

Independent School District 834  
Stillwater Area Public Schools

2008-2009

# ANNUAL REPORT

on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement



## OUR MISSION:

As Minnesota's first public school district and the premier educational choice in the St. Croix Valley, Stillwater Area Public Schools ensure a rigorous and relevant education where all learners are valued, positive relationships are developed and students are prepared for life-long learning in a global society.



“Curriculum is the sequencing or pacing of the content along with experiences students have with that content.”

Robert Marzano

**S** Stillwater Area Public Schools 2008-2009 Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement includes information about how our students are doing, along with the district's plans and programs for continuous improvement of our instructional programs.

A more comprehensive look at our schools will be mailed to all residents in October as part of the annual shareholder's report.

More information can be found on-line at [www.stillwater.k12.mn.us](http://www.stillwater.k12.mn.us) or by calling the Division of Teaching and Learning at 651-351-8405.

### Stillwater Area Public Schools Curriculum Review Cycle

Process	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Revised Standards & Implementation			Math & Arts	Science	Language Arts	Social Studies
Year 1: Study & Evaluation	PE/Health Music	Science	Language Arts	Social Studies	Career & Tech	World Languages
Year 2: Evaluation & Recommendation	Math	PE/Health Music	Science	Language Arts	Social Studies	Career & Tech
Year 3: Implementation		Math	PE/Health Music	Science	Language Arts	Social Studies
Year 4: Monitor & Evaluation			Math	PE/Health Music	Science	Language Arts
Year 5: Monitor & Evaluation				Math	PE/Health Music	Science

### District Curriculum & Accountability Council Members

Name	Role	Name	Role
Christine Berns	Community/Parent	Chris Lennox	Asst. Superintendent
Steven Bliven	Teacher	Ann Malwitz	Community/Parent
Lisa Corcoran	Community/Parent	Janet O'Connell	Community/Parent
Sara Damon	Teacher	Derek Olson	Teacher
Mark Drommerhausen	Principal	Matt Oswald	Teacher
Natasha Fleischman	Community/Parent	Heather Passofaro	Teacher
Laura Fredericks	Community/Parent	Paula Port	Community
Pam Johnson	Community	Don Schuld	Director
Cheryl Jurcoi	Community/Parent	Linda Steinworth	Community/Parent
Doris Karls	Director	Christine Tubbs	Partnership
Julie Kostroski	Community/Parent	Heidi Vlasak	Community/Parent
Diane Kruse	Community/Parent	Mary Jo Vene	Teacher
Ginny Kruse-Rudolph	Director		

### Implementation of New Materials\*

- 2009-10 .....Mathematics
- 2010-11 .....PE/Health & Music
- 2011-12 ..... Science
- 2012-13 ..... Language Arts

\*Pending available resources

## Stillwater Area Public Schools Assessment and Testing Program

The Stillwater Area Public Schools' testing program employs several assessments and standardized tests as well as teacher-designed assessments to: determine student academic progress and readiness for advanced instruction, develop and implement curriculum and programs, and assist individual student planning. A chart listing most of these assessments is included in this report (see pages 4-5).

Two standardized tests are administered to most students across multiple grade levels:

- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a computerized adaptive assessment program. The assessment itself is unique in that it adapts to the student's achievement level, accurately measuring what a child knows and needs to learn. In addition, MAP measures academic growth over time, independent of grade level or age. MAP assessments are administered in reading, math and language at grades 2-8, and to selected students in grades 9-10.
- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA II) measure student achievement of State Standards in reading, math, science, and writing. MCA II testing is required by the State of Minnesota, in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), in order to demonstrate that schools and districts are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Curricular adaptations and modifications can occur as a result of MCA II data review.



### Minnesota Basic Skills and Graduation Tests

The Basic Skills Tests (BST) are being phased out and replaced by the Graduation Required for Diploma (GRAD) tests. Beginning with the class of 2010 and beyond, students must achieve a passing score on the GRAD tests in reading, math and writing in order to obtain a diploma.



### Results on Basic Skills/ Grad Tests 2008-09

- Total enrollment in grades 9-12 is 2,877
- 660 9th graders passed the GRAD writing test
- 685 10th graders passed the GRAD reading test
- 518 11th graders passed the GRAD math test

# Comprehensive Student Assessment Program: 2008-2009

For additional information contact the Division of Teaching and Learning at 651-351-8405.

Links to some of the assessments can be found on-line, [www.stillwater.k12.mn.us](http://www.stillwater.k12.mn.us).



DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS				
ASSESSMENT	OBJECTIVES	GRADE LEVEL	TIME OF YEAR	SUBJECT AREA
Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) – Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To measure growth in individual student learning</li> <li>To help plan instructional programs</li> <li>To place new students in appropriate courses</li> <li>To guide curriculum</li> </ul>	2-10	Fall & Spring  Winter as requested by teachers	Reading Math Language
Literacy First Classroom Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To measure student progress</li> <li>To guide curriculum and instruction</li> </ul>	K-6	Fall, Winter & Spring	Reading
Classroom teacher-designed assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed by individual teachers to assess student academic growth and needs</li> </ul>	K-12	Ongoing	All areas to measure student progress
End of Course Assessments (EOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To measure growth in individual student learning</li> <li>To help teachers plan instructional programs</li> <li>To place new students in appropriate courses</li> </ul>	7-12	End of Course	All areas to measure student progress
PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explore future educational options</li> </ul>	10	Fall	English, Math, Reading, and Science
EXPLORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To analyze the relationship between instruction and academic skill development</li> </ul>	8	Spring	English, Math, Reading, and Science

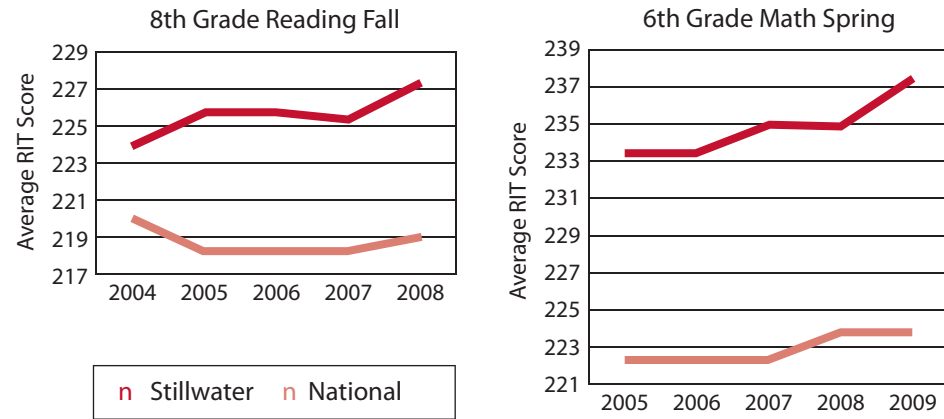
STATE MANDATED ASSESSMENTS				
ASSESSMENT	OBJECTIVES	GRADE LEVEL	TIME OF YEAR	SUBJECT AREA
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-II (MCA-II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To comply with national and state mandated testing</li> <li>To be accountable to state academic standards</li> <li>To guide District-level program evaluation and development</li> <li>To guide curriculum and instruction</li> </ul>	3-8 10 11 5, 8 & 10	Spring Spring Spring Spring	Reading and Mathematics Reading Mathematics Science
Graduation Required for Diploma Tests (GRAD)  Embedded in MCA-II Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To comply with state mandated testing</li> <li>To ensure students have attained competency</li> </ul>	9  10  11	Spring – all students retakes in summer Spring – all students retakes monthly Spring – all students retakes monthly	Written Composition  Reading  Math
Test of Emerging Academic English (TEAE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To define listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills for English Language Learners</li> </ul>	3-12 ELL Students	Spring	Reading and Writing
Student Oral Language Observation Matrix (MN SOLOM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To comply with state and national mandates</li> </ul>	K-12 ELL Students	Spring	Speaking and Listening
Mathematics Test for English Language Learners (MTELL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To guide programming, instruction and curriculum</li> </ul>	3-8, 11 ELL Students	Spring	Mathematics
Minnesota Academic Skills Test – Alternate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To comply with state/national mandates</li> <li>To assess status of severely disabled special education students</li> </ul>	3-8 10 11	Spring Spring Spring	Reading and Mathematics Reading Mathematics
NAEP – National Assessment of Educational Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To comply with national mandate</li> </ul>	Selected schools & students 4, 8, 12	Winter (Bi-annually determined by MDE)	Reading, Math, and Science

OPTIONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS				
ASSESSMENT	OBJECTIVES	GRADE LEVEL	TIME OF YEAR	SUBJECT AREA
Advanced Placement Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advance student standing in college admissions/college credits</li> </ul>	9-12	Spring	Many academic content areas
Accuplacer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assist students and families with post-secondary planning</li> </ul>	10	Spring	English, Math, and Reading
PSAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To serve as a milestone in longitudinal program evaluation</li> </ul>	10 or 11	Spring	English, Math, Reading, and Science
Gifted and Talented Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify students eligible for Gifted and Talented Programming</li> </ul>	2-5	Spring	All

# Stillwater Area Public Schools Testing Program Results

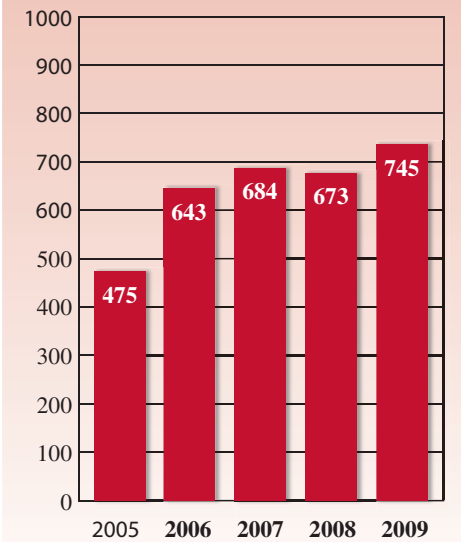


NWEA MAP Scores  
Stillwater Schools Historical Trends Vs. National Norm



## Stillwater Area Public Schools

Number of students earning scores of 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams



## Advanced Placement (AP)

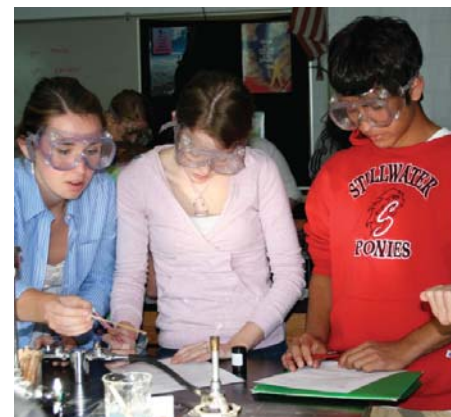
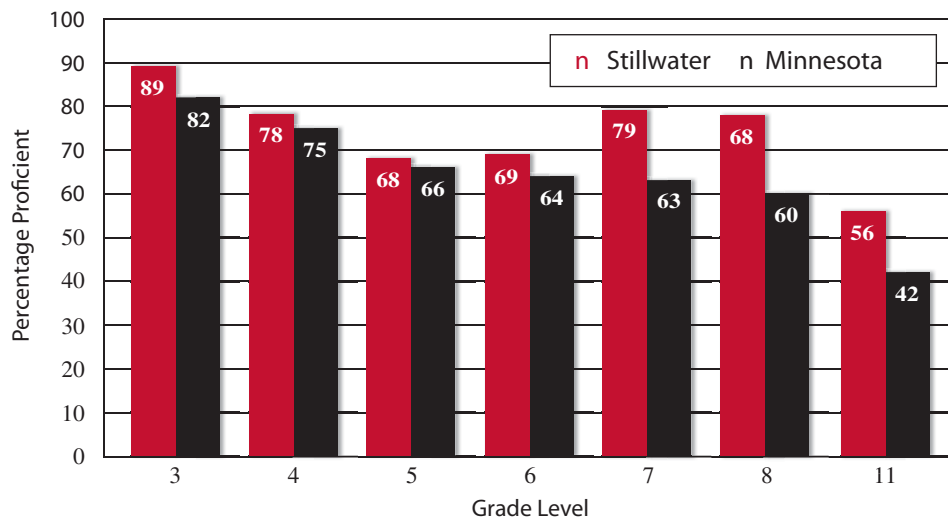
Number of students taking Advanced Placement tests continue to rise

More students are enrolling in one or more of 18 Advanced Placement courses and taking the end of course exams in an attempt to earn college credit. The AP program allows high school students to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

A total of 686 students in grades 9-12 took AP exams last spring, up from 575 students in 2008. Of those students, 70 percent received passing scores of 3, 4, or 5, which are needed to receive college credit. Many students choose to take more than one AP course and exam. This year, the number of exams increased substantially from 883 exams in 2008 to 1,058 in 2009.

The addition of an AP Human Geography course offered to ninth grades at both Oak-Land and Stillwater Junior High has accounted for some of the increase in recent years. The ninth-grade course was first offered in 2008.

MCA-II Math – Percentage of Students Proficient 2009



## MCA-II Science

The MCA-II science tests are given in grades 5 and 8, and to students at the high school upon completion of a life science course.

MCA-II Science - Percentage of Students Proficient 2009

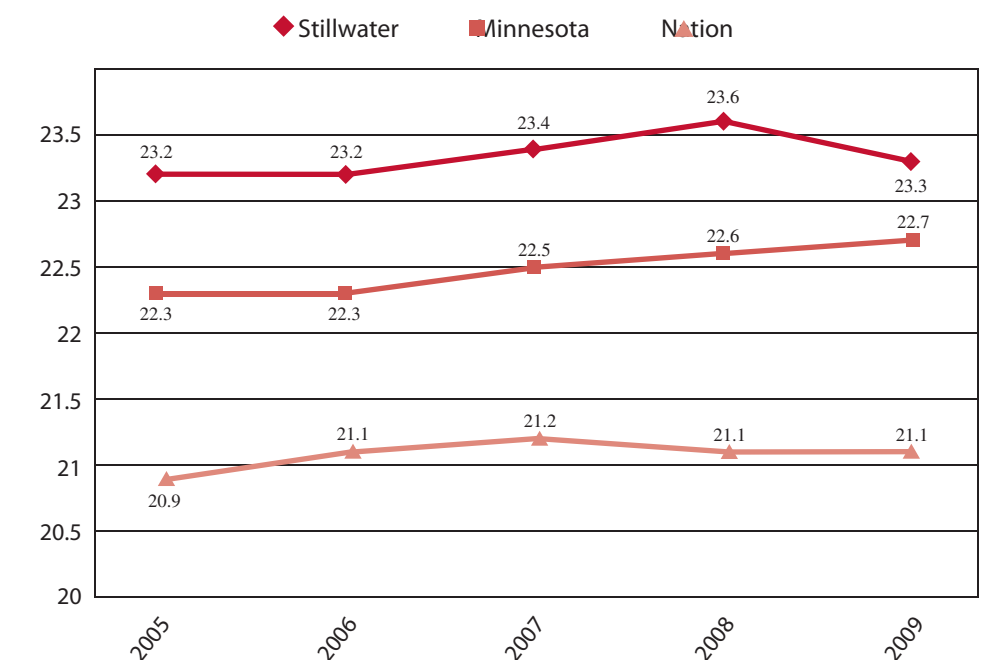
	5th grade	8th grade	High school
STW	52.4	56.6	64.2
MN	45.0	42.6	49.5

Additional testing information is available on the Minnesota Department of Education's website at <http://education.state.mn.us>

## ACT

Stillwater students have higher ACT scores than students statewide and nationwide.

ACT Composite Scores 2005-2009



## MISSION:

### *Our Core Purpose*

As Minnesota's first public school district and the premier educational choice in the St. Croix Valley, Stillwater Area Public Schools ensure a rigorous and relevant education where all learners are valued, positive relationships are developed and students are prepared for life-long learning in a global society.

## BELIEF STATEMENTS

### *Our Shared Beliefs about Our Work*

- Students are the primary focus of all decisions.
- A safe, supportive and engaging learning environment will foster excellence.
- Student learning is enhanced when there is a united effort and positive communication among home, school and community.
- A student's well being is enhanced by positive relationships and mutual respect among and between students and staff.
- Student growth occurs when students are actively engaged in rigorous and relevant learning.
- Excellence in learning is directly related to excellence in teaching.
- Valuing the strength found in a diverse world is essential to high quality learning.
- Creativity, innovation and initiative are encouraged and celebrated.
- Each individual, including student, family and staff has inherent dignity and the right to equitable and respectful educational experiences

## VISION 2014

### *What We Commit to Create*

In partnership with families and community, Stillwater Area Public Schools will provide ALL students with individualized and comprehensive learning experiences, preparing them for post-secondary education, fulfilling careers and positive contributions in the global society through:

- Safe and personal learning environments
- Excellence in teaching and learning
- A rigorous and relevant curriculum with high expectations
- Effective and efficient use of the district's resources of time, talent and finances

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

### *Allocating Our Resources to Encourage Creativity and Innovation*

- Elevate student expectations and achievement while closing the gaps between student groups
- Integrate personal and individualized learning within a coherent educational program
- Live and learn in safe, respectful and effective environments
- Maximize the development and use of our financial, physical and human resources and professional development
- Engage the community in partnership to live our Mission and achieve our Vision
- Operate with excellence in governance, management and consultation