



JASPER CITY SCHOOLS

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2008-2009 Highlights



AdvancED District Accreditation Becomes Reality for Jasper City Schools

Following an extensive quality assurance review by a six-member committee of educators from North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama in February, 2009, the Jasper City School System was awarded district accreditation from AdvancED, the parent organization of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. All Jasper schools were previously accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Council on School Improvement. District accreditation from AdvancED brings all accreditation under one system-wide umbrella and serves as the catalyst to guide unified continuous improvement efforts in all schools throughout the district.



Dr. Joe Delaney (pictured at left) delivered the final committee report to the Jasper City Board of Education on February 11, 2009. After interviewing 191 stakeholders, visiting schools, and examining various artifacts, the committee commended Jasper City Schools for the following: (1) Systematically developing a vision and purpose, for constructing a strategic plan using the AdvancED standards as the rubric for establishing direction through 2010 and for including all stakeholders in the process; (2) widespread implementation and use of multiple technology improvements and innovations to improve teaching and learning, to increase student achievement, and to improve management efficiency and operations; and (3) Employing multiple data sources to generate information shared with faculty and staff to improve instruction.

Recommendations from the AdvancED report will guide the district's continuous improvement plans for the future. Earning AdvancED district accreditation is just the beginning; accredited districts are required to document continuous improvements and undergo a quality assurance review every five years.

High standards • High expectations • High performance



**High Standards, High Expectations and High Performance
for 2008-2009**

The Jasper City School District emphasizes high standards, high expectations, and high performance. The following individuals and groups are among the many JCS students and staff who demonstrated this emphasis in 2008-2009.

STUDENTS OF NOTE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RECOGNITION</u>
2009 Seniors	Offered over 2.7 million in scholarships; 15 students finished with grade point average of 4.0 or above; 9 students received honors diplomas; 64.6% of class received 1 or more academic scholarships
Alex Edgil, Megan McCain Allen Lockhart	Ranked #1 in 2009 Senior Class Named a <i>National Merit Scholar</i>
Alex Edgil, Grace Elliott, Megan Thompson WJS Technology Teams	Named <i>National Merit Commended Students</i> Won 1 st and 2 nd place awards in district technology competition
Kourtnei Douglas, Mary Frances Ward	Won individual 1 st place awards in district technology competition; competed in state competition
Mary Frances Ward	Won 2 nd place in state technology competition
Rebecca Keller	Won <i>Best in Show</i> in 4 th Congressional District Art Competition
Jon Kennedy	Won 1 st place in mixed media in 4 th Congressional District Art Competition
WHS Athletics	Nine teams made state playoffs
WHS Anchor Club	Named <i>International Club of the Year</i> for 2 nd year in a row
West Jasper Elementary	3 rd & 5 th grade girls participated in GEMS (<i>Girls Engaged in Math and Science</i>), a statewide project to better prepare girls for the 21 st century workforce
MMS 8 th Graders	Participated in a week-long tour of Washington, DC
WHS Band	Marched in <i>New York City Veterans Day Parade</i>
MMS Math Team	Thirteen students placed in <i>American Mathematics Competition</i>
Maggie McDaniel	Won 2008 <i>Walker County Junior Miss</i>



TEACHERS AND GROUPS OF NOTE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RECOGNITION</u>
T.R. Simmons Elementary	Won CLAS <i>Banner School Award</i> (5 th JCS school to win award)
Lisa O'Mary	Won <i>Herman LAMP Award</i> for exceptional service as a library media specialist
Melissa Dutton, Christy White	Earned National Board Certification
Debra Rhodes	Won state grant to pursue National Board Certification
Dr. Holly Morgan	Named <i>District VII Elementary Teacher of the Year</i> (one of 16 finalists for state teacher of the year) and ALFA <i>Teacher of the Month</i> for February, 2009
JCS Career-Technical Program	Passed Business/Industry Certification Review
JCS Business Marketing Program	Named one of top ten programs in state by SDE
Mike Cordle	Won ABC 33/40 <i>Golden Apple Award</i>
Candace Odom	Won CBS 42 <i>One Classroom at a Time Grant</i>
Suzanne Snow, Mike King	Completed JCS Prospective Administrator Training
Memorial Park Elementary	Recognized by SDE as an <i>Exceeding the Challenge School</i>
T.R. Simmons Elementary	Recognized by SDE as an <i>Exceeding the Challenge School</i>
West Jasper Elementary	Recognized by SDE as a <i>Meeting the Challenge School</i> and an <i>Advancing the Challenge School</i>
All JCS Schools	Made AYP

2008-2009 SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- System awarded *Advanced District Accreditation*
- Voice over IP phone system installed and implemented
- Distance learning and video-conferencing use expanded
- Summer AMSTI training expanded, bringing all JCS schools into AMSTI Initiative
- Remodeling projects completed at T.R. Simmons Elementary, West Jasper Elementary, and Memorial Park Elementary

2008-2009 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Pictured left to right are Dion Nelson, T.R. Simmons Elementary; Sherry Williams, West Jasper Elementary; Dr. Holly Morgan, Memorial Park Elementary; Mike Cordle, Walker High School; and Laura Kennedy, Maddox Middle School.

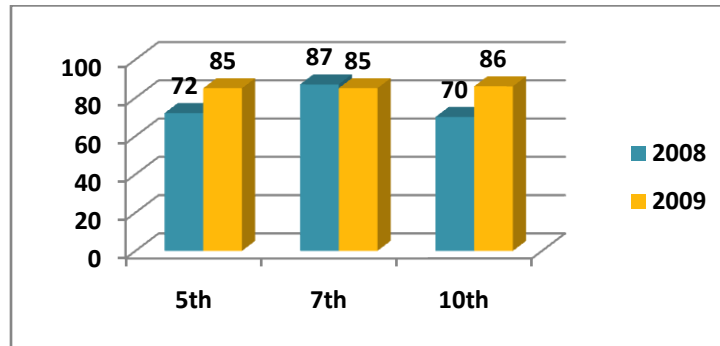
“The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them.”

– Mark Twain

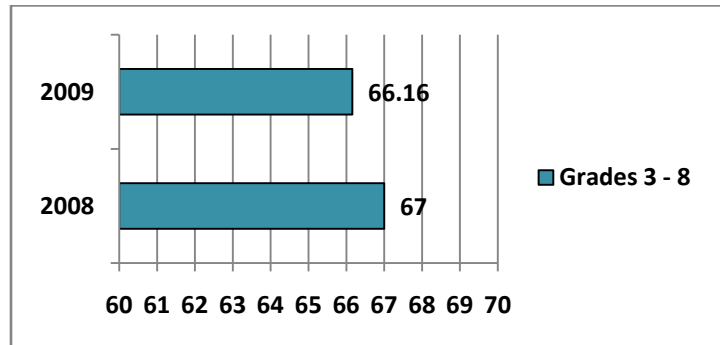
JASPER CITY SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT REVIEW

(For complete assessment reports for all JCS grades and schools, visit www.jasper.k12.al.us and click on Assessment.)

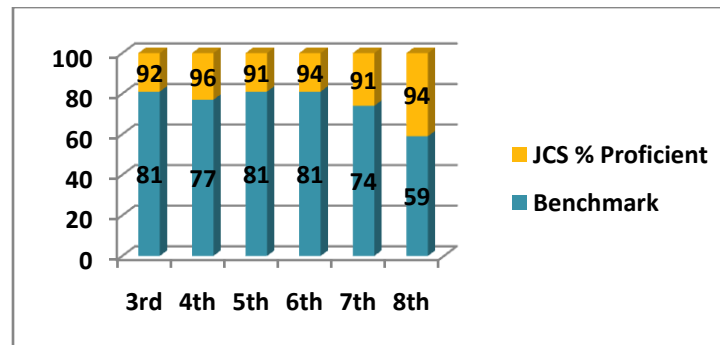
Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing (ADAW) - Jasper City Schools saw strong performance on the *Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing*, with double-digit gains in two grades. The following chart shows the change in percent of students scoring proficient on the assessment from 2008 to 2009. In 2009, fifth graders had a 13-point increase, while 10th graders showed a 16-point increase. Seventh graders continued to show a solid performance with 85% of students scoring proficient.



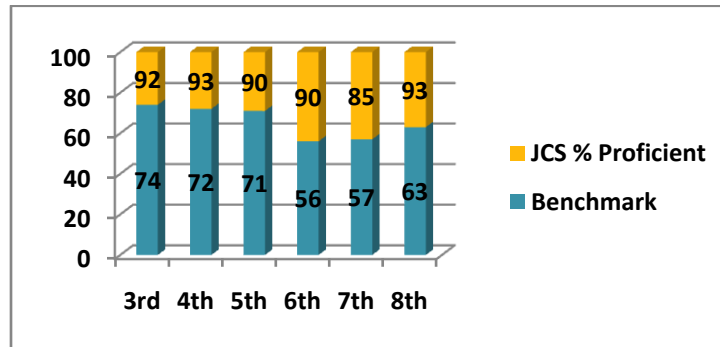
Stanford Achievement Test (SAT10) - April, 2009 performance on the *Stanford 10 Achievement Test* placed Jasper City Schools in the top 11% of the 132 school systems in the state. Students in grades 3 – 8 scored a partial battery composite percentile of 66.16.



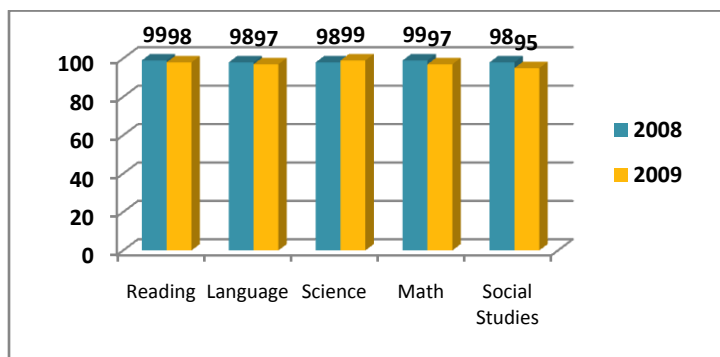
Alabama Reading and Math Test (ARMT) - On the *Alabama Reading and Math Test (ARMT)*, JCS students exceeded all 2009 state benchmarks. In the following chart, the top portion of each bar shows the percentage of JCS students scoring proficient in ARMT reading, while the lower portion of each bar indicates the 2009 state benchmark in reading for each grade.



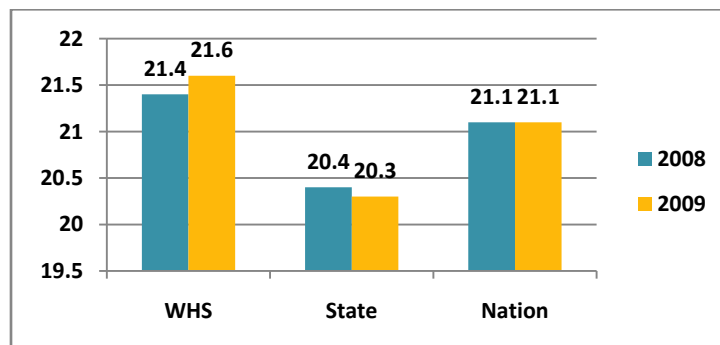
In the following chart, the top portion of each bar shows the percentage of JCS students scoring proficient in *ARMT* math, while the lower portion of each bar indicates the 2009 state benchmark in math for each grade.



Alabama High School Graduation Examination (AHSGE) - The percentage of 12th graders passing each section of the Alabama High School Graduation Exam (AHSGE) is shown in the following chart. The AHSGE includes five subject-area tests students must pass to receive a high school diploma. The exam covers required high school core content. Once a student passes a subject-area test, the student does not have to repeat that test. No later than the spring of 10th grade, students have an opportunity to attempt all five tests.



American College Test (ACT) - According to summary data released by ACT on August 19, 2009, ACT scores of 2009 Walker High students were the highest of any year in the last decade at the school and exceeded both state and national averages. WHS students scored a composite of 21.6, while the state composite was 20.3 and the national composite was 21.1.



The ACT is a college entrance exam made up of four curriculum-based assessments in English, math, reading, and science. ACT scores range from 1 to 36. ACT subject-area tests reveal students' skills and achievement levels as culminations of their high school experiences and function as important measures of student preparation for postsecondary academic work.



State Initiatives Enhance Instruction in Jasper City Schools

Instructional initiatives from the Alabama State Department of Education enhance instruction in the Jasper City Schools. Two of those initiatives are AMSTI and ACCESS.

Teachers at all JCS schools have received training and resources through the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI).



Above, third graders at Memorial Park Elementary donned lab coats and safety goggles during the second nine weeks for their chemistry unit, made possible through the school's involvement in the Alabama Math Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI).



The Alabama ACCESS Initiative made possible interactive video conferencing equipment at Walker High School, shown above, that allowed students to converse with an historical personality (portrayed by an actress) in Colonial Williamsburg. Students watched the character via two large video screens in the school's IVC lab.

Technology secured through the initiative allows WHS students to take distance learning classes, both through video conferencing and online courses. Several WHS teachers also serve as instructors for students in other locations via these technology venues.

“Man's mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions.” - Oliver Wendell Holmes

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age.

Questions or comments about this publication may be directed to Dr. Martha LaCroix, Director of Accountability Programs & Support Services, Jasper City Schools, P.O. Box 500, Jasper, AL 35502, mlacroix@jasper.k12.al.us
