The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office thanks all of its charter schools and photographers Renee Alexia, Daymon J. Hartley and Jim Hill for allowing the use of their wonderful photographs of the charter schools in this report.
• Grand Valley is a good investment for the state. Nearly 90 percent of recent graduates 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 2010-2011 academic year Grand Valley had 639 students study abroad.

• GVSU attracts the best and the brightest. The middle 50 percent of Grand Valley’s Fall 2011 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 GVSU education. The top six counties of origin for incoming students are Kent, Ottawa, Oakland, Wayne, Muskegon, and Macomb.

• For eight years in a row Grand Valley was the winner of the NACDA Director’s Cup for the best NCAA Division II intercollegiate athletic program in the country.

• Last year, Grand Valley community members engaged in 924,383 hours of volunteer service work.

• 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 2011-2012 academic year, students received more than $239 million in financial aid, with more than $66 million in scholarships and grant assistance.
“Every single child deserves a quality learning environment. Strong charter school authorizers are key to making this a reality.”

Thomas J. Haas, Ph.D.
President, Grand Valley State University
Grand Valley State University works to charter the highest performing charter schools serving students through continuous and actionable performance monitoring, a rigorous application process, and a continuum of support focused on improving the practice of teaching.

Learn about Grand Valley, the Charter Schools Office, and their board of volunteers who work hard to make these things happen.
Providing Quality Education, Choice, and Support:
Grand Valley State University

Access to quality public education is always important. With this in mind, I am particularly pleased with the work being done by the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office — work that is making a positive impact on Michigan’s K–12 public education.

With the state cap on charter schools lifted, the Charter Schools Office continues to offer excellent choices for parents, not only growing in the number of schools they authorize, but in the quality of schools as well.

Grand Valley State University is committed to being a model and resource for best practices in charter school authorizing. I am excited for the first Charter School Authorizer Workshop, taking place this year on the Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus. The workshop will be highly interactive and focus on the growing practice of charter school authorizing.

Grand Valley is also committed to our presence in Detroit, helping families in the city and assisting in any way we can to better the education options for their children. I am proud of what the Charter Schools Office has already achieved for children and their families, and I look forward to being a part of the continued success of charter schools. Please enjoy reviewing the work of the past year and recognizing and supporting the success of the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Haas, Ph.D.,
President

“Grand Valley State University has a commitment to lifelong learning and positively impacting elementary and secondary education. The trustees are confident in the Charter Schools Office and its work to achieve academic excellence, affecting more than 20,000 students throughout Michigan.”

NOREEN MYERS
GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

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Small Staff, Large Impact:
Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office

Our staff, through the support of Grand Valley, diligently works to improve the quality of education for children across Michigan. Guided by our vision, mission, values, and goals, we help shape and create charter schools that are consistently some of the highest performing in Michigan.

Vision
To authorize the highest performing charter schools.

Mission
To enhance student learning by providing oversight, compliance, and professional development to our charter schools.

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
1. To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Charter Schools Office.
2. To encourage competitive applications that propose innovative instructional models to meet the needs of targeted students.
3. To design a plan for providing accurate information about charter schools to the general public and selected sectors.
4. To strategically manage Grand Valley State University’s presence in Detroit.
5. To use the national standards for authorizers to measure the performance of the Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office.
6. To further inclusion and equity in the Charter Schools Office and Grand Valley State University’s charter schools.
7. To integrate Charter Schools Office activities within the broader university.
2011-2012: Preparing Students for College Admission

Last year, Grand Valley State University President Thomas Haas established a priority for the Charter Schools Office (CSO) to enhance the instructional and administrative practice of our GVSU-authorized charter schools by providing professional training opportunities for our faculty, staff, administrators, and board members. To that end, the CSO has been providing professional training in differentiated instruction, response to intervention, formative and summative assessment, administrative leadership, the use of data to drive instruction, writing instruction, learning styles, non-punitive discipline models, and the attainment process professional development series. While all our efforts focus on enhancing the academic and instructional processes of our schools, one in particular — our attainment process — strategically and actively addresses one important goal: to prepare our students for postsecondary education.

The reality is that while 90 percent of Michigan’s ninth grade students express the desire to attend college, only 41 percent eventually matriculate to a postsecondary school. The academic programs in our charter schools are preparing students for the rigors of college, but many students lack an understanding of how to get there. In fact, many of our charter school students have never been on a college campus. For them, college is a great mystery. To give them a glimpse of college life, Grand Valley hosts an annual on-campus visit for 600 junior high school and 1,200 8th grade students from GVSU-authorized schools. Exploring the university’s campuses helps these students see college as a reality. They begin to believe that postsecondary education is a real option for them. This belief creates instructional relevance and has a positive academic impact on students — an impact that Harvard researcher Richard Elmore calls “unintended consequence.” Students begin to see significance in the content explored in class. They become more concerned with their grades, tests, assignments, and other coursework.

University Prep Science and Math High School, a Grand Valley-authorized charter school launched in 2010, has experienced these unintended consequences firsthand. They developed an organized attainment program that includes college visits. Their freshmen visit Ivy League schools, their sophomores visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and in their junior year, the entire class tours the University of Michigan. The first class to participate in the attainment program will graduate in 2014. We are excited to see how their journey unfolds.

In addition, GVSU CSO is preparing our students for admission tests by supporting the administration of the ACT battery of tests in our authorized schools. All Grand Valley charter school students will take the ACT Explore test as 8th graders, the ACT Plan test as 9th and 10th graders, and the ACT test as 11th graders. In addition to assessing aptitude, these assessments provide students and staff members with career readiness data, which can drive relevancy of instructional programming.

Our attainment process and ancillary college preparation programs offered by GVSU CSO are giving our students not only the hope of attending college but also the skills they need to successfully matriculate to postsecondary institutions. Going forward, we plan to increase the number of workshops we offer to our charter schools, further enhancing the academic and instructional practices within our schools. Our goal is to make “unintended consequence” the reality for all our charter school students.

Sincerely,

Timothy H. Wood, Ph.D.
Special Assistant to the President for Charter Schools
Our Volunteers: Charter School Board Members

“High-functioning school boards provide the accountability link to the public that is critical to student achievement, growth, and success. Grand Valley invests in charter school boards through regular and systematic training and support.”

JIM DEKORNE
FIELD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE

Central to the success of charter schools is the consistent practice of accountability — and charter school boards provide a vital link in providing that accountability.

The women and men who volunteer their time on charter school boards represent a wide variety of roles, from doctors to entrepreneurs to homemakers to assembly line workers to CEOs. Even though these board members occupy different roles in life, they all share common traits of high integrity, good judgment, and a desire to invest in their communities.

The charter school board holds the school accountable for student performance benchmarks and provides consistent direction toward achieving the school’s vision. In addition, the school board monitors the use of the public’s money and ensures that it is used for the benefit of all children. The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office assists school boards in their task by providing regular and systematic professional development to charter school boards each year.

Charter schools continue to excel in providing choice and accountability to the children and families of Michigan, and school boards play an indispensable role in that success. As of August 2012, our charter schools have 228 board members supporting their success.

Achieve Charter Academy
Bradley Defoe*
Judith Draplin
Richard Gordon
Michael Iacopelli

Arbor Academy
Janette Burland Frantz
Donald Gilmer
Jerry Harmon, II
Edi E. Smith
Philip VanVranken*

Black River Public School
Gregory Christie
Jane Clark
Ruth Crouch*
Timothy Dumez
Stephanie Elhart
Barbara Ellis
Thomas Guarr
Mary Mims
Brian Porter

Byron Center Charter School
Michael Alber
Anne Brouillette
Laura Buchanan
Doug Diekman
Konrad Grielow
Kelli Hull*
Rebecca Kleinbrink

Chandler Woods Charter Academy
Enid Carlson-Nagel
Timothy Compton
Loretta Florida
Violet Rohrer*
Brian Sullivan

Cornerstone Health School
Robert J. Dutkiewicz
Michael J. Elpers
Dr. Anne-Mare Ice
Arthur T. O’Reilly
Kevin B. Schnieders*

Crossroads Charter Academy
Iyabode Fadayomi
Sayed Hashimi
Kathryn Lake
Jimmie Rodgers
Laura Vallette
Dr. James Woolen*
Kristine Workman

Detroit Edison Public School Academy Chadsey/Condon (2013)
Carine Hails*
Cary Junior
Gregory Maddox

Detroit Enterprise Academy
Katherine Grisson
Brenda Mack*
Alicia Miller
David Rudolph
Steven Wade

Detroit Merit Charter Academy
William Beddoes
Glenn Clark*
Robert Farhat
Dr. Janis Ramsey
Dr. A. Paul Schaap

Detroit Premier Academy
Renee Shepherd*
John Sloan, Jr.
Christine Wade
Arecia Williams

EAGLE College Prep (2013)
Ingrid L. Draper
Roosevelt Gray Jr.
Phyllis I. Vroom

East Arbor Charter Academy
Vanina Carter
William Dean*
Judith Maynard
Kirk Schneemann
Karen Valvo

Endeavor Charter Academy
Nola Batch*
Miles Fitzpatrick
Erich Henkel
Linda Wendt

*president
Escuela Avancemos!
Zenaida C. Arria-Rivera
Monica M. Barbour
Jeffrey R. Bozell
Khalil E. Hachem
Maria Ramirez
Cristina G. Stamatin*

Evergreen Academy
James F. Hettinger
Gerald P. Hollaway
Kathryn E. Spiegel*

Excel Charter Academy/Grand River Preparatory High School
John Booy
Pamela Cuthbertson
Andy DeVries*
Sydeon Harvey
Kris Mauren
Dale Mowry
Patti Zehr

Faxon Language Immersion Academy
Bernd Barthel
Bernard Cohen
Jennifer Gerrard
Ann Klein
Linda Lax
Linda Robinson
Jamina Tepley*

Forest Academy
Gavin Inman
Nancy Lindahl
Nancy Murray*
David Nieuwenhuis
Nancy Seymour

Global Heights Academy
Sharif K. Alhassan
Mohamad Bouhamed
Hussein Mahmoud*
Ahmed Muaydh
Ehab Samaha

Hanley International Academy
Chaffaye Carter
Richard Kaufman
Jeffery Leib*
Grace Smith
Stella Szczesny

International Academy of Detroit (2013)
Melissa Boldt
Yvonne S. Owen
Daniel Woodcock

Knapp Charter Academy
Cheryl Elmer
Michael Golder
Keith Lang*
Elaine Meredith
Zoe Wilson

Legacy Charter Academy
Susan Crkovski
Carlanda Denham
Peter Stickney*
Rosanne Triano

Madison-Carver Academy
Mindy Barry
Jeff Heubner*
DiAnna Solomon

Metro Charter Academy
Howard Behr, Jr.*
Bradley Cobb
Gregory Foster
Louis Whitlock
Paula Winkler-Doman

Michigan Math and Science Academy
Myra Dutton
Taulant Kadiu*
Abuzer Saglik
Ahmet Ugur
Suleyman Uludag

Michigan Virtual Charter Academy
Julius Bender*
Linda Daschke
Marva L. Foster
Lincoln Marlow
S’a’Keenha Odum-Hester
Mary S. Tolle

Oakland Academy
Randy Bonzheim
Earl Dalzell
Larry Harris
Therese Searles
Charles Simpson*

Paragon Charter Academy
Joan Boldrey
Todd Gale
Roger LaMothe*
Andrea Parker
Kevin Sykes

Pride and Promise Academy (2013)
Sherrie Farrell
William Henderson
Boysie Jackson, Jr.

Public School Academies of Detroit
Jean Baker
JoAnn Broomfield-Williams
Annis Brown
Keith Cooley
Zina Kramer
Denise Lewis
James Nicholson
Edward Parks*

Reach Charter Academy
Harry Briggs*
Jared Dell
Nikki McPherson
Lynne Morgan-Bernard

South Canton Scholars Charter Academy
Kimberly Gaedeke
William Hayes
Adil Iqbal
Melissa Laing
Keith Ledbetter*

Success Mile Academy (2013)
Kenneth Bridgewater
Kurmmell W. Knox
Glenn McIntosh

Timberland Charter Academy
Stanley Boelkins
Tim Bunnell
Faye Jordan-Brown
Dorothy Scott*
Tracey Welsh

Vanderbilt Charter Academy
Eduardo Amaya
Robert Langejans
Teresa VanderZwaag
Sally Zwiep*

Vanguard Charter Academy
Darlene Kolehouse*
David Nieuwenhuis
Kevin Somero
Jeffrey Walters

WayPoint Academy
Robert Cutler
James Fisher*
Michael Helsel
Stephen Olsen
Briania Scott
Joyce Starr
B.C. Thompson

West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics
James Butler*
Chad Nader
Leon Stille
Vicki Stuart
Carrie-Ann Tulloch
John Weaver

William C. Abney Academy
Jathan Austin*
Michael Barnes
Frank Berrodin
Cheryl Chambers
Michael Daniels
Carleton Golder
David Wilson

Windemere Park Charter Academy
Emily Carney
Andrew Kilpatrick
Teresa Reid*
Stephanie Sanchez
David Smith
Randy Umfleet
**Jamie Ryder**  
Board President for Washington-Parks Academy

“The GVSU Charter Schools Office is amazing. The tools and resources they provide to our teachers, administrators, and board are the foundation of our success. Their models, which utilize best practices while creating measurable results, allow us to deliver a quality education and prepare our students for the future.”

The owner of J. Ryder Group, a firm that manages and provides services to golf tournaments, among other endeavors, Jamie Ryder has served as board president for Washington-Parks Academy, a Cornerstone Charter School, for three years and enjoys his position greatly: “Seeing the success of the students is what energizes me as a board member.” He is also excited about the progress Washington-Parks is making, noting that the school opened with 300 students and has grown to over 550, plus a waiting list.

The flexibility in instruction and technology application that charter schools allow inspires Ryder. He sees the idea of flexibility perfectly demonstrated in the chess program at Washington-Parks, where students have achieved regional and national chess championships. “At lunch time you will see at least half of the students playing chess,” notes Ryder. He views chess as a way for students to learn important skills like patience and forward thinking outside of the classroom.

**Jim Woolen**  
Board President for Crossroads Charter Academy

“Education is the primary way to economically improve our state and Michigan residents’ quality of life. I am proud to serve as a board member because charter schools in Michigan concentrate on academic achievement and character development without the politics of an elected board.”

Jim Woolen began his career in the IT field almost 35 years ago. He has been a programmer, an analyst, and a chief information officer, but found his true calling in education when he became a central office administrator in Georgia for a K–12 school district with over 150,000 students. After leaving the K–12 arena, Jim served in administrative capacities at three universities before moving with his family to Big Rapids and Ferris State University, where he is the department head for accountancy, finance, and information systems in the College of Business.

When Jim and his family moved to Michigan from Georgia, he knew that he wanted his children in a charter school because he appreciated the academic delivery in the charter environment. At Crossroads Charter Academy, he noticed the true commitment to the school that the teachers and administrators had. He also saw the focus on improvement in behavior as well as academics. When Jim was asked to become a board member at Crossroads, he very willingly accepted the position. He enjoys being board president because the members of the board are all on the same page, pushing for the same outcomes.
QUALITY
Our Partnerships
Effective teaching and learning require the collaboration of many gifted people and innovative organizations. The GVSU Charter Schools Office is fortunate to partner with many organizations to enhance the educational experience of our students, schools, and staff.

Learn about our collaborative efforts that support professional development and shared resources that contribute to the high quality of our schools.
Investing in Our Teachers and Principals: Embedded Programs and Learning Networks

The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office (GVSU CSO) believes in providing multiple avenues for our teachers and principals to grow professionally and become better educators. Through professional development workshops, opportunities for embedded programs within the schools, 50 percent tuition reimbursement toward a Master of Education degree, and the GVSU Learning Network, teachers and administrators are given the opportunity to enhance their skills and provide a quality education to the children in our state.

Aelise Goller
William C. Abney Academy

For Aelise Goller, the reading specialist networks provided by the GVSU CSO have been a big help as she works with students at William C. Abney Academy who struggle with reading. Goller was first referred to the Charter Schools Office to speak with Wendy Miller, who recommended different strategies and interventions to try with Goller’s students. Following this meeting, Goller began attending learning networks and found the professional development workshops to be relevant to her needs. She stated that the workshops at GVSU have a give-and-take approach and are more topic-specific than workshops she has attended elsewhere. Goller likes that Miller and Jill Weber, another GVSU reading specialist, give handouts at their trainings that she can share with other instructors at her school. She also was impressed with clever manipulatives such as using play dough for word segmenting that Weber demonstrated for workshop attendees. Goller knew right away her students would like the play dough because it was something they could do with their hands.

Melissa Langeland
Vanderbilt Charter Academy

Melissa Langeland enjoys the professional development offerings at GVSU because of the “menu of offerings” provided to teachers and administrators and wishes she had time to attend more workshops and networks because of how helpful they have been in her teaching. She said that attending the reading specialist networks has been like constructing a project with building blocks. Network attendees have been reading Why Our Children Can’t Read, which has encouraged knowledge to grow with each workshop. She also stated that networking with teachers and reading specialists from other schools has been invaluable: “You feel like a community.” Langeland appreciates the in-school training that the GVSU CSO provides, especially Wendy Miller’s assistance and training with Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), at the beginning of each year. Langeland says that Miller is always looking for new information and is willing to adapt that knowledge to the needs of Langeland’s students.
The staff feel empowered that they can do the work in the networks and bring back what they have learned to other teachers in the building as well.

KAREN CORNELL
Excel Charter Academy

Karen Cornell talked about a particular student with whom she’d been working since January. When Cornell began applying the segmenting strategies she had learned in a GVSU workshop to her teaching of reading and writing, the student's self-esteem began to blossom: “For the first time ever, she has taken a spelling test and received 100 percent, and she is learning to feel success.” She likes that the professional development offerings at GVSU are personalized to the needs of the participating schools. Cornell explained that Wendy Miller and Jill Weber got to know the school and its needs so the material at the workshops was presented in a logical sequence for the school and its students. Cornell points out that GVSU reimburses schools for substitute teachers who are needed when staff attend professional development workshops provided by the CSO and offers training free of charge to all charter school staff members. She said having the opportunity to attend professional development helps staff feel empowered and valued.

“The staff feel empowered that they can do the work in the networks and bring back what they have learned to other teachers in the building as well.”

KAREN CORNELL

Travis Thomsen, director of West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics, and his leadership team walked away from the first Learning Network event they attended as a group two years ago, he knew that what they had learned was going to be valuable to the work they were doing at West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics. The attendees discussed the common issues affecting all schools, and then were encouraged to talk specifically about those topics being dealt with at their own schools. It was a forum to discuss issues as a team and come up with solutions that would really work. He enjoyed Richard Lemons as a facilitator and appreciated that Lemons had a personality that worked well with his staff: “He has practical experience, a great deal of knowledge, and takes us through exercises that are meaningful.” Now two years into the Learning Network, Thomsen and his team have truly seen its value. The network events have helped his team create a common vision of what instruction looks like — that it’s about quality teaching and breaking with traditional paradigms.

“Travis Thomsen
West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics

It’s been neat to see some transformations in the buildings. We see teachers doing well and we make a big deal out of it.”

TRAVIS THOMSEN

Professional development workshops and networks offered in the 2011–2012 academic year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>91</th>
<th>Charter school staff participated in the professional development workshops and networks offered in the 2011–2012 academic year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,980</td>
<td>Professional development workshops and networks offered in the 2011–2012 academic year</td>
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Teacher Testimonies // QUALITY 13
Investing in Our Communities:
New School Openings

The coming years bring 13 new charter schools authorized by Grand Valley State University.

**Cornerstone Health School**
Detroit Public School District • 19900 McIntyre St., Detroit, MI 48219

- **Opening:** 2012
- **Grades:** 9 first year, K–12 full capacity
- **Proposed Enrollment:** 75 first year, 1,500 full capacity
- **Management Company:** Cornerstone Charter Schools

**Program Summary**
A blended learning environment will be used for 9–12 programming that will leverage the best of online and live face-to-face classroom instruction. Departing from the typical classroom model, students with the guidance from relationship, relevance, rigor, and discipline managers instead of classroom teachers will work through a project-based curriculum related to the health care field. Students will move through curriculum and grade levels at their own pace thereby maximizing productivity. K–8 programming will follow the programmatic excellence of currently operating K–8 Cornerstone schools where all students are prepared for college preparatory coursework through rigorous curriculum and character education.

**Chadsey/Condon Academy**
Detroit Public School District • 1250 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit, MI 48216

- **Opening:** 2013
- **Grades:** K–12 full capacity
- **Proposed Enrollment:** 250 first year, 1,000 full capacity
- **Management Company:** New Paradigm for Education

**Program Summary**
The mission of Detroit Edison Public School Academy Chadsey/Condon is to prepare students for a future as global citizens and successful lifelong learners. Utilizing a proven research-based curriculum, academic development will be achieved in a dignified and supportive environment that incorporates family, staff, and community partnerships in pursuit of educational excellence. The same operators and leaders of Edison Public School Academy, which is one of the highest performing K–10 schools in Detroit, will operate the new school.
EAGLE College Prep
Detroit Public School District  •  14213 Whitcomb St., Detroit, MI 48227

**Program Summary**
EAGLE College Prep’s (ECP) mission is to develop leaders by providing a rigorous college prep learning community, where students and staff work together toward the pursuit of academic excellence and character development. Educational Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is a nonprofit organization that successfully operates schools in both Phoenix and Milwaukee, where over 70 percent of their students are proficient (meeting or exceeding their respective state proficiency averages), and their attendance rates are roughly 95 percent. EEI aims to replicate these performance measures at ECP.

Faxon Language Immersion Academy
Farmington Public School District  •  28555 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334

**Program Summary**
Faxon Language Immersion Academy will provide students a chance to learn, appreciate, live, and compete in a global environment. The program will be a college preparatory program embedded with a language immersion design. The school will begin teaching students Chinese or Spanish starting in kindergarten, have small class sizes of 15–20 students per class, and aim to give students a competitive advantage in the global community.

Escuela Avancemos!
Detroit Public School District  •  3811 Cicotte St., Detroit, MI 48210

**Program Summary**
Escuela Avancemos! will be a bilingual and multicultural-focused school operated by the Expeditionary Learning model. The students will be immersed in a learning-by-doing method at the academy. All students will encounter daily experiential learning activities that embody five principles: explore, inspire, create, excel, and innovate. Hands-on, project-based learning that focuses on supporting the community will be the core component of the curriculum.

Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies Elementary School
Detroit Public School District  •  10225 3rd St., Detroit, MI 48202

**Program Summary**
The Henry Ford Learning Institute believes that having an elementary school aligned with the existing Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies middle/high school will help prepare students to meet the demands of the middle/high school program and increase the long-term success of the students. The elementary school will focus on reading, math, writing, and encouraging students to be excited about exploration and learning.

Evergreen Academy
Kalamazoo Public Schools  •  2121 Hudson Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

**Program Summary**
Evergreen Academy will follow the programmatic framework of Arbor Academy and Oakland Academy, both currently authorized by Grand Valley and operated by The Foundation for Behavioral Resources (FBR). Class sizes are limited to 20 students, with two certified teachers in each classroom. FBR’s proprietary Learning Management System used in conjunction with dynamic standardized testing provide students and parents weekly previews and progress reports in addition to providing teachers real-time monitoring of each student’s daily learning process.

International Academy of Detroit
Detroit Public School District  •  7300 Garden St., Detroit, MI 48204

**Program Summary**
Each school within the SABIS school network is modeled on a rigorous college preparatory system of education that has achieved a solid record of success in closing achievement gaps for students most at risk of being left behind. The academy is based on a replicable model and will provide a beacon for what urban education can achieve at scale.
University Prep Science and Math Elementary School-Miller Campus
Detroit Public School District • 2322 DuBois, Detroit, MI 48207

- **Opening:** 2013
- **Grades:** K–5
- **Proposed Enrollment:** 450
- **Management Company:** Detroit 90/90

**Program Summary**
University Prep Science and Math Elementary School-Miller Campus will provide Detroit children with a solid academic foundation to matriculate to and succeed in the district’s rigorous, project-based middle school and, subsequently, its college prep science, technology, engineering, and mathematics high school. The elementary school will use the Expeditionary Learning model; it will be a project-based, experiential learning program emphasizing literacy, numeracy, responsibility, perseverance, engagement, risk-taking, teamwork, and hard work.

Success Mile Academy
Warrendale Consolidated Schools • 27300 Dequindre Rd., Warren, MI 48902

- **Opening:** 2013
- **Grades:** K–6 year 1, K–8 full capacity
- **Proposed Enrollment:** 591 first year, 860 full capacity
- **Management Company:** Charter Schools USA

**Program Summary**
Success Mile Academy will provide students with the tools and skills necessary to develop superior levels of achievement. Teachers and school leaders at the college preparatory school will foster an atmosphere of self-discipline in a safe learning environment and maximize individual productivity to meet the needs of a changing global society. Success Mile’s proposed Education Service Provider, Charter Schools USA, is one of the oldest, largest, and fastest growing education service providers in the United States. It successfully operates 31 charters on 28 campuses, serving more than 25,000 students in Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana.

Lincoln-King Academy
Detroit Public School District • 13436 Grove St., Detroit, MI 48235

- **Opened:** 2009, GVSU will begin authorizing in 2012
- **Grades:** K–8
- **Proposed Enrollment:** 551
- **Management Company:** Cornerstone Charter Schools

**Program Summary**
Lincoln-King Academy (LKA) will provide academically rigorous classes staffed by experienced and expertly prepared teachers that acknowledge and honor their students’ histories and cultures. The mission of the academy is to prepare students to succeed in a global community and in life. Students will learn to understand important concepts, develop essential skills, and apply what they learn to real-world problems. LKA will also implement a range of services and programs to ensure the school is meeting the needs of the whole child.

Madison-Carver Academy
Detroit Public School District • 19900 McIntyre St., Detroit, MI 48219

- **Opening:** 2012
- **Grades:** K–4 first year, K–8 full capacity
- **Proposed Enrollment:** 330 first year, 650 full capacity
- **Management Company:** Cornerstone Charter Schools

**Program Summary**
Madison-Carver will follow the programmatic excellence of currently operating K–8 Cornerstone schools, where all students are prepared for college preparatory coursework through rigorous curriculum and character education.

Pride and Promise Academy
Detroit Public School District • 7000 West Outer Dr., Detroit, MI 48235

- **Opening:** 2013
- **Grades:** 9 first year, 9–12 full capacity
- **Proposed Enrollment:** 100 first year, 500 full capacity
- **Management Company:** Self-managed

**Program Summary**
Pride and Promise Academy will provide a rigorous, blended learning, college preparatory program with public service and safety strands. By year three of operation, Pride and Promise will offer a privately funded residential component to interested families. Pride and Promise’s development is chaired by Gary Brown, the Detroit city council president pro tem.
Recognizing Success: Schools of Excellence

This year, six more Grand Valley schools were designated as Schools of Excellence. GVSU CSO now authorizes 11 schools that have achieved this status. The 2011 schools that joined the elite group are Walker Charter Academy (Walker), William C. Abney Academy (Grand Rapids), Detroit Premier Academy (Detroit), Metro Charter Academy (Romulus), Knapp Charter Academy (Grand Rapids), and Vanguard Charter Academy (Wyoming).

Among the factors included in the Schools of Excellence review process are historical MEAP performances, attendance rates, graduation rates, and postsecondary enrollments.

“Charter schools succeed by having autonomy, operating more efficiently, and stretching each dollar further. Despite receiving $1,329 less in state funding per pupil each year, charter public schools are outperforming their competitors while parents across the state clamor for more choices. We could not be prouder of these kids and the remarkable teachers and faculty who are educating them.”

DAN QUISENBERRY
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES

2011/2012 GVSU AUTHORIZED CHARTER SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE*

Detroit Premier Academy, Detroit
Knapp Charter Academy, Grand Rapids
Metro Charter Academy, Romulus
Vanguard Charter Academy, Wyoming
Walker Charter Academy, Walker
William C. Abney Academy, Grand Rapids

*Schools listed in alphabetical order
Partnering Students with the Arts Community: Painting, Photography, Dance, Poetry, Sculpture, and More

This year, GVSU CSO and GVSU Art Gallery collaborated to partner six of our charter schools with renowned artists.

Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies
GVSU alumnus and Detroit muralist and fresco painter, Hubert Massey, worked with a select group of 7th–12th grade students to create a four part, 10-foot-by-40-foot mural that may be placed in the lobby of Grand Valley State University’s L. William Seidman Center when it is completed. Students selected to work on this project had to present their portfolio before an interview panel composed of teachers and professors.

GVSU alumna and Grand Rapids artist, Elaine Dalcher, developed a program designed to build on the sculpting skills the students gained working with her last year. Students studied the work of contemporary American sculptors, Chicia Booker and Marcia Perry, and in groups created pieces that will be entered into ArtPrize 2012. Students will travel to GVSU to see their work on display and explore ArtPrize.

Global Heights Academy
Egyptian water painting artist, Rana Chalabi, was an artist in residence for a week at Global Heights Academy. Ms. Chalabi worked with 3rd and 4th grade students, teaching them the basics of drawing and introducing them to watercolor painting. Students sketched out a work and then painted it. These works are now displayed in the school cafeteria and a selection of the best paintings and drawings will be entered into ArtPrize 2012.

Black River Public School
International artist Cyril Lixenberg returned to Black River Public School this year to work with master printer and GVSU art professor, David Keister, and Black River students on a screen printing project. Together, they created a series of silkscreen prints inspired by the sculptures they created for ArtPrize 2011.

Students watch and learn as master printer and GVSU art professor David Keister instructs on how to choose the perfect print.
Vanderbilt Charter Academy
Artist Anne Corlett provided a one-week, half-day summer academy in mural painting where students learned the basics of painting with acrylics and drawing. In September, students will sketch, draw, lay out, and paint a six part mural that will be displayed as part of ArtPrize 2012.

WayPoint Academy
Students from WayPoint Academy visited the 1930s regionalism show in the GVSU Art Gallery and the 1934: A New Deal for Artists exhibit at the Muskegon Museum of Art.

After an introduction to regionalism, each student was given a camera to photograph everyday life as they perceived it in Muskegon. At the same time, students repurposed a discarded book in which he or she wrote a short story or poem using the photographs they had taken. As part of the process, students took part in a workshop called Poetry in Action: Using Prose Poetry to Describe Art. The books created were displayed in a case in the school lobby. A selection of them will be displayed during ArtPrize 2012.

West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics
Sixth grade social studies students visited the Muskegon Museum of Art to participate in a special tour of the 1934: A New Deal for Artists exhibit and to see the one man play FDR Live.

The kindergarten class received dance lessons from current GVSU dance students and performed their dance for the 8th graders to review. The 8th grade students visited the Allendale Campus to watch the GVSU Dance Spring Recital dress rehearsal and took part in a critical review.

Additionally, West Michigan ceramicist Jeff Blandford was a guest artist in residence and did several pottery demonstrations for students during West Michigan’s Spring Arts Celebration. He worked with the visual arts middle school students, teaching them the basics of working with clay. Each student designed and created an eight-inch square, relief-surfaced tile. The tiles were put together to form cubes and stacked on poles. The finished piece of art will be displayed at GVSU as part of ArtPrize 2012.

GVSU ArtPrize Sponsorship
In 2011, GVSU CSO provided transportation, lunches, art programming, and t-shirts for charter school classrooms that visited ArtPrize in September. The program will continue for ArtPrize 2012 and the number of students expected to participate is around 2,000.
Mark is an individual who wants to make a positive difference in the lives of everyone that he comes in contact with. I have had the honor of working with him on numerous projects associated with the Athletic Department, and his work and commitment have been exemplary.”

DAMON ARNOLD, PH.D.
DIRECTOR, STUDENT SERVICES FOR LAKER ACADEMICS, GVSU

“Mark is an individual who wants to make a positive difference in the lives of everyone that he comes in contact with. I have had the honor of working with him on numerous projects associated with the Athletic Department, and his work and commitment have been exemplary.”

DAMON ARNOLD, PH.D.
DIRECTOR, STUDENT SERVICES FOR LAKER ACADEMICS, GVSU

Excelling at Grand Valley State University:
Charter Alumni Success Stories

Markeinen E. Bland
High School: University Preparatory Academy High School, Detroit, MI
Degree Program: Physical Education
Concentration: Sports Management
GVSU Graduation Date: May 2012

Attending University Preparatory Academy High School allowed Markeinen Bland advantages going into college that many of his friends did not receive. He interned with the honorable Judge Cynthia Hathaway in Detroit through her partnership with the academy, and she remains one of the most influential people in Markeinen’s life. At Grand Valley State University, he studied sports management and developed connections that helped him secure an internship with the Kansas City Chiefs. With the experiences and connections Markeinen developed at University Preparatory Academy and GVSU, he recently accepted a job to work with the Detroit Lions.

Autumn Modena
High School: Crossroads Charter Academy, Big Rapids, MI
Degree Program: International Relations, Spanish
Expected GVSU Graduation Date: May 2015

Autumn describes her experience at Crossroads Charter Academy as the time during which she grew as a person and developed the confidence needed to succeed in life. In addition to the solid curriculum that prepared her for college, the academy's focus on morals and character building helped prepare Autumn for an exciting future. After thoroughly researching international relations programs at different universities, Autumn chose GVSU because of its top notch program and a study abroad program that ranks in the top 10 among master's degree-granting institutions of its size. She was accepted into the university's honors college and just finished her first year. Autumn has a bright future ahead of her and plans to take advantage of all the extras the university has to offer.
Travis Blake

**High School:** Crossroads Charter Academy, Big Rapids, MI  
**Degree Program:** Film and Video  
**Expected GVSU Graduation Date:** May 2015

For Travis, Crossroads is a small school that benefits the community and provides a great alternative to the public school in Big Rapids. He was able to connect with his teachers and says that he really liked all of his teachers at Crossroads. He also was able to explore his interests while still receiving a quality education. Travis chose GVSU because of its film and video program and the reputation of the school. Moving into his sophomore year, Travis is excited to really dive into the program and work on more film projects.

Ariel Wilkerson

**High School:** University Preparatory Academy High School, Detroit, MI  
**Degree Program:** Physical Education  
**Concentration:** Sports Management  
**GVSU Graduation Date:** May 2012

Ariel professes that attending University Preparatory Academy Middle and High School was the best thing that could have happened to her. She came in as a shy, introverted only child and blossomed into a confident and assertive young woman. The small classes and relationships with her teachers gave her the confidence needed to succeed in college and life. In addition to campus visits with her school, Ariel attended the GVSU Summer Enrichment Camp sponsored by the GVSU Charter Schools Office during three of her four years in high school. The camp inspired her to do well in high school and look forward to attending college. After graduation, Ariel plans to earn a master’s degree in marketing. In the meantime, she is looking for a job in sports marketing and starting a video blog sports talk show from a female perspective.

"Ariel Wilkerson is a fine example of a hard working, focused student who needed to work while attending school. She did it with good grace and good grades. She will make a difference in our world; I am glad she and I shared time together over the past four years.”

LYNN BLUE,  
VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF ACADEMIC SERVICES, GVSU

More than 1,800 GVSU charter school students toured Grand Valley's Allendale Campus in the 2011-2012 academic year

"My principal at Crossroads continues to be one of the most interesting people I know. He is honest, straightforward, works one-on-one with students, and really has gained a lot of respect from the entire student body at the school.”

TRAVIS BLAKE
Growing up, Peter Middleton, art teacher at Black River Public School in Holland, MI, hated school and never even considered being an educator. He drifted a while after high school and landed in Florida, where he received a degree in psychology from the New College of Florida. He then received his master’s degree from Western Michigan University in fine arts and worked multiple jobs. He was a substitute teacher at Woodward Elementary in Kalamazoo, MI, and an adjunct professor at Kalamazoo Community College, Western Michigan University, and Glen Oaks Community College. His parents, who live in the Holland area, alerted him to a job at Black River, where he applied and received the position of art teacher. That was in 2000 and now, more than 10 years later, Peter has impacted and inspired many students in the Holland area. Because of this, he was the 2011 recipient of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) Charter School Teacher of the Year Award.

This award was founded in 2002 and recognizes a charter public school teacher who believes in and unleashes the potential of students. The award’s recipient must demonstrate remarkable effort and success in ensuring that every child in his or her care learns and grows to the maximum extent possible. Teachers, parents, students, board members, school leaders, service providers, and authorizers submit nominations annually. Selection of the teacher of the year is a multistep process involving two separate judging panels, with the results of the judges scores combined with the nomination materials.

Because of the autonomy of the charter school and the fact that he focuses on electives, Middleton is able to modify the art curriculum at any time and always keep it stimulating for his students. He also attributes this flexibility to the close relationship the school has with their board and their small school mentality. A few years back, Middleton had a student who was considering leaving Black River a year early to attend an art school she was accepted into. Middleton encouraged her to stay and promised to help make her last year interesting. He promised to work with her to create a show that would be exhibited at the Holland Arts Council. Basing their pieces on nightmares Middleton had, they finished 12 oil paintings of various sizes, and their work was displayed later that year. This student graduated from Black River and now is studying at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

For the past two years, through GVSU Charter Schools Office funding, Middleton and his students have had the opportunity to work with Cyril Lixenberg, internationally recognized sculptor from the Netherlands, and Cynthia McKean, renowned Michigan sculptor, to create art which was entered into ArtPrize. In 2011, Black River students created steel sculptures, and in 2012 they plan to enter a screen printing project.

“I love working with students and being a part of their education and feeling like I am making a difference.”

A Black River student screen printing with Black River art teacher, Peter Middleton, and GVSU art and design professor, David Keister.
Investing in Michigan: GVSU’s Commitment to Detroit

GVSU has long been a key partner in the effort to improve education for Detroit students. In January 2013 GVSU will take its commitment to new levels with the opening of the GVSU Detroit Center located in the heart of downtown Detroit. The GVSU Detroit Center will serve as the learning hub for GVSU’s 26 Southeast Michigan schools, nearly 20,000 K–12 students, and 2,000 teachers and administrators. GVSU graduate degree programs, teacher learning workshops, and charter school board governance training series will be available at the center.

"In partnership with Excellent Schools Detroit and other leading stakeholders, GVSU is a leader in improving teaching and learning in Detroit by linking some of the highest performing charter school operators in the country to the most underserved Detroit neighborhoods."

ROB KIMBALL, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND POLICY, GVSU CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFICE

The GVSU Detroit Center embodies the commitment of the GVSU Board of Trustees to the city and children of Detroit. Ideally situated in the downtown entertainment district, the GVSU Detroit Center will open in January 2013 to further GVSU’s commitment to dramatically improve teaching and learning in Detroit.
GVSU looks to partner with innovative charter schools that can meet GVSU’s rigorous charter contract performance expectations. Strategically located to provide choice and opportunity to Michigan students, GVSU charter schools are focused on improving student outcomes through diverse program models that meet specific regional and neighborhood needs.

Browse through our portfolio and learn about our pioneering programs, impressive success, and laser-like focus on improving student lives.
Achieve Charter Academy

3250 Denton Rd., Canton, MI 48188
T (734) 397-0960
F (734) 397-0968
www.nhaschools.com/schools/achieve

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2009
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Conley
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Earned two Eagle Awards from NHA for excellent academic growth and parent engagement.
• Raised nearly $6,500 for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart.

Arbor Academy

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

Grades: K–6
Opened: 1998
School Leader: Ms. Melissa Martin
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources

Points of Pride
• Donated supplies to the Humane Society, collected donations for five families during the holiday seasons, and participated in a number of team building exercises.
• Planted a community garden. Members from the community will be able to enjoy the fruits of the students’ labor in the fall.

“My daughter has moved up two grade levels in reading. She loves the challenge she gets from Arbor Academy.”
PARENT, ARBOR ACADEMY

Black River Public School

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

Grades: K–12
Opened: 1996
School Leader: Mr. Shannon Brunink
Management Company: Self-managed

Points of Pride
• Earned the School of Excellence title for rigorous liberal arts curriculum and small class sizes.
• Requires students to be accepted to a four-year college or university to graduate — a requirement that has been met by 100 percent of their seniors since its implementation.
Crossroads Charter Academy

Grades: K–12
Opened: 1998
Superintendent: Ms. Lynn Gullekson
Management Company: Self-managed
www.ccabr.org

K–6 Building
215 N. State St., Big Rapids, MI 49307
T (231) 796-6589
F (231) 796-9874
School Leader: Mr. Kendall Schroeder

Points of Pride
• Received the Bridge Magazine Champs in Charters recognition for their college readiness scores.
• The track team finished its season as division IV co-champions.

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: K–8
Opened: 1999
School Leader: Ms. Barb Lindquist
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Named a Charter State Champion in recognition of excellence for their academic achievement in 4th grade MEAP writing by The Center for Michigan and Bridge Magazine.

Byron Center Charter School

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

Grades: K–12
Opened: 1996
School Leader: Mr. Tom Kruzel
Management Company: Self-managed

Points of Pride
• Planning the sixth expansion project in the school’s 16-year history.
• Held three successful school and community blood drives, saving a potential 186 lives.

“My child’s teacher is awesome. She knows how to challenge each child at their level.”
PARENT, BYRON CENTER CHARTER SCHOOL
Detroit Merit Charter Academy (DMCA) is a big family — parents, students, and staff members work together to ensure that each child is challenged to achieve their full potential. What is best for DMCA’s students is always at the forefront of their decisions. With a focus on academics and morals through high expectations and a rigorous curriculum, students leave well prepared and able to choose from a long list of top notch college preparatory high schools. The college bound scholars program, which in part helps place students in high school, is a point of pride for DMCA. For the last four years, DMCA has placed graduating 8th graders into the student’s high school of choice, with students on full and partial scholarships to private high schools in Detroit and surrounding suburbs. These high school students often come back and volunteer at DMCA, working with both students and teachers.

DMCA is also proud of the relationships it has developed within the community. The DMCA works with or supports many local associations, leagues, churches, and various organizations. And offers after-school tutoring and a wide variety of clubs to complement students’ in-class education. Examples of clubs offered include debate, computer, robotics, jewelry making, art, board games, homework help, dance, knitting, exercise, step, drama, and more. Additionally, Grand Valley offers a free trip for students to its campus each year so they are exposed to college early on. The students experience a football game, tour the campus, and listen to motivational speakers. The DMCA likes to think of itself as a hidden treasure in Detroit. What the staff does at Merit is simple. They expect much, work hard, and stay the course. They believe that how hard you are willing to work will determine your destiny, and expect this from all of their stakeholders.

SPOTLIGHT SCHOOL

Detroit Merit Charter Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2002
School Leader: Ms. Sandra Terry-Martin
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Detroit Merit Charter Academy is a prime example of a School of Excellence where failure is never an option.”

8TH GRADER, DETROIT MERIT CHARTER ACADEMY

Detroit Enterprise Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2004
School Leader: Mr. Rodney Deal
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
- Recognized Reading Month in March with a host of activities: genre floor display contest, Literacy Night with Sweet Endings, Teachers Go Bananas, and D.E.A.R time.
- Hosted math, science, and social studies literacy nights.

“Detroit Merit Charter Academy is a prime example of a School of Excellence where failure is never an option.”

8TH GRADER, DETROIT MERIT CHARTER ACADEMY
Detroit Premier Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2004
School Leader: Mr. Vondra Glass
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Earned the School of Excellence title.
• Offers extended enrichment programs.
• Employs dedicated teachers and administrators.
• Maintains a transformative environment.

Endeavor Charter Academy

380 N. Helmer Rd., Springfield, MI 49037
T (269) 962-9300
F (269) 962-9393
http://eastarborcharteracademy.org

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2011
School Leader: Mr. Shawn Leonard
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Fosters a warm and inviting climate for visitors and families, welcoming parents to volunteer their time to help support various activities.
• The majority of students demonstrate above average growth according to NWEA MAP results.

“East Arbor is a school that challenges, supports, and loves its students. It is a place that makes you feel like you are part of something really special. East Arbor is one of a kind and we are on the brink of something brilliant.”

TEACHER, EAST ARBOR CHARTER 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: K–8
Opened: 1995
School Leader: Mr. Dan Bartels
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Outperforms local districts, as well as the state average, in reading and math MEAP scores.
• Ranked in the 70th percentile or higher nationally, based on their NWEA growth scores.

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

Grades: K–6
Opened: 2011
School Leader: Ms. Amanda Dickens
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources

Points of Pride
• Provides individualized attention to meet students’ academic and social needs with their 10:1 student-teacher ratio.
• Contributes to parents’ understanding of how their child is performing academically and socially with weekly preview and progress reports.

Global Heights Academy
23713 Joy Rd., Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
T (313) 624-3400
F (313) 624-3401
www.globalheights.gee-edu.com

Grades: K–5
Opened: 2010
School Leader: Ms. Jaleelah Ahmed
Management Company: Global Educational Excellence

Points of Pride
• Promotes cross racial understanding, acceptance, and tolerance and is proud of their racially and ethnically diverse population.
Grand River Preparatory High School
624 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49548
T (616) 261-1800
F (616) 261-1853
www.grandriverprep.com

Grades: 9–12  
Opened: 2008  
School Leader: Mr. David Angerer  
Management Company: Prep Net

Points of Pride
• Juniors earned an ACT average of 22.6 for the 2011-2012 school year, placing them well above state and national averages.  
• The concert band earned straight 1s at district festival and advanced to the state festival in April.  
• Students interacted with more than 30 organizations in the community for our second annual Day of Service.

Hanley International Academy
2400 Denton St., Hamtramck, MI 48212
T (313) 875-8888  
F (313) 875-8889  
www.hanleyacademy.com

Grades: K–8  
Opened: 2005  
School Leader: Ms. Carolyn Boyer  
Management Company: The Romine Group

Points of Pride
• Built the first new school building in Hamtramck since 1935 at approximately 63,000 square feet.  
• Has elementary and junior chapters of National Honor Society, this year inducting 29 members.  
• Accredited by the North Central Association.  
• Received the 21st Century Learning and Teacher Incentive grants.

“I’ve been at Hanley for six years, and I love how my teachers care for me so.”
MICHELLE GROCHOWSKI, 8TH GRADE STUDENT
Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies (HFA:SCS) is Detroit’s premier middle and high school focused on strong academics, art, design, creativity, and innovation. The academy has committed to graduating at least 90 percent of its 9th grade students and sending at least 90 percent of graduates on to postsecondary learning.

The college-going culture is evident through an established college office staffed by a full-time college transition counselor. Students and their families are introduced to postsecondary learning options through college nights that highlight colleges, universities, financial planning, and scholarships; college visits; one-on-one success meetings; and EXPLORE/PLAN/PRE-ACT/ACT testing starting in 8th grade.

The academy is truly college prep by design and is proud to be authorized by Grand Valley State University. The academy is implementing what is thought to be America’s only innovation-based middle and high school core curriculum with learning centers developed around design challenges that bring students together and engage them in the process of developing a solution to a real-world question. Alongside the focus on creativity and innovation in the traditional core subjects of mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies is the treatment of art and design as a core subject, too. All students take yearlong courses in art and/or design and learn to master the elements and principles of art and design, toward pursuing careers in those fields or learning how to apply art skills to other career interests.

The student experience includes extracurricular opportunities in sports and clubs that are academic or social, and learning extends into the community, incorporating Detroit and its resources. All 11th grade students engage in the Senior Mastery Process, which includes a 10-week internship in a field of interest and a research-based culminating project. The community comes into the school through Adult Partners, working professionals who share their expertise with students through lectures, presentations, and hands-on learning.

**Points of Pride**

- Highlighted in Grist Magazine online for their work to ensure students become skilled at “design thinking” and understanding their agency to change the world around them. They also have the preparation to pursue college and careers in design.
- Applauded in an Hour Detroit article for teaching students creativity in not just art and design courses, but all classes.
- Students will grow their own rooftop garden full of native plants and produce that will be a resource for learning about plant systems, native habitats, and healthy eating.
- Middle and high school students had the opportunity to better understand the College for Creative Studies student experience by touring the Ford Campus, eating with their student hosts, and visiting a college art class.
Knapp Charter Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1997
School Leader: Mr. Dave Turcotte
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Sixth grade students learned about micro-entrepreneurship and created their own small businesses selling key chains around the school. All the money earned was donated to Olivia’s Gift, a nonprofit organization that helps families with children who have suffered paralysis.

Legacy Charter Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2010
School Leader: Mr. John Cogley
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Received the National Heritage Academies Eagle Award for Flight School of the Year.
• When asked, 99 percent of parents report being satisfied with their child’s educational experience.

Metro Charter Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2000
School Leader: Ms. Shelli Wildfong
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Elected an official Michigan Green School due to installing a bat house on the property, forming a student Green Team to assist with recycling, having DTE Energy come in and teach the students about energy saving measures, and more.

“Metro is not your ordinary school. It’s a place where teachers are dedicated, students are engaged, and parents are committed to the overall success of the school.”
BRIDGET CHRISTIANSON, 3RD GRADE TEACHER

“Metro is not your ordinary school. It’s a place where teachers are dedicated, students are engaged, and parents are committed to the overall success of the school.”
BRIDGET CHRISTIANSON, 3RD GRADE TEACHER
Michigan Virtual Charter Academy

678 Front Ave., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
T (616) 309-1600
F (616) 309-1608
www.k12.com/mvca

Grades: K–12
Opened: September 2010
School Leader: Ms. Stephanie Hargens
Management Company: K12, Inc.

Points of Pride
- Staff members build relationships with students and families. Teachers have more parent contact in a week than they had during an entire year in a traditional school.

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Michigan Math and Science Academy

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

Grades: K–11
Opened: 2009
School Leader: Mr. Cafer Cengiz
Management Company: Concept Schools, Inc.

Points of Pride
- Earned the highest rating in their region, receiving an “A” with a 97 achievement score from the State of Michigan.

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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: K–6
Opened: 1998
School Leader: Ms. Shawn Boris
Management Company: Foundation for Behavioral Resources

Points of Pride
- Ran their first Rocket Club in which 5th and 6th grade students learned about teamwork, rocket propulsion, and aerodynamics, while building real rockets they launched and recovered.
Paragon Charter Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1998
School Leader: Mr. Zack Perfitt
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Offers accelerated learning classes to give students more options in their education.
• Students visited Mackinac Island; Chicago; Washington, D.C.; and St. Louis for educational field trips in addition to other local trips.

Reach Charter Academy

25725 Chippendale, Roseville, MI 48066
T (586) 498-9171
F (586) 498-9173
www.nhaschools.com/schools/reach

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2008
School Leader: Ms. Julie Breakiron
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Recognized as a Michigan Green School within Macomb County.
• Students completed several outreach projects helping those in need and the community.

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: K–8
Opened: 2011
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Cook
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• The chess club has competed at a state-wide level in two competitions and has placed in every category in both competitions.

“We figure out how to teach each individual student in a way that they learn the best. That is what makes us stand out.”
SUE DELIE, TEACHER
Timberland Charter Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1998
School Leader: Ms. Angelia Coleman
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Fosters a student service learning focus through site-based, community, and international projects and partnerships.
• Offers a four-day Ivy League college tour in New York for middle school students and parents.
• Teaches and exemplifies moral focus that helps shape responsible and caring citizens.
• Offers free tutoring for students through Sylvan Learning Center.
• Gives NWEA benchmark assessments three times a year to help monitor and gauge students’ academic progress.

“I’m so glad we chose Timberland Academy for our son. My husband and I appreciate that this school teaches the children respect and values that keep our society a better place.”

PARENT, TIMBERLAND CHARTER ACADEMY

University Preparatory Academy

Grades: K–12
Opened: 2000
Superintendent: Mr. Eric Redwine
Management Company: Detroit 90/90
www.uprep.com

University Preparatory Academy Elementary Schools:
Ellen Thompson Campus (K–5)
957 Holden, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 874-9800
F (313) 874-9822
School Leader: Ms. Tamara Johnson
Mark Murray Campus (K–5)
435 Amsterdam, Detroit, MI 48202
T (313) 309-0552
F (313) 309-0555
School Leader: Ms. Kimberly Llorens

Points of Pride
• Ellen Thompson Campus: Named by the State of Michigan as a Beating the Odds School.
• Mark Murray Campus: Launched a successful after-school enrichment program this winter that included classes in Spanish, watercolor, and piano.
• Middle School: Hosted their first Parent University, a series of workshops designed to engage parents with their curriculum and data analysis.
• High School: The highest number of seniors in the school’s history were eligible to attend the pinning ceremony this year, which commends students on track with graduation requirements.
University Prep Science and Math

Grades: 6–11  
Opened: 2008  
Superintendent: Ms. Margaret Trimer-Hartley  
Management Company: Detroit 90/90  
www.uprepsm.com

University Prep Science and Math Middle School (6–8)
5100 John R. Rd., Detroit, MI 48202  
T (313) 832-8400  
F (313) 833-4816  
School Leader: Ms. Jennifer Spencer

Points of Pride
- Offers a balanced, year-round calendar in all grades, as well as a longer school day than most districts in the state because more time in school truly makes a difference.
- Maintains a student-teacher ratio of 20:1, making their class size among the lowest in the state.

University Prep Science and Math High School (9–11)
2664 Franklin St., Detroit, MI 48207  
T (313) 393-9166  
F (313) 393-9165  
School Leader: Ms. Gabriela Gui

Vanderbilt Charter Academy

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1996
School Leader: Ms. Holly Hillary
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
- GVSU School of Excellence
- RTI program in Reading and Math
- New breakfast program serving all students
- Moral Focus Recognition Awards are handed out to a student from each grade level weekly.

Vanguard Charter Academy

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1996
School Leader: Mr. Daryl Vriesenga
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
- Recognizes the importance of strong teamwork between the home and the school. For the fifth consecutive year, Vanguard has received the National Heritage Academies Eagle Award for Parent Involvement.

“The teachers at Vanderbilt are incredible. It is obvious that they care about the students.”

PARENT, VANDERBILT CHARTER ACADEMY

“The teachers at Vanderbilt are incredible. It is obvious that they care about the students.”

PARENT, VANDERBILT CHARTER ACADEMY
At Walker Charter Academy (WCA) parents, staff members, and teachers work together to best provide a well-rounded education to the students. WCA concentrates its efforts on academic excellence, a moral focus emphasis, student responsibility, and building partnerships with parents. The teachers spend a great deal of time and effort to individualize instruction based on their students’ academic, social, and behavioral needs.

WCA believes that by concentrating on the efforts mentioned above, students graduate with great academic success and are prepared to take college preparatory classes and excel among their peers from other traditional school systems. WCA also believes its students are prepared to become the leaders of their high school of choice.

To prepare students for high school and college, WCA sets high standards, makes expectations clear, provides meaningful instruction, and watches children excel. Every student is given the tools for success — in and out of the classroom. With a commitment to hard work, good citizenship, and personal responsibility, students experience a safe, secure learning environment where achievement thrives.

WCA makes a nine-year commitment to every child. It begins from day one, in kindergarten, setting the expectation that every student will be prepared to attend college. The curriculum is built around a strong emphasis on math, reading, science, and social studies. Students take a nationally recognized test three times a year and teachers use these test results to establish academic goals, develop learning plans, and track progress.

WCA also teaches critical life, work, and study skills, emphasizing that hard work and good character are essential for success in school and in life. Students are involved in raising awareness and money for local organizations, including Susan G. Komen Cancer Research and the American Heart Association.

**Points of Pride**

- Believes in learning outside of the classroom, taking various academic trips to locations including the State Capitol building, science camp, Chicago, and Philadelphia.
- More than 80 percent of middle school students are involved in after school activities, including athletic teams, the school musical, yearbook club, chess team, bands, honors choir, and National Junior Honors Society.
- Gives specific and regularly adjusted reading instruction at the elementary students’ level through the Wildcat Reading Club.
- Graded with an A by 85 percent of the parents.
- Seventy-four percent of the students made fall-to-spring typical growth on NWEA tests.
- Earned the School of Excellence title during the 2011-2012 school year.
- Students participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart and Dodge Ball for Heart event and collected over $9,000 for the American Heart Association.

“I believe that Walker Charter Academy is an outstanding school and in my opinion better than any school in the local area.”

**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: K–8
Opened: 2001
School Leader: Ms. Christine Welc
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Organizes a variety of college-bound activities for middle school students, such as trips to GVSU and Madonna University for tours, speeches, and sports, as well as mentorship from Wayne State University football players for 7th grade boys.

“I think Warrendale prepares us for high school. My teacher and classes are challenging. I also like that we get to do fun activities, like the trip to Grand Valley.”
KASHMIR PRESTON, 8TH GRADE STUDENT

Washington-Parks Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 2009
School Leader: Mr. Scott Cairo
Management Company: Cornerstone Charter Schools

Points of Pride
• Provides the opportunity for every student in the 3rd grade or higher to play the violin, viola, or cello.
• Middle school students competed at festival for strings and orchestra and received a 1s rating for the second year in a row.

WayPoint Academy

2900 E Apple Ave., Muskegon, MI 49442
T (231) 777-4972
F (231) 767-8488
www.4waypoint.com

Grades: 6–12
Opened: 2000
School Leader: Mr. Reedell Holmes
Management Company: One Plus Management, LLC

Points of Pride
• Collaborates with a transition specialist at the MAISD to hold a “reality store” to learn about careers and financing.
• Provides after school tutoring services on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for grades 6–8.

“I think Warrendale prepares us for high school. My teacher and classes are challenging. I also like that we get to do fun activities, like the trip to Grand Valley.”
KASHMIR PRESTON, 8TH GRADE STUDENT
Parents choose West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics (WMAAA) for the school’s K–4 arts integration curriculum, low student to teacher ratio, and excellent learning environment. Arts integration refers to the practice of reinforcing core academic concepts through an art form. For example, when 4th graders learn about the different regions of the United States, they produce advertisements for their regions, write songs, create postcards, etc. WMAAA has five full-time arts teachers on staff specializing in visual arts, vocal music, dance, drama, and instrumental band.

In grades 5–8, the school maintains high academic standards in its core content areas. MEAP data indicates WMAAA is competitive with local school districts and outperforms most districts to their north. Its arts focus in the older grades takes on a different look and becomes more electives based. Students choose a focus area, which are similar to college majors. They can choose from a variety of courses, including comedic improvisation, ballet, jazz dance, advanced band, choir, sculpture, art history, history through films, creative writing, and more.

Parents also choose WMAAA because of their solid character development program. Staff members and students are routinely trained on bullying prevention and awareness. Additionally, the majority of the staff is trained in Capturing Kids Hearts and reinforcing positive behaviors. The goal is to prepare students both academically and socially, hoping they walk away as well-rounded students who have been exposed to a variety of art forms and academic experiences, and have developed a sense of self. Students are confident and have developed high levels of self-esteem.

WMAAA utilizes its local community to further enhance students’ education through volunteers, field trips, and guest presenters. Its classroom volunteer program brings a variety of community members into the school, and students engage the community through a variety of arts performances, performing at local retirement homes and businesses. WMAAA also highlights its school by participating in local festivals and parades such as the Jingle Bell Parade and the Earth Day Festival.

Points of Pride

- Incorporates hands-on, experiential learning through art-integrated programs to provide a strong foundation for academic and social growth.
- Students develop creativity, imagination, risk-taking, and problem-solving through various learning experiences, including off-campus opportunities.
- Expanding course offerings for students at the middle school level. WMAAA recently received a grant to adopt the Achievement Via Individual Determination curriculum, which will make them one of the only schools in West Michigan to offer this program.
- Maintains a class average of 22 to 24 students depending on grade level.
- Provides 30 minutes of daily response to intervention programming for every student in the building.
William C. Abney Academy

Grades: K–7
Opened: 1998
Superintendent: Ms. Cheryl Edwards Cannon
Management Company: Choice Schools Associates
www.thewcaa.org

K–4 Building
1435 East Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI 49503
T (616) 454-5541
F 616) 454-5598
School Leader: Ms. Erica Glenn

5–7 Building
256 Alger St., Grand Rapids, MI 49507
T (616) 454-5541
F (616) 454-5598
School Leader: Ms. Erica Glenn

Points of Pride
• Third grade students developed a business and sold items with their parents for Entrepreneur Day.
• Middle school students performed community service for Mel Trotter Ministries.
• Students went “green” on St. Patrick’s Day and recycled items from both school and home.

Windemere Park Charter Academy

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

Grades: K–8
Opened: 1999
School Leader: Mr. Joe Thienes
Management Company: National Heritage Academies

Points of Pride
• Presents the Example of Excellence award to 6th through 8th grade students who have put forth their best effort and have demonstrated personal excellence in grades, level of responsibility, and behavior.
• Offered gender specific classrooms for four years in 1st through 3rd grades.

“We made the decision to send our kids to Windemere Park for many different reasons. One very important reason for us was the moral focus curriculum. It is important for our children to have respect, practice kindness, and just be all around good people. Windemere helps reiterate what we teach at home.”

PARENT, WINDEMERE PARK CHARTER ACADEMY
ACHIEVEMENT

The Results
GVSU charter schools must add *measurable value* to the neighborhoods. Rigorous *performance expectations* set forth in charter contracts establish school cultures focused on improving *student outcomes*. Systematic *financial, operational, and performance* analyses are conducted regularly to drive performance and improvement at the portfolio and school building levels.

Review our *data* and see the results for yourself.
Student Enrollment Data 2011-2012

22,754
TOTAL K–12 ENROLLMENT FOR 2011-2012

ENROLLMENT BY OPERATOR

National Heritage Academies 13,327
Foundation for Behavioral Resources 514
Self-managed 2,217
Global Education Excellence 155
PrepNet 472
Romine Group 611
Detroit 90/90 2,422
Creative Urban Education, Inc. 691
Concept Schools 240
K12 Inc. 683
Cornerstone Charter Schools 539
One Plus 253
Choice Schools 630

ENROLLMENT PROGRESSION

ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

A Kindergarten 11.4%
B 1st Grade 10.2%
C 2nd Grade 9.9%
D 3rd Grade 10.0%
E 4th Grade 9.7%
F 5th Grade 9.3%
G 6th Grade 10.3%
H 7th Grade 9.2%
I 8th Grade 8.6%
J 9th Grade 4.0%
K 10th Grade 3.4%
L 11th Grade 2.4%
M 12th Grade 1.8%

DEMOGRAPHIC ENROLLMENT

A African American 47.2%
B White 38.8%
C Hispanic 5.9%
D Asian American 4.5%
E Multiracial 3.4%
F American Indian 0.3%
G Hawaiian 0.04%
ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL

Achieve Charter Academy 737
Arbor Academy 212
Black River Public School 854
Byron Center Charter School 246
Chandler Woods Charter Academy 710
Cornerstone Health School Opening 2012
Crossroads Charter Academy (K-6) 409
Crossroads Charter Academy (7-12) 301
Detroit Enterprise Academy 713
Detroit Merit Charter Academy 733
Detroit Premier Academy 742
East Arbor Charter Academy 483
Endeavor Charter Academy 707
Escuela Avancemos! Opening 2012
Evergreen Academy Opening 2012
Excel Charter Academy 735
Faxon Language Immersion Academy Opening 2012
Forest Academy 85
Global Heights Academy 155
Hanley International Academy 611
Henry Ford Academy School for Creative Studies 691
Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies Elementary School Opening 2012
Knapp Charter Academy 752
Legacy Charter Academy 521
Lincoln-King Academy Opening 2012
Madison-Canver Academy Opening 2012
Metro Charter Academy 745
Michigan Math and Science Academy 240
Michigan Virtual Charter Academy 683
Oakland Academy 217
Paragon Charter Academy 700
Reach Charter Academy 701

South Canton Scholars Charter Academy 587
Timberland Charter Academy 381
University Preparatory Academy Elementary - Ellen Thompson 375
University Preparatory Academy Elementary - Mark Murray 406
University Preparatory Academy Middle 409
University Preparatory Academy High 537
University Prep Science and Math Middle 446
University Prep Science and Math High 249
Vanderbilt Charter Academy 448
Walker Charter Academy 721
Warrendale Charter Academy 748
Washington-Parks Academy 339
WayPoint Academy 253
West MI Academy of Arts and Academics 407
William C. Abney Academy Elementary 429
William C. Abney Academy Middle 201
Windemere Park Charter Academy 719

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS QUALIFYING FOR THE FEDERAL FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM (POVERTY INDICATOR)

ON AVERAGE 62% OF GVSU CSO STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM.

2009-10 2010-11 2011-12

Achieve Charter Academy 12% 6% 6%
Arbor Academy 63% 66% 66%
Black River Public School 19% 45% 48%
Byron Center Charter School 30% 59% 59%
Chandler Woods Charter Academy 26% 52% 52%
Crossroads Charter Academy (K-6) 65% 59% 59%
Crossroads Charter Academy (7-12) 59% 59% 59%
Detroit Enterprise Academy 91% 91% 91%
Detroit Merit Charter Academy 87% 87% 87%
Detroit Premier Academy 91% 91% 91%
East Arbor Charter Academy 35% 56% 56%
Endeavor Charter Academy 58% 56% 56%
Excel Charter Academy 39% 39% 39%
Forest Academy 45% 45% 45%
Global Heights Academy 75% 75% 75%
Grand River Preparatory High School 47% 45% 45%
Hanley International Academy 94% 94% 94%
Henry Ford Academy School for Creative Studies 69% 69% 69%
Knapp Charter Academy 55% 55% 55%
Legacy Charter Academy 97% 97% 97%
Metro Charter Academy 57% 57% 57%
Michigan Math and Science Academy 76% 76% 76%
Michigan Virtual Charter Academy 52% 52% 52%
Oakland Academy 33% 33% 33%
Paragon Charter Academy 56% 56% 56%
Reach Charter Academy 64% 64% 64%
South Canton Scholars Charter Academy 18% 18% 18%
Timberland Charter Academy 89% 89% 89%
University Preparatory Academy Elementary - Ellen Thompson 81% 81% 81%
University Preparatory Academy Middle 82% 82% 82%
University Preparatory Academy High 77% 77% 77%
University Prep Science and Math Middle 69% 69% 69%
University Prep Science and Math High 68% 68% 68%
Vanderbilt Charter Academy 74% 74% 74%
Vanguard Charter Academy 49% 49% 49%
Walker Charter Academy 38% 38% 38%
Warrendale Charter Academy 91% 91% 91%
Washington-Parks Academy 61% 61% 61%
WayPoint Academy 83% 83% 83%
West MI Academy of Arts and Academics 32% 32% 32%
William C. Abney Academy Elementary 94% 94% 94%
William C. Abney Academy Middle 92% 92% 92%
Windemere Park Charter Academy 54% 54% 54%

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE OF GVSU CSO STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH VS STATE AVERAGE (POVERTY INDICATOR)

State GVSU

2009-10 2010-11 2011-12

Achieve Charter Academy 45% 60%
Arbor Academy 46% 62%
Black River Public School 48% 62%
Byron Center Charter School 30% 59%
Chandler Woods Charter Academy 26% 52%
Crossroads Charter Academy (K-6) 65% 59%
Crossroads Charter Academy (7-12) 59% 59%
Detroit Enterprise Academy 91% 91%
Detroit Merit Charter Academy 87% 87%
Detroit Premier Academy 91% 91%
East Arbor Charter Academy 35% 56%
Endeavor Charter Academy 58% 56%
Excel Charter Academy 39% 39%
Forest Academy 45% 45%
Global Heights Academy 75% 75%
Grand River Preparatory High School 47% 45%
Hanley International Academy 94% 94%
Henry Ford Academy School for Creative Studies 69% 69%
Knapp Charter Academy 55% 55%
Legacy Charter Academy 97% 97%
Metro Charter Academy 57% 57%
Michigan Math and Science Academy 76% 76%
Michigan Virtual Charter Academy 52% 52%
Oakland Academy 33% 33%
Paragon Charter Academy 56% 56%
Reach Charter Academy 64% 64%
South Canton Scholars Charter Academy 18% 18%
Timberland Charter Academy 89% 89%
University Preparatory Academy Elementary - Ellen Thompson 81% 81%
University Preparatory Academy Middle 82% 82%
University Preparatory Academy High 77% 77%
University Prep Science and Math Middle 69% 69%
University Prep Science and Math High 68% 68%
Vanderbilt Charter Academy 74% 74%
Vanguard Charter Academy 49% 49%
Walker Charter Academy 38% 38%
Warrendale Charter Academy 91% 91%
Washington-Parks Academy 61% 61%
WayPoint Academy 83% 83%
West MI Academy of Arts and Academics 32% 32%
William C. Abney Academy Elementary 94% 94%
William C. Abney Academy Middle 92% 92%
Windemere Park Charter Academy 54% 54%

Student Enrollment Data 2011-2012 // ACHIEVEMENT
ACT and MEAP Data 2011-2012

32 out of 37 schools outperformed their local public school district on the 2011 MEAP.

ACT SCORES

Black River Public School 23
Byron Center Charter School 20
Crossroads Charter Academy (7-12) 20
Grand River Preparatory High School 22
Michigan Virtual Charter Academy 16
University Preparatory Academy High School 16
WayPoint Academy 16

MEAP COMPOSITE PEER DIFFERENTIAL

Achieve Charter Academy
Arbor Academy
Black River Public School
Byron Center Charter School
Chandler Woods Charter Academy
Crossroads Charter Academy
Detroit Enterprise Academy
Detroit Merit Charter Academy
Detroit Premier Academy
East Arbor Charter Academy
Endeavor Charter Academy
Excel Charter Academy
Forest Academy
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Timberland Charter Academy
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University Prep Science and Math
Vanderbilt Charter Academy
Vanguard Charter Academy
Walker Charter Academy
Warrendale Charter Academy
Washington-Parks Academy
WayPoint Academy
West MI Academy of Arts and Academics
Windemere Park Charter Academy
William C. Abney Academy

Average ACT Score 19
All Grand Valley State University charter school students in grades 2-8 use the Northwest Evaluation Association’s (NWEA) Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test to determine math, reading, and language usage instructional levels. When administered multiple times throughout the year, the test provides a remarkably accurate measure of student growth.

**GROWTH**

16 OUT OF 39

GVSU CHARTER SCHOOLS ACHIEVED AT OR ABOVE THE 90TH PERCENTILE FOR GROWTH NATIONWIDE IN MORE THAN HALF OF THEIR 2011-2012 GRADE LEVEL NWEA MAP TEST EVENTS (READING, MATH, AND LANGUAGE USAGE FOR GRADES 2-8).

**PERCENT OF TESTING EVENTS RANKING IN THE TOP 10 PERCENT OF THE NATION, BY SCHOOL***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Achieve Charter Academy</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walker Charter Academy</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes GVSU Charter schools in which half or more of testing events ranked in the top 10 percent.

**PROFICIENCY**

7 OUT OF 39

GVSU CHARTER SCHOOLS ACHIEVED AT OR ABOVE THE 90TH PERCENTILE FOR PROFICIENCY NATIONWIDE IN MORE THAN HALF OF THEIR 2011-2012 GRADE LEVEL NWEA MAP TEST EVENTS (READING, MATH, AND LANGUAGE USAGE FOR GRADES 2-8).

**PERCENT OF TESTING EVENTS RANKING IN THE TOP 10 PERCENT OF THE NATION, BY SCHOOL***

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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 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 has been ranked 2nd for Midwest Regional Universities in the “Up-and-Comers” category by U.S. News & World Report. The designation is for those institutions that are “worth watching because they are making promising and innovative changes.”
- For the 16th 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 322 Green Colleges: 2012 Edition.
- Grand Valley State University’s Seidman College of Business is named one of “The Best 294 Business Schools” for 2012 by The Princeton Review.

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• 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 322 Green Colleges: 2012 Edition.

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Small classes. Big thinkers.

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.”

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**GVSU Board of Trustees**

- Approves first three schools, authorizing Grand Valley's CSO to implement a customized Web-based solution, allowing CSO staff members to file, track, and maintain information that supports, University Preparatory Academy as an urban high school academy. GVSU was the first to have an “urban high school academy” in Michigan.

- Grand Valley Board of Trustees approves six current GVSU charter schools implementing multiple schools as designated schools of excellence: Arbor Preparatory Academy, Walker Charter Academy, Black River Public School, Detroit Merit Academy, Oakland Academy, and VanderCook Charter Academy.

- Grand Valley Board of Trustees approves five current GVSU charter schools implementing multiple schools as designated schools of excellence: Vanguard Charter Academy, East English Village Preparatory Academy, William E. Conway Academy, and Merit Charter Academy.

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- Grand Valley recognizes its work for charter schools, GVSU President October 17th, 2013. GVSU’s first two high schools are William C. Abney Academy, Vanguard Charter Academy, William E. Conway Academy, and Merit Charter Academy.

- CSO begins a new rolling application cycle with applications being reviewed for the 2013-2014 school year.

- Governor Snyder signs legislation closing two charter schools in Michigan.
Governor John Engler proposes the creation of charter schools.

Governor Engler signs charter school legislation into law, making Michigan the ninth state to enact a charter law.

At the request of Grand Valley President Arend D. Lubbers, the university’s Board of Trustees commits to chartering schools.

The Grand Valley Board of Trustees authorizes the first three schools, serving a total of 350 students. Former Chelsea Public Schools superintendent Edward D. Richardson is hired as director of the Charter Schools Office.

President Arend D. Lubbers names its elementary campus the Black River Public School, to direct the university’s charter schools.

Governor Engler proposes GVSU’s first charter school, Walker Charter Academy, a K–12 school in Walker, MI. The Grand Valley Board of Trustees approves GVSU’s charter school legislation.

Grand Valley Board of Trustees approves its first two high schools, Grand Rapids Preparatory Academy as an urban high school academy and Black River Public School, a K–12 school in Holland, MI, chartered by GVSU’s charter schools office.

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At the request of Grand Valley President Adam E. Lake, the university’s Board of Trustees commits to chartering schools.

Grand Valley Board of Trustees authorizes first three schools, enrolling a total of 350 students. J. Patrick Sanders, former superintendent for Grand Rapids Public Schools, is named as director of the Charter Schools Office.

Arend D. Lubbers receives the Academic year ends with 25 graduates. Grand River Preparatory High School, one of Michigan’s first charter schools, celebrates its first graduating class.

Governor Snyder signs legislation lifting the cap on the number of charter schools in Michigan.

Michigan State Board of Education Superintendent Baldwin commends the Grand Rapids Public Schools for launching the School of Excellence in 2000.
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• Grand Valley is a good investment for the state. Nearly 90 percent of recent graduates 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 2010-2011 academic year Grand Valley had 639 students study abroad.

• GVSU attracts the best and the brightest. The middle 50 percent of Grand Valley’s Fall 2011 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 GVSU education. The top six counties of origin for incoming students are Kent, Ottawa, Oakland, Wayne, Muskegon, and Macomb.

• For eight years in a row Grand Valley was the winner of the NACDA Director’s Cup for the best NCAA Division II intercollegiate athletic program in the country.

• Last year, Grand Valley community members engaged in 924,383 hours of volunteer service work.

• 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 2011-2012 academic year, students received more than $239 million in financial aid, with more than $66 million in scholarships and grant assistance.
The Grand Valley State University Charter Schools Office thanks all of its charter schools and photographers Renee Alesa, Daymon J. Hartley and Jim Hill for allowing the use of their wonderful photographs of the charter schools in this report.

Printed on paper manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas), and includes 10% post-consumer recycled fiber.

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