 432-2807  
www.nhaschools.com/schools/legacy

Grades Offered: K–8  
Year Opened: 2010  
Current Enrollment: 729  
School Leader: Mr. Letosky Carey  
Management Company: National Heritage Academies  
Board Members: Peter Stickney*, Carlanda Denham, Snezana Crkovski, Ajara Alghali, Linda Bruton  

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 97%  
Special Education Population: 10.3%

Points of Pride:  
- Graduated its first 8th grade class in 2014.  
- Outscored its host district on the MEAP test in 2013-2014.  
- Focuses on the reward vs. consequence to encourage positive student behavior.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

LINCOLN-KING ACADEMY
13436 Grove Street St., Detroit, MI 48235
T (313) 862-2352
F (313) 862-2462
www.lka.cornerstonecharters.org

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2012
Current Enrollment: 570
School Leader: Ms. Carolyn Brown
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: James Ryder*, Steve Londo, Catherine Govan, Marcia Kreger, Gerald Seizert, Kennis Wooten, Shannon Richey

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 91%
Special Education Population: 9.5%

Points of Pride:
• Offers a Parent Center.
• Implemented a technology-infused blended learning model.
• Provides every student a free, complete breakfast when they enter their classroom.

“The administrators are very accessible, and it makes it easy for parents to be involved.”
– Parent, Lincoln-King Academy

MADISON-CARVER ACADEMY
19900 McIntyre Street St., Detroit, MI 48219
T (313) 486-4626
F N/A
www.mca.cornerstonecharters.org

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2012
Current Enrollment: 417
School Leader: Ms. Carolyn Boyer
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: Jeffrey Huebner*, Kelly Carter, Tony Cotton, DiAnna Solomon

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 84%
Special Education Population: 7.7%

Points of Pride:
• Awarded the National Award for Promising Practices in Character Education for two consecutive years.
• Offers Teen Trendsetters, a mentoring program in reading facilitated by middle school students.
• Designated a Top 31 School in Detroit.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS
  * board president

8155 Ritter Ave., Centerline, MI 48015
T (586) 920-2163
F (586) 920-2164
www.mmsaonline.org

Grades Offered: K–12
Year Opened: 2009
Current Enrollment: 531
School Leader: Mr. Oguzhan Yildiz
Management Company: Concept Schools, Inc.
Board Members: Taulant Kadiu*, Myra Dutton, Ahmet Ugur, Muhammed E. Kutay, Suleyman Uludag
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 79%
Special Education Population: 3.8%
Points of Pride:
  • Participates in science fairs and math competitions both in and out of state.
  • Supplies an individualized college guidance support system.
  • Motivates students through the Ivy League Mentorship program.

“MMSA is a school where love, patience, and education are top priorities!”
  – Parent, Michigan Mathematics and Science Academy

METRO CHARTER ACADEMY

34800 Ecorse Rd., Romulus, MI 48174
T (734) 641-3200
F (734) 641-6530
www.nhaschools.com/schools/metro

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2000
Current Enrollment: 743
School Leader: Ms. Shelli Wildfong
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Louis Whitlock*, Howard Behr Jr., Gregory Foster, Shamin Sanders, Regina Pierce
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 68%
Special Education Population: 12%
Points of Pride:
  • Offers 6th–8th grade students two elective courses each trimester, in addition to core classes.
  • Supports a very competitive Accelerated Learners program.
  • Ranked in the top of Metro’s management company for parent and employee satisfaction in 2013-2014.

MICHIGAN MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

8155 Ritter Ave., Centerline, MI 48015
T (586) 920-2163
F (586) 920-2164
www.mmsaonline.org

Grades Offered: K–12
Year Opened: 2009
Current Enrollment: 531
School Leader: Mr. Oguzhan Yildiz
Management Company: Concept Schools, Inc.
Board Members: Taulant Kadiu*, Myra Dutton, Ahmet Ugur, Muhammed E. Kutay, Suleyman Uludag
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 79%
Special Education Population: 3.8%
Points of Pride:
  • Participates in science fairs and math competitions both in and out of state.
  • Supplies an individualized college guidance support system.
  • Motivates students through the Ivy League Mentorship program.
GRAND VALLEY CHARter SCHOOLS

MICHIGAN VIRTUAL CHARTER ACADEMY

678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 190, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
T (616) 309-1601
F (616) 309-1608
www.k12.com/mvca

Grades Offered: K–12
Year Opened: 2010
Current Enrollment: 2,804
School Leader: Ms. Jean Broadwater
Management Company: K12, Inc.
Board Members: Julius Bender Jr.*, Tarolyn Buckles, Marva Foster,
Sa’Keenha Hester, Scott Strangland, Monique Lake

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 63%
Special Education Population: 15%

Points of Pride:
• Offers small group and one-to-one instruction.
• Employs many Blue Ribbon Teachers and is a Blue Ribbon
School for Study Island.
• Offers a credit recovery program for high school students.

“i love how supportive the teachers are at Muskegon Covenant and how i can work at my own pace.”
— Student, Muskegon Covenant Academy

MUSKEGON COVENANT ACADEMY

125 Catherine Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442
T (231) 720-3100
F N/A
www.mcovenantacademy.org

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2014
Current Enrollment: 97
School Leader: Mr. Jim VanBergen
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Gregory Pittman*, Asaline Scott, James Fisher,
Donna Pennington, Chris McGuigan

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 99%
Special Education Population: N/A (fewer than 5 students)

Points of Pride:
• Assists more than 140 students with earning high school credits toward
a diploma, after opening with just nine students in 2014.
• Of the first graduating class of seven students, six are enrolling at
community college in the next available term.
**NEW PARADIGM COLLEGE PREP**

2450 S. Beatrice, Detroit, MI 48217  
T (313) 406-7060  
F N/A  
npcollegeprep.org

**Grades Offered:** K–5  
**Year Opened:** 2014  
**Current Enrollment:** 55  
**School Leader:** Ms. Tamara Collins  
**Management Company:** New Paradigm for Education (NPFE)  
**Board Members:** Carine Hails*, Cary Junior, Gregory Maddox

**Free or Reduced Lunch Population:** 100%  
**Special Education Population:** N/A (fewer than 5 students)

**Points of Pride:**
- Majority of students have moved one or more reading passages in efforts to be on or above grade level.
- Created a culture of excellence by replicating NPFE’s flagship school.
- Students have adopted high expectations of themselves with the help of the staff.

“The New Paradigm is a growing environment that challenges me to be a better teacher every day.”  
— Teacher, New Paradigm College Prep

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**OAKLAND ACADEMY**

6325 Oakland Dr., Portage, MI 49024  
T (269) 324-8951  
F (269) 324-8974  
www.oakland-academy.org

**Grades Offered:** K–6  
**Year Opened:** 1998  
**Current Enrollment:** 222  
**School Leader:** Ms. Shawn Boris  
**Management Company:** Foundation for Behavioral Resources  
**Board Members:** Charles Simpson*, Therese Searles, Randy Bonzheim, Earl Dalzell

**Free or Reduced Lunch Population:** 30%  
**Special Education Population:** 10.8%

**Points of Pride:**
- In the 2013-2014 school year, 79 percent of students reached their spring NWEA goals.
- Offers weekly preview and progress reports to keep parents informed of their child’s progress.
- Partners with the community on food and clothing drives, volunteering at the local hospital and with the Salvation Army.

* board president
**GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS**

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**PARAGON CHARTER ACADEMY**

3750 McCain Rd., Jackson, MI 49201  
T (517) 750-9500  
F (517) 750-9501  
www.nhaschools.com/schools/paragon

Grades Offered: K–8  
Year Opened: 1998  
Current Enrollment: 655  
School Leader: Mr. Benjamin Kriesch  
Management Company: National Heritage Academies  
Board Members: Kevin Sykes*, Todd Gale, Joan Boldrey, Andrea Parker, Kathleen Wilcox

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 51%  
Special Education Population: 9.3%

Points of Pride:  
- Celebrating 15 years of operation.  
- Donated more than 5,000 food items for a Thanksgiving food drive.  
- Inducted 31 students to Junior National Honor Society.

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**REACH CHARTER ACADEMY**

25275 Chippendale, Roseville, MI 48066  
T (586) 498-9171  
F (586) 498-9173  
www.nhaschools.com/schools/reach

Grades Offered: K–8  
Year Opened: 2008  
Current Enrollment: 742  
School Leader: Ms. Nicole Young  
Management Company: National Heritage Academies  
Board Members: Jared Dell*, Lynne Morgan-Bernard, Robert Hey, Mushir Khwaja, Kristin Sokue

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 78%  
Special Education Population: 9.3%

Points of Pride:  
- Achieved an NWEA MAP 150 percent rate of growth for grades 2–8 from Fall 2013 to Spring 2014.  
- Offered an Intensive Summer Learning program in 2014.  
- Offers a multitiered support system designed to meet the needs of all learners.

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“The staff and teachers are all so caring and look out for the best interests of our children.”  
– Parent, Reach Charter Academy

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56 schools
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

SOUTH CANTON SCHOLARS CHARTER ACADEMY
3085 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188
T (734) 398-5658
F (734) 547-3077
www.nhaschools.com/schools/southcanton

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2011
Current Enrollment: 787
School Leader: Ms. Sabrina Terenzi
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Kimberly Gaedeke, Adil Iqbal, Melissa Laing, Audrey Tedford
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 18%
Special Education Population: 6.9%
Points of Pride:
• Won three Eagle Awards from NHA in 2013-2014 based on student attendance, enrollment, and academic growth.
• Proud of their kindergarten teacher who was named Teacher of Excellence from NHA in 2014-2015.
• Ranked in the 94th percentile base of MEAP 2013.

“This is the first school where my child has been where he actually wants to go to school.”
– Parent, Southwest Detroit Lighthouse Charter Academy

SOUTHWEST DETROIT LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER ACADEMY
4001 29th St., Detroit, MI 48210
T (313) 782-4422
F (313) 782-4469
www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/sdlca

Grades Offered: K–7
Year Opened: 2013
Current Enrollment: 357
School Leader: Ms. LaToya Asaya
Management Company: Lighthouse Academies, Inc.
Board Members: Julie Feinburg*, Elizabeth Santos, Cindy Gamboa, Rachele DiMeglio, Ian Wiesner, Trina Scott
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 97%
Special Education Population: 8.7%
Points of Pride:
• Partners with community organizations, which provide volunteers for the school.
• Celebrates the diversity of their school with students and their families coming from all over the world.
SUCCESS MILE ACADEMY

27300 Dequindre Rd., Warren, MI 48092
T (586) 353-2108
F (586) 353-2109
www.successmileacademy.org

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2012
Current Enrollment: 293
School Leader: Mr. Thomas Gladieux
Management Company: Charter Schools USA (CSUSA)
Board Members: Kurmmell Knox*, Mary Naber, Kenneth Bridgewater,
Vaughn Hurst, Glenn McIntosh

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 55%
Special Education Population: 9.6%

Points of Pride:
• Selected by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
to be a site for Salmon in the Classroom in 2015-2016.
• Increased NWEA math scores by 40 percent from
fall to spring in 2013-2014.
• Received one of the highest parent evaluation
scores in the CSUSA network its first year.

“Success Mile Academy has a lot of opportunities for parents to participate in our children’s learning.”
— Parent, Success Mile Academy

TAYLOR PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL

9540 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI 48180
T (313) 668-2100
F (313) 668-2101
www.taylorprephs.com

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2013
Current Enrollment: 223
School Leader: Ms. Aquan Miles
Management Company: Prep Net, LLC
Board Members: James Dinnan*, Tonishia Holloway, Audrey Spalding,
Karen Mulligan

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 62%
Special Education Population: 16.6%

Points of Pride:
• Experienced 300–500 percent average growth on NWEA last year.
• Offers a selection of AP courses, which students can start taking at
the 9th grade level.
• Each student is required to complete 60 hours of community service
before graduation.
TIMBERLAND CHARTER ACADEMY

2574 McLaughlin Rd., Muskegon, MI 49442
T (231) 767-9700
F (231) 767-9710
www.nhaschools.com/schools/timberland

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1998
Current Enrollment: 708
School Leader: Ms. Angelia Coleman
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Dorothy Scott*, Stanley Boelkins, Tracey Welsh, Tim Bunnell, Faye Jordan-Brown

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 97%
Special Education Population: 10.5%

Points of Pride:
• Participated in the Be Nice antibullying program.
• Became a part of the Muskegon Lumberjacks Reading Caravan.
• Held third annual Taste of Soul Night.

“Great school, great staff, and my children learn so much!”
– Parent, Timberland Charter Academy

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY
ELEMENTARY (ELLEN THOMPSON CAMPUS)

957 Holden St., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 874-9800
F (313) 874-9822
www.upa.uprepschools.com

Grades Offered: K–5
Year Opened: 2005
Current Enrollment: 375
School Leader: Ms. Tamara Johnson
Management Company: Detroit 90/90

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 83%
Special Education Population: 9.4%

Points of Pride:
• Uses SchoolNet for data analysis and tracking.
• Transitioned to Common Core with unit assessments.
• Holds monthly school-wide morning meetings.

* board president
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY
ELEMENTARY (MARK MURRAY CAMPUS)

435 Amsterdam, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 309-0552
F (313) 309-0487
www.upa.uprepschools.com

Grades Offered: K–5
Year Opened: 2008
Current Enrollment: 484
School Leader: Ms. Kimberly Llorens
Management Company: Detroit 90/90

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 78%
Special Education Population: 9.4%

Points of Pride:
• Offers a growing and vibrant after school enrichment program.
• Named an Excellent Schools Detroit Top 10 school in the 2013-2014 school year.

“Teachers treat the students as if they are their own. It’s a loving, caring environment. It’s family.”
– Parent, University Preparatory Academy Elementary (Mark Murray Campus)

UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY
MIDDLE SCHOOL

5310 St. Antoine, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 831-0100
F (313) 831-4197
www.upa.uprepschools.com

Grades Offered: 6–8
Year Opened: 2000
Current Enrollment: 416
School Leader: Ms. Aisha Scott
Management Company: Detroit 90/90

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 83%
Special Education Population: 9.4%

Points of Pride:
• Competed in the Delta College Math competition 2013-2014, representing the only school from Detroit.
• Offers an international travel club for students.
UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL

600 Antoinette, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 874-4340
F (313) 874-4510
www.upa.uprepschools.com

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2003
Current Enrollment: 573
School Leader: Mr. Dannon Holley
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 77%
Special Education Population: 9.4%

Points of Pride:
• Implemented the Expeditionary Learning Model.
• Participated in the community service organization “buildOn.”
• Offers an international travel club for students.

“University Prep Miller Campus has a well-rounded curriculum including a strong STEM education.”
— Teacher, University Prep Science and Math Elementary (Miller Campus)

UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH ELEMENTARY (MILLER CAMPUS)

2251 Antietam, Detroit, MI 48207
T (313) 782-4400
F (313) 265-3928
www.upsm.uprepschools.com

Grades Offered: K–5
Year Opened: 2013
Current Enrollment: 499
School Leader: Ms. Kimberly Phillips
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 71%
Special Education Population: 6%

Points of Pride:
• Partners with Marygrove College Institute for Arts Infused Education.
• Opened the Miller Alumni Library.
• Has an award-winning chess team.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH MIDDLE SCHOOL

5100 John R. St., Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 832-8400
F (313) 833-4816
www.upsm.uprepschools.com

Grades Offered: 6–8
Year Opened: 2008
Current Enrollment: 443
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Spencer
Management Company: Detroit 90/90

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 60%
Special Education Population: 6.0%

Points of Pride:
• Has a chess team, orchestra/choir program, and a study abroad program.

“...are extremely creative and academically inquisitive, which is key for future success.”
– Teacher, University Prep Science and Math Middle School

UNIVERSITY PREP SCIENCE AND MATH HIGH SCHOOL

2664 Franklin St., Detroit, MI 48207
T (313) 393-9166
F (313) 393-9165
www.upsm.uprepschools.com

Grades Offered: 9–12
Year Opened: 2008
Current Enrollment: 509
School Leader: Ms. Zetia Hogan
Management Company: Detroit 90/90

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 65%
Special Education Population: 6.0%

Points of Pride:
• Offers the Project Lead The Way (PLTW8) program in engineering and robotics.
• Facilitates a Career Readiness Center for students.
• Has a debate team consisting of 30 students.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

VANDERBILT CHARTER ACADEMY
301 W. 16th St., Holland, MI 49423
T (616) 820-5050
F (616) 820-5051
www.nhaschools.com/schools/vanderbilt

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1996
Current Enrollment: 469
School Leader: Ms. Holly Hillary
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Sally Zwiep*, Eduardo Amaya, Robert Langejans, Jonathan Brownson

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 68%
Special Education Population: 13.6%

Points of Pride:
• Ranked 21st out of 3,200 schools across Michigan based on state and national test scores.
• Elementary school ranked third in the State of Michigan.
• Proud of their 4th grade teacher, Dana Creevy, who won the Excellence in Teaching Award for grades 3–5.

“Without the support of the Vanguard staff, our son who has ADHD would not experience success.”
– Parent, Vanguard Charter Academy

VANGUARD CHARTER ACADEMY
1620 52nd St. SW, Wyoming, MI 49519
T (616) 538-3630
F (616) 538-3646
www.nhaschools.com/schools/vanguard

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1996
Current Enrollment: 769
School Leader: Mr. Mark DeJong
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Jeffrey Walters*, Darlene Kolehouse, Kevin Somero, John Naylor

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 42%
Special Education Population: 9.1%

Points of Pride:
• Ranked in the top 5 percent of Michigan schools for academic over achievement.
• Enjoys a high level of participation in the Vanguard sports program.
• The Vanguard Student Council sponsored a variety of community fundraisers.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

WALKER CHARTER ACADEMY
1801 3 Mile Rd. NW, Walker, MI 49544
T (616) 785-2700
F (616) 785-0894
www.nhaschools.com/schools/warrendale

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1997
Current Enrollment: 774
School Leader: Mr. Steve Bagley
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Phillip Catlett*, Ross Luurtsema, Robert Schellenberg, David Zoller, Gwen DeVries

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 37%
Special Education Population: 8.3%

Points of Pride:
• Four Walker teachers received Excellence in Teaching awards from National Heritage Academies.
• Donated more than $100,000 to the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart and Dodge Ball for Heart program.

“I absolutely love the parent involvement that is allowed in the school.”
– Parent, Walker Charter Academy

WARRENDALE CHARTER ACADEMY
19400 Sawyer, Detroit, MI 48228
T (313) 240-4200
F (313) 240-4203
www.nhaschools.com/schools/warrendale

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2001
Current Enrollment: 720
School Leader: Ms. Vondra Glass
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Ronald Lockett*, Carl Jackson II, Lamont Corbin, Naeesha Lonberger, Shannon Buckines

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 98%
Special Education Population: 7.9%

Points of Pride:
• Has excellent teacher collaboration.
• Utilizes instruction grouping and the use of two staff members in each room.
• Improved student behavior overall.
WASHINGTON-PARKS ACADEMY

11685 Appleton, Redford, MI 48239
T (313) 592-6061
F (313) 242-5156
www.washington-parksacademy.org

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 2009
Current Enrollment: 742
School Leader: Mr. Scott Cairo
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools
Board Members: James Ryder*, Steve Londo, Catherine Govan, Marcia Kreger, Gerald Seizert, Kennis Wooten, Shannon Richey

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 83%
Special Education Population: 9.5%

Points of Pride:
• Hosted the second Annual Literacy Night with free books for students.
• Embarked on a school-wide implementation of blended learning.

“West Michigan Academy is a small community that cares deeply about individual student achievement.”
— Teacher, West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics

WEST MICHIGAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND ACADEMICS

17350 Hazel, Spring Lake, MI 49456
T (616) 844-9961
F (616) 844-9941
www.wmaaa.com

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1996
Current Enrollment: 445
School Leader: Ms. Cathy Cantu
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: James Butler*, Carrie-Ann Tulloch, Marcia Rappleye, John Weaver, John Hayes, Leon Stille, Jamie Leroux

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 21%
Special Education Population: 10.1%

Points of Pride:
• Had its first performances in the new theater.
• Invited to perform/present at the Capitol.
• Created NWEA MAP testing promotional video with GVSU’s CSO.

* board president
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOLS

WILLIAM C. ABNEY ACADEMY (ELEMENTARY)

1435 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI 49503
T (616) 454-5541
F (616) 454-5598
www.thewcaa.org

Grades Offered: K–5
Year Opened: 1998
Current Enrollment: 397
School Leader: Ms. Genene Rhodes
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Jathan Austin*, Michael Daniels, David Wilson, Frank Berrodin, Daniel Calabrese

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 93%
Special Education Population: 8.9%

Points of Pride:
• Instituted an active data-driven curriculum, which resulted in a dramatic change to our school day.
• Has monthly award assemblies acknowledging the success and growth of our individual students and classrooms.
• Provides ongoing professional development by professional coaches.

“Students at William C. Abney Academy believe they are loved. They believe they can achieve.”
– Staff, William C. Abney Academy (Elementary)

WILLIAM C. ABNEY ACADEMY (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

256 Alger Rd., Grand Rapids, MI 49507
T (616) 301-2810
F (616) 454-5598
www.thewcaa.org

Grades Offered: 6–8
Year Opened: 2011
Current Enrollment: 155
School Leader: Mr. Markeith Large
Management Company: Self-managed
Board Members: Jathan Austin*, Michael Daniels, David Wilson, Frank Berrodin, Daniel Calabrese

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 99%
Special Education Population: 8.9%

Points of Pride:
• Improved test scores on NWEA.
• Established a partnership with Herman Miller.
• Held an antibullying production last year.
WINDEMERE PARK CHARTER ACADEMY

3100 W Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 48917
T (517) 327-0700
F (517) 327-0800
www.nhaschools.com/schools/windemerepark

Grades Offered: K–8
Year Opened: 1999
Current Enrollment: 724
School Leader: Ms. Yvonne Thomas
Management Company: National Heritage Academies
Board Members: Emily Carney*, Randy Umfleet, Andrew Kilpatrick, David Smith, Merritta Hunt-Proctor

Free or Reduced Lunch Population: 56%
Special Education Population: 7.7%

Points of Pride:
• Ranked third in NWEA Spring to Spring scores in all of NHA schools.
• Offers enrichment classes afterschool to enhance and promote real-world thinkers.

“The students and staff are strongly connected and inspire each other on a daily basis.”
— Teacher, Windemere Park Charter Academy

* board president
NEW SCHOOL PIPELINE

ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2015

AUGUSTA ACADEMY

600 W Michigan Ave., Augusta, MI 49012
Grades: K–2 (year 1); K–6 (full)
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources
School District: Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
Program Summary: Augusta Academy will emphasize a 10-to-one student to certified-teacher ratio, individualized programs of instruction, high academic growth, a safe and secure educational environment, and high levels of communication with parents, including twice-weekly reports regarding their children’s progress.

EAGLE’S NEST ACADEMY

5005 Cloverlawn Dr., Flint, MI 48504
Grades: K–3 (year 1); K–6 (full)
Management Company: North Flint Reinvestment Corporation, Inc.
School District: Taylor School District
Program Summary: It is the mission of Eagle’s Nest Academy to provide students with a safe atmosphere that supports and promotes growth in all academic areas in a way that enables students to be self-motivated scholars who will be successful at all levels of education and productive citizens of a diverse society. Eagle’s Nest will be devoted to developing independence in students by building confidence, competence, self-esteem, and respect for others.
NEW SCHOOL PIPELINE

ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2015

KALAMAZOO COVENANT ACADEMY

1340 Cobb Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Grades: 9–12
Management Company: Self-managed
School District: Kalamazoo Public Schools
Program Summary: Kalamazoo Covenant Academy plans to offer a unique educational program that puts the needs of the students first. The academy aims to touch the lives and improve the achievement levels of students who have previously been dropouts, homeless, or otherwise at risk. Students will each receive an individualized Educational Development Plan that will set them on a clear path to achieving their educational goals and receiving a high school diploma.

ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2015

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

1740 E. M-36, Pinckney, MI 48169
Grades: K–6 (year 1); K–8 (full)
Management Company: Global Psychological Services (GPS) Educational Services
School District: Pinckney Community Schools
Program Summary: Light of the World Academy will provide a Montessori-based education, which follows a child’s individual growth intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically by creating multi-age grouped classrooms. This set-up celebrates the learning process through independence, discovery, and exploration and provides a safe, peaceful, and respectful community that is grounded in service both locally and globally.
NEW SCHOOL PIPELINE

ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2016

CORNERSTONE JEFFERSON-DOUGLASS ACADEMY

17305 Ashton, Detroit, MI 48219
Grades: K–4 (year 1); K–12 (full)
Management Company: New Common School Foundation
School District: Detroit Public Schools
Program Summary: At Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy, student success will be facilitated through a standards-based curriculum, rigorous academics, and diverse after-school activities. The academy will offer students a 21st century technology program, links with businesses and the local community, and various partnership and mentorship programs.

ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2016

PARTNERSHIP PARK ACADEMY

Jackson, MI
Grades: K–3 (year 1); K–5 (full)
Management Company: Expeditionary Learning
School District: Jackson Public Schools
Program Summary: Partnership Park Academy is a small, urban primary school that will be based on the Expeditionary Learning Curriculum. All students will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become independent, effective thinkers, and responsible citizens.

ANTICIPATED OPENING FALL 2016

PATHWAYS GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Detroit, MI
Grades: K–5 (year 1); K–12 (full)
Management Company: Pathways Global Institutes
School District: Detroit Public Schools
Program Summary: Pathways Global Leadership Academy (PGLA) is aimed at putting metropolitan Detroit students on a college trajectory. PGLA places rigor, relationships, and relevance at the center of its teaching and learning. Students will master essential skills and content, take ownership of their learning, and think boldly while addressing complex academic and community issues.
GRAND VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL LOCATIONS

REGION COLOR KEY

Battle Creek/Kalamazoo Region
Detroit Region
Grand Rapids Region
Lakeshore Region
Midstate Region

Crossroads Charter Academy Elementary (K–6)
Crossroads Charter Academy Middle/High (7–12)
The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office uses data from a wide range of sources, including state tests and NWEA MAP scores, to determine the success and growth of the students in our schools. Take a look at some of our test and demographic data.
The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office uses data from a wide range of sources, including state tests and NWEA MAP scores, to determine the success and growth of the students in our schools. Take a look at some of our test and demographic data.
## Enrollment by Grade

- A Kindergarten 10.0%
- B 1st Grade 9.9%
- C 2nd Grade 9.4%
- D 3rd Grade 9.4%
- E 4th Grade 9.2%
- F 5th Grade 8.6%
- G 6th Grade 8.5%
- H 7th Grade 8.4%
- I 8th Grade 7.8%
- J 9th Grade 6.8%
- K 10th Grade 5.0%
- L 11th Grade 3.8%
- M 12th Grade 3.1%

## Demographic Enrollment

- A African American 51%
- B White 31.7%
- C Hispanic 7.3%
- D Asian American 5.4%
- E Multiracial 4.3%
- F American Indian 0.2%
- G Hawaiian 0.1%

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**Total K–12 enrollment for 2014-2015**: 31,909

**Enrollment by Operator**

- Advance Educational Services 1.4%
- American Charter Education Services 0.3%
- Charter HR Educational Services 3.3%
- Detroit 90/90 10.3%
- Expeditionary Learning 0.2%
- Foundation for Behavioral Resources 2.1%
- Global Educational Excellence 0.8%
- HR Charter Consulting LLC 2.0%
- ITT Educational Services 0.1%
- K12 Inc. 8.8%
- Lighthouse Academies, Inc. 1.1%
- National Heritage Academies 47.8%
- New Paradigm for Education 0.2%
- PrepNet, LLC 1.4%
- Romine Group 2.0%
- Self-managed 2.0%
- Youth Vision Solution 3.5%
Enrollment by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Region</td>
<td>17,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids Region</td>
<td>5,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeshore Region</td>
<td>2,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midstate Region</td>
<td>2,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek/Kalamazoo Region</td>
<td>1,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide/Cyber Region</td>
<td>2,804</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014-2015 Fall-to-Spring NWEA MAP Median Gains Percentile

All Grand Valley State University charter school students in grades 2–8 take the Northwest Evaluation Association’s (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test to determine math and reading instructional levels. When administered multiple times throughout the year, the test provides a remarkably accurate measure of student growth (gains). The chart to the right indicates the median gain percentiles for all GVSU-authorized schools in grades 2–8 for reading and math for the 2014-2015 school year. The GVSU CSO contract standard for NWEA growth is the 50th percentile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2014-2015 Fall-to-Spring NWEA MAP Median Gains Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>80th percentile, 81st percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>67th percentile, 71st percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>54th percentile, 58th percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>77th percentile, 71st percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>72nd percentile, 61st percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>81st percentile, 67th percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>78th percentile, 67th percentile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentile</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>70</th>
<th>80</th>
<th>90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

-data-
**Number of Schools per Grade Level**

- **Elementary Schools**: 53
- **Middle Schools**: 42
- **High Schools**: 20

**Four-Year Cohort Grad and Dropout Rate Average**

Graduation and dropout rates include schools in GVSU portfolio 3 years or more

- **Graduation Rate**: 77%
- **Dropout Rate**: 10% (2013-2014 GVSU Average), 8% (2014-2015 GVSU Average)
## Free or Reduced Lunch and Special Education Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Free or Reduced Lunch Percentage</th>
<th>Special Education Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieve Charter Academy</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbor Academy</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black River Public School</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byron Center Charter School</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Preparatory High School</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone Health and Technology School</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandler Woods Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant House Academy Detroit (East)</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant House Academy Detroit (Central)</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant House Academy Detroit (Southwest)</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covenant House Academy Grand Rapids</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Charter Academy Elementary (K–6)</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Charter Academy Middle/High (7–12)</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Achievement Academy</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Enterprise Academy</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Merit Charter Academy</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Premier Academy</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Career Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Arbor Charter Academy</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endeavor Charter Academy</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excel Charter Academy</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faxon Language Immersion Academy</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Academy</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Heights Academy</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand River Academy</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand River Preparatory High School</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanley International Academy</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies Elementary (K–5)</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies Middle/High School (6–12)</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knapp Charter Academy</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln-King Academy</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison-Carver Academy</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Charter Academy</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Mathematics and Science Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Virtual Charter Academy</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon Covenant Academy</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Paradigm College Prep</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragon Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reach Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Canton Scholars Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest Detroit Lighthouse Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success Mile Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Preparatory High School</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timberland Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Preparatory Academy Elementary (Ellen Thompson Campus)</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Preparatory Academy Elementary (Mark Murray Campus)</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Preparatory Academy Middle School</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Preparatory Academy High School</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Prep Science and Math Elementary (Miller Campus)</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Prep Science and Math Middle School</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Prep Science and Math High School</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanguard Charter Academy</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker Charter Academy</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrendale Charter Academy</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington-Parks Academy</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Abney Academy (Elementary)</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Abney Academy (Middle School)</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windemere Park Charter Academy</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*N/A: fewer than 5 students
At Grand Valley State University, we keep class sizes small to provide students with individual instruction from highly qualified faculty members who teach all of our classes. It’s just one of the reasons we are one of The Princeton Review’s “Best in the Midwest.”

Here’s more about why Grand Valley has increased its number of graduates by an amount greater than any other Michigan public university — and why students from across the state and around the world are choosing to start their grand adventures at Grand Valley.

- Grand Valley is recognized as one of “America’s Top Colleges” by Forbes.
- For the 19th year in a row, Grand Valley was named one of “America’s 100 Best College Buys” by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc.
• Grand Valley was named a “Green College” and listed as one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S.A. and Canada in *The Princeton Review’s Guide to 353 Green Colleges: 2015 Edition*.

• Grand Valley State University’s Seidman College of Business is ranked a “Best Business School” by *The Princeton Review*.

• Grand Valley is a good investment for the state. Ninety percent of recent grads are employed or pursuing advanced degrees; of those working, 84 percent are employed in Michigan.

• Grand Valley is ranked 10th among U.S. master’s degree-granting institutions for total number of study abroad students, according to the Institute of International Education in New York. During the 2013-2014 academic year, Grand Valley had more than 700 students study abroad.

• Grand Valley attracts the best and the brightest. The middle 50 percent of Grand Valley’s Fall 2014 entering class earned high school GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 3.8 and ACT scores of 21 to 26.

• Students across Michigan are seeking a Grand Valley education. The top six counties of origin for incoming students are Kent, Oakland, Ottawa, Wayne, Macomb, and Livingston.

• Grand Valley has earned first or second in the Director’s Cup for being the best NCAA Division II athletic program in the nation 14 straight years.

• Grand Valley has nearly 400 registered student organizations that engage in volunteer work, sports, hobbies, cultures, the arts, and more.

• Grand Valley’s libraries have employed the first commercial adoption worldwide of a Web discovery service, which simplifies the task of searching the libraries’ more than 250 databases.

• During the 2014-2015 academic year, students received more than $259 million in financial aid, with more than $78 million in scholarships, grants, and employment.
Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. It encourages diversity and provides equal opportunity in education, employment, all of its programs, and the use of its facilities. It is committed to protecting the constitutional and statutory civil rights of persons connected with the university. 9/15

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