



THE BEAM

A PUBLICATION OF THE LUDINGTON AREA SCHOOLS

Message from the Superintendent

Throughout this year our entire team together with many community members have been working on details of the “Big Move”. The Big Move began as a plan to survive economic distress, but quickly became an exciting educational opportunity. Inside this edition of *The Beam* is information about our progress on the Foster Elementary School building, the new plans for P.M., and the plan for 6th through 8th grade at O.J. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year we’ll have two name changes – Pere Marquette Elementary School will become Pere Marquette Early Childhood Center, and Oliver J. DeJonge Junior High School will become Oliver J. DeJonge Middle School.

Schedules for moving equipment, meetings for staff and parents, and professional development time for staff to work together to consolidate our programs for students have all been addressed. We are in the place we need to be and expect the changes to go smoothly. Thanks to the whole team for their work to get us to this point. About all that’s left is to actually move.

With all this activity happening, your children, our students, continued to outperform academically, athletically, and in fine arts areas. I know you’re as proud of them as we are.

We have so many activities in the spring that students look forward to. Prom is coming, Field Day for upper elementary students, and graduation are just a few. The Alpha Banquet will be May 22nd this year. This is an honors banquet for the students in the graduating class with a grade point average of 3.75 and above. This year we will honor 29 students in the Class of 2008.

Don’t miss the back page of this edition of *The Beam*. There you’ll find the MEAP scores for the 3rd through 9th grades, and boy, are they great. Providing a first class education to the children of our community remains our primary goal. Your school system continues to soar higher.

–Cal De Kuiper

Mission: The Ludington Area Schools, in partnership with the community, will achieve excellence in a positive environment where motivation and quality instruction ensure learning and equip students for success in society.

Calendar of Events

- 5/6 **Elementary and Junior High Bands Concert** at 7:30 PM in Peterson Auditorium.
- 5/10 **Prom** at Stearns Motor Inn.
- 5/16 **Elementary Track and Field Day** at Oriole Field for 4th – 6th grades.
- 5/18 **LHS Jazz Band and Wind Symphony Concert** at 2:00 PM in L.F. Peterson Auditorium
- 5/19 **Spring Choral Concert** at 7:30 PM in L.F. Peterson Auditorium.
- 5/23 **Teacher Professional Development Day.** Half day for students.
- 5/23 **Graduation for Journey** at 7:00 PM in L.F. Peterson Auditorium.
- 5/25 **Graduation for LHS** at 1:00 PM in Hawley Gym.
- 5/26 **Memorial Day.** No School.
- 5/29-30 **Secondary Exams.** Half days for students in grades 7-12.
- 5/30 **Last day for students.**

Musical programs at LHS are occasionally rescheduled due to tournament schedules in sports. This is because some students participate in both athletic teams and musical classes, and it’s the practice of the school to accommodate this broad interest in students to the greatest extent possible. Please contact LHS to confirm the schedule of musical programs if you are planning to attend. Thank you.

O.J. DeJonge Middle School

In the fall of the 2007-08 school year all sixth grade and junior high school staff began meeting on professional development days to study specific topics and issues related to the changes needed in order to create a middle school here. Committees were formed and their recommendations were considered by the whole group. The first three committees were tasked to study middle school schedules, teacher team configurations, and classroom usage at O.J. The next three committees studied adding locker space, developing an Advisory curriculum, and looking at outdoor traffic flow and student safety.

Once the daily schedule was set (see box right) and approved by the Board of Education, staff representatives met with all Ludington area fifth and sixth grade parents during evening meetings at the elementary buildings in December and January. During these sessions the middle school philosophy, Advisory, student locker placements, the new schedule, and the exploratory program were all explained to parents. Currently, other active committees are working on improving public relations, creating a MEAP celebration, and increasing parent involvement at the “new” middle school.

The junior high school will be changing next year to a middle school, and all students there will experience these changes. Even the current seventh graders (next year’s eighth graders) will come back in the fall to a “new” school. The staff has worked hard so that all students feel comfortable in the “new” building and develop a relationship with at least one adult.

Thanks to all the parents who have been part of this process. Together with the community we’re creating our “new” middle school. It has truly been a team effort.

DAILY SCHEDULES

Sixth Grade

Hour	Time	Class
Advisory	7:40-8:10	All Staff
1	8:14-9:10	Academic Core
2	9:14-10:15	Exploratory
3	10:19-11:15	Academic Core
Lunch	11:15-11:45	Lunch
4	11:49-12:45	Academic Core
5	12:49-1:45	Academic Core
6	1:49-2:45	Exploratory

Seventh Grade

Hour	Time	Class
Advisory	7:40-8:10	All Staff
1	8:14-9:10	Academic Core
2	9:14-10:15	Academic Core
Lunch	10:15-10:45	Lunch
3	10:49-11:45	Exploratory
4	11:49-12:45	Academic Core
5	12:49-1:45	Exploratory
6	1:49-2:45	Academic Core

Eighth Grade

Hour	Time	Class
Advisory	7:40-8:10	Advisory
1	8:14-9:10	Exploratory
2	9:14-10:15	Academic Core
3	10:19-11:15	Academic Core
4	11:19-12:15	Exploratory
Lunch	12:15-12:45	Lunch
5	12:49-1:45	Academic Core
6	1:49-2:45	Academic Core

Classroom Points of Interest:

- Lockers will be near Advisory classrooms for closer teacher monitoring.
- Sixth graders will have three out of four academic classes above the ramp.
- Sixth grade’s fourth academic class will use the first classroom down the ramp.
- Sixth grade will have minimal contact with high schoolers.
- Departments are close together to promote collaborative teaching.

Schedule Points of Interest:

- There will be lunch activity time inside and outside the building.
- 7th grade lunch is only 5 minutes earlier than the last five years.
- An extra class hour during the day allows students more exploratory choices.
- Each grade has 2 academic classes before lunch and 2 after.
- Schedules become more demanding as the grade level increases.
- Snack times will be built into the day for each grade level.

What will teams of students and teachers look like?

- Each grade level will be divided into two teams.
- Students on a team will have the same core teachers (math, language arts, science, and social studies) for more accountability, although each hour has a new mix of students within the team.
- Students will have exploratory classes and lunch with all their grade level friends.
- All classes are grade level only (no 6th graders with 7th graders).
- Teachers will have an hour of team planning to coordinate curriculum, discuss student concerns, and be available for parent meetings.

New lockers have been installed to make sure every student has a locker next to their Advisory teacher.

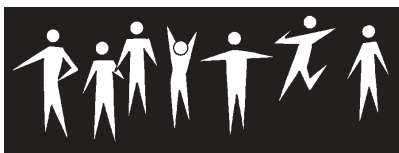


Wellness Initiative

The newly formed volunteer LAS Staff Wellness Initiative team has offered their colleagues several event opportunities this year.

Cliff Perez held extended hours for training staff to use the equipment at the Wellness Center located upstairs in the Middle School. Deb Follrath inserviced twelve members of the cafeteria staff on the benefits and use of walking with a pedometer. Beth Budreau holds Weight Watchers in the Workplace meetings on Thursdays at Franklin School, and Theresa Shoop has provided educational outreach to all LAS employees through the Weekly Bulletin.

The purpose of the Staff Wellness Initiative is to build a wellness culture for everyone who works in our school district, helping our staff members be healthy role models for our students and our community.



The Beam

The Beam is a publication of the Ludington Area School District, an equal opportunity employer and provider. The editor is Lyn Kolb, lkolb@lasd.net.

This is volume 18, number 3.



Mona Tropf, RN and Wellness Program Consultant with MESSA, offered an informational presentation on February 18, entitled "Got Stress?" to approximately 80 LAS staff members at an optional luncheon.

Parent Access to Information

Ludington School District has entered into a partnership with the Mason-Lake and Oceana ISD and other local districts to upgrade the software we use for student management. This involves an investment in technology and requires cooperation between districts. These systems control everything from attendance to grades to food service and state reporting. A diverse committee comprised of representatives from each of the partner district has selected a product called Infinite Campus. The company will assist us with data conversation and staff training so that we will be able to "go live" with the system in the fall of 2008. An important feature for parents will be what is called a "parent portal" where parents can log in from home via the Internet to access their child's current grades, attendance and other data. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the implementation date.

Use of District Facilities

This summer, due to the "Big Move", the district's facilities will be open to school groups and organizations only (choirs, sports camps, bands). No outside organizations will be able to use the buildings due to the tight schedule we have to move equipment and clean the buildings. This will be in effect from June 1, through September 1.

We are thankful to the community for providing our buildings and we will continue to collect rent that reflects our costs for utilities and custodial services; a very reasonable amount. For instance, Peterson Auditorium is rented for \$200 per day plus custodial costs.

Pesticide Advisory

As a part of Ludington Area Schools' integrated pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied to school property. You, the parent/guardians, have the right by law to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the buildings and grounds. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application. If you want or need prior notification, please complete the information below and return this form to the Ludington Area Schools Central Business Office at 809 East Tinkham Avenue at your earliest convenience. You may contact Bruce Doggett, Director of Business Services, at 845-7303, if you have any questions.

Pesticide Prior Notification Request

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Child's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

Telephone Numbers Daytime _____ Evening _____

School child is currently attending _____

Signature _____

Date _____

2008-09 School Calendar

We have listened to the community's comments and have worked hard to improve the calendar. Elementary buildings have moved to the trimester schedule, we've eliminated many scheduled half days, and elementary parent teacher conferences and secondary exams half days are now scheduled at the same time.



- 8/26 Teacher Professional Development Day
- 8/27 Teacher Professional Development Day
- 9/2 First day of school
- 9/24 Professional Learning Communities day (professional development).
No school for students.
- 10/9 Secondary Parent Teacher Conferences. Half day for students 6-12.
- 11/3 Professional Learning Communities day. No school for students.
- 11/19-21 . Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences. Half days for students K-5.
- 11/20-21 . Secondary Exams. Half days for students 6-12.
- 11/21 End of First Trimester.
- 11/27-28 . Thanksgiving Recess
- 12/10 Professional Learning Communities half day. Half day for students.
- 12/22 No school. First day of Christmas Break.
- 1/5 School resumes.
- 1/15 Secondary Parent Teacher Conferences. Half day for students 6-12.
- 1/16 Professional Learning Communities day. No school for students.
- 2/6 Professional Learning Communities day. No school for students.
- 2/25-27 ... Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences. Half days for students K-5.
- 2/26-27 ... Secondary Exams. Half days for students 6-12.
- 2/27 End of Second Trimester.
- 3/10 ACT Test for Juniors. No school for students in grades 9, 10, or 12;
AND
Professional Learning Communities half day. Half day for students K-8.
- 3/27 No school. First day of Spring Break.
- 4/6 School resumes.
- 4/10 Good Friday. No school.
- 4/16 Secondary Parent Teacher Conferences. Half day for students 6-12.
- 4/23 Professional Learning Communities day. No school for students.
- 5/19 Professional Learning Communities day. No school for students.
- 5/25 Memorial Day. No school.
- 5/27-28 ... Secondary Exams. Half days for students 6-12.
- 5/28 End of Third Trimester. Last day for students.
- 5/29 Teacher Records Day. Last day for teachers.

PM Early Childhood Center

As part of the re-configuration that we are undergoing this year, Pere Marquette Elementary School will become the Pere Marquette Early Childhood Center this September. There will be ten classes of preschoolers.

Four different programs will be offered including the Ludington Area School District Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP), LASD's programs for 4-year olds and for 3-year olds, and FiveCap's Head Start program.

Students entering the preschool for 4-year olds must turn four on or before December 1, 2008. Likewise, students must be three on or before September 1, 2008, to attend preschool. A copy of the child's birth certificate and immunization record, as well as a deposit of \$50 will be required to register for the 3- and 4-year old programs. Tuition will be \$100 per month for the 4-year old program, which will meet four half days each week. For the 3-year old program, tuition will be \$50 per month and the program will meet two half days each week. An optional Friday play group may also be available for 4-year old tuition students. This will cost an additional \$25 per month.

The MSRP and Head Start programs are free to families that qualify. Those registering for MSRP must bring a birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of income in the form of a pay stub or income tax return. For more information about registering for preschool, please call PM School at 845-3850.

All preschool teachers are certified, and all staff and teachers have CPR and First Aid training.



Foster Elementary School

There is a great deal of excitement about the 2008-09 school year and having all the third through fifth grade students at Foster. This change allows for more consistency in the presentation of the curriculum within the grade levels. An added benefit is that the students will be with all their peers in one building from third grade through twelfth grade. At Foster, there will be six classrooms of each grade, giving many more opportunities for teachers to collaborate with each other.

Teams of teachers and administrators have been working during the professional development days and at other meetings this year on the consolidation of Foster, Lakeview, and South Hamlin into one school at Foster. Their work has allowed programs and best practices from each building to be worked into a cohesive “best product” for all students next year.

Changes to Foster have been made in a way that maintains the original architectural details. The building itself has been beautifully designed so that each grade level can have its own wing and be a separate little school within a school, and yet be attached in a comfortable way to the rest of the community there. Third grade will be on the east side (“East Wing”), the fourth grade will be on the west side (“West Wing”), and the fifth grade will be in the newly renovated upstairs and in the two new classrooms on the main floor on the south side (“South Wing”). The new main floor classrooms are on the southeast and southwest sides of the building with a stairwell corridor that adjoins the classrooms with the upstairs. To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, an elevator has been installed for use by anyone whose disability keeps them from being able to use the stairs.

The Parent Teacher Committees (PTCs) at the three buildings have also worked to consolidate their organizations into one. The parents of current second, third and fourth graders have met with the principals, and officers for the new Foster PTC will be elected at a special meeting this month.

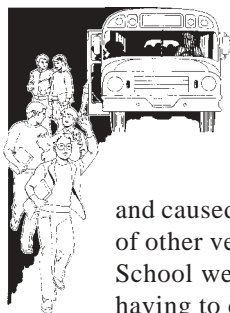
Beginning next year, Foster School staff will be one and a half principals and secretaries, 18 general education teachers, three special education teachers, a reading specialist, one each art, music and physical education teachers, one and a half educational coordinators, a home-school liaison, and various support staff.

Work continues on parking plans, parent drop off and pick up of students, and bussing. Parents will be sent more information about these topics as it becomes available. Parents and students will be given opportunities this spring to visit Foster School. Information about these meetings will be sent to parents. An open house for the community is planned for August.

We are looking forward to the 2008-09 school year with pride.



In these before and after renovation pictures you see an upstairs fifth grade classroom on the south side of Foster School. There are now four classrooms on the second floor, as well as bathrooms and a work space for small groups.



Transportation

Many changes are coming next year as the district consolidates from five elementary buildings to three. Important improvements are in store for all elementary children in the district who ride buses to school.

For years the district has had to have a place to switch bus riders from one bus to another in order to accommodate the need to get students to South Hamlin School. This switch was done at Franklin School, and caused many anxious moments because of the proximity of very small children and very large buses, along with lots of other vehicles and students because the Complex shares the same parking lot area. With the closing of South Hamlin School we will no longer need a “hub”, and students will travel to and from school on the same bus each day without having to change buses. In addition, students will have the same bus driver to and from school, and the bus driver will know each student’s name soon after the start of school.

Ludington Orioles Spring Sports Schedules

Girls Varsity Tennis

4/16 Fruitport H TBA
 4/19 Allegan Inv. A 8:00
 4/21 Grant A 4:15
 4/23 Spring Lake A 4:15
 4/26 St. Johns Inv. A 10:00
 4/28 Fremont H 4:15
 4/30 Orchard View A 4:00
 5/3 Ludington Inv. H 9:00
 5/6 Big Rapids H 4:15
 5/10 Lakes 8 Chmpshp @ Fruitport
 5/12 Traverse City Inv. A 9:00
 5/15 Regionals A 8:25
 5/20 TC Central H 4:15
 5/30 State A

Girls JV Tennis

4/16 Fruitport H 4:00
 4/17 TC East Jr. Hi. H 4:15
 4/21 Grant A 4:15
 4/23 Spring Lake A 4:15
 4/25 Mona Shores H 4:15
 4/26 Rockford A TBA
 4/28 TC West Jr. Hi. A 4:15
 4/30 Orch. View A 4:30
 5/5 TC East Jr. Hi. A 4:15
 5/6 Big Rapids H 4:15
 5/7 TC Central H 4:15
 5/12 TC Central A 4:00
 5/15 TC West Jr. Hi. H 4:15
 5/17 Ludington Inv. H 9:00

Girls Varsity Soccer

4/12 TC West A 11:00
 4/14 Fruitport H 6:45
 4/19 Ludington Inv. H 11:00
 4/21 Newaygo A 4:00
 4/25 R-Puffer A 6:45
 4/28 Tri County A 5:45
 4/30 Orch. View H 6:45
 5/2 Mona Shores H 6:45
 5/5 Fremont H 5:00
 5/6 Manistee A 6:45
 5/7 Spring Lake A TBA
 5/12 Conf. Meet A
 5/14 Conf. Meet A
 5/19 Conf. Meet A
 5/23 TC Central A 7:00
 5/27 Districts A
 6/3 Regionals A
 6/14 State A

Girls JV Soccer

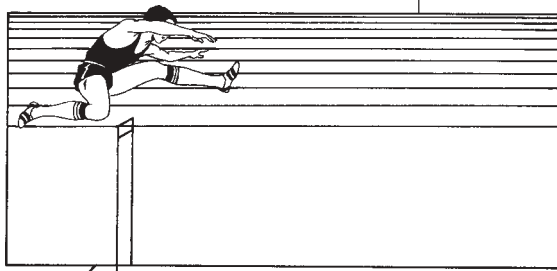
4/14 Fruitport H 5:00
 4/19 Cadillac Inv. A 11:00
 4/21 Pentwater A 4:00
 4/25 R-Puffer A 5:00
 4/28 Tri County A 4:00
 4/30 Orch. View H 5:00
 5/2 Mona Shores H 5:00
 5/5 Fremont H 5:00
 5/6 Manistee A 5:00
 5/7 Spring Lake A 5:00
 5/23 TC Central A 5:00

Boys Varsity Golf

4/16 L8AC Jamboree @ OV 11:00
 4/18 LHS Invitational. H 9:30
 4/23 L8AC Jamboree @ Fremont 11:00
 4/25 Morley Stanwood A 8:00
 4/26 Rockford Classic A 9:00
 4/28 Manistee H 4:00
 4/30 L8AC Jamboree @ Grant ... 11:00
 5/1 Shelby (JV Only) A TBA
 5/2 For. Hills Cent. Inv. . A 9:00
 5/6 R-Puffer A 4:00
 5/7 L8AC Jamboree @ Frtport .. TBA
 5/9 Whitehall H 4:00
 5/12 Fremont H 4:00
 5/15 Shelby (JV Only) A TBA
 5/16 Fremont Inv. A 9:00
 5/20 Hudsonville A 9:00
 5/22 Districts A
 5/27 Big Rapids Inv. A TBA
 5/29 Regionals A
 6/6 State A

Co-Ed Varsity Track

4/15 Spring Lake H 3:45
 4/17 Fremont A 3:45
 4/22 Fruitport H 3:45
 4/24 Orchard View A 3:45
 4/25 MCC Optimist A 3:00
 4/26 Wyoming Park Inv. .. A 9:30
 4/26 Reed City (JV Only) A 10:00
 4/29 Grant A 3:45
 5/1 Tri County A 3:45
 5/6 Newaygo H 3:45
 5/9 Lakes 8 Chmpshp. ... H 3:45
 5/13 LHS (JV) Inv. H 4:00
 5/16 Regionals @ Cadillac
 5/22 Muskegon @ G. Haven TBA
 5/31 State Meet A



The sports schedule is available on our web site at www.lasd.net.

**Varsity Boys
Baseball &
Girls Softball**



4/14	Boys Pentwater	..... H	..... 4:00
4/15	Spring Lake	..... H	..... 4:00
4/19	Boys R-Puffer	..... A	..... 9:30
4/22	Fruitport	..... A	..... 4:00
4/24	Boys TC Central	..... A	..... 4:00
4/26	Boys Manistee	..... A	..... TBA
4/29	Grant	..... H	..... 4:00
5/1	Cadillac	..... H	..... 4:00
5/2	Shelby	..... H	..... 4:00
5/3	Briggs Tournament	.. A	..... 9:00
5/6	Fremont	..... A	..... 4:00
5/8	Girls Manistee	..... H	..... 4:00
5/9	Whitehall	..... H	..... 4:00
5/13	Newaygo	..... A	..... 4:00
5/15	Hart	..... H	..... 4:00
5/16	Tri County	..... H	..... 4:00
5/17	Girls Harbr. Lt. Trny.	A	..... 9:00
5/20	Orch. View	..... A	..... 4:00

JV Boys Baseball & Girls Softball

4/15	Spring Lake	..... A	..... 4:00
4/22	Fruitport	..... H	..... 4:00
4/24	Boys TC Central	..... H	..... 4:00
4/29	Grant	..... A	..... 4:00
5/1	Cadillac	..... A	..... 4:00
5/2	Shelby	..... A	..... 4:00
5/6	Fremont	..... H	..... 4:00
5/8	Girls Manistee	..... A	..... 4:00
5/9	Whitehall	..... A	..... 4:00
5/13	Newaygo	..... H	..... 4:00
5/15	Hart	..... A	..... 4:00
5/16	Tri County	..... A	..... 4:00
5/20	Orch. View	..... H	..... 4:00
5/22	Boys MCC	..... H	..... 4:00

LHS First Annual BBQ Cook-off

The LHS Metals class, taught by T.J. Christiansen, held a BBQ cook-off early this spring using grills and smokers that the students made in class.



Nick Tushek and the winning grill/smoker.

Mr. Christiansen would like to thank Portside Floral and Best Choice Marketplace for their generous donations, and Steve Hull for his donation of the barrels used in this project.

The competition rules stated that the BBQ grill/smoker must be constructed at the LHS metal shop. Grilling/smoking could be done using charcoal, wood, propane and/or electricity. Any design that the students could dream up, they could attempt to construct. Lastly, all of the food in the competition had to be

cooked on site on the day of the cook-off. The winners were determined by a panel of judges who judged on the following criteria: Overall appearance/quality of the custom-made BBQ equipment; taste/presentation of a pork entree; taste/presentation of a poultry entree; taste/presentation of jerky (any meat); and taste/presentation of a side dish.



Grilled fruit was a great side dish.

The team of **D.J. Raspotnik and Nick Tushek** were judged the winners of the cook-off using their custom-made horizontal propane smoker made from a 55 gallon barrel. The smoker included a propane deep fryer as an attached accessory. They were each awarded a 12 volt cordless drill, hammer, stud finder, crescent wrench, pliers, tape measure, drill bits, charger, tool bag, and bragging rights.



Mr. Christiansen checks out the grill make by Justin Duggan and Sam Barber.

The second place prize of utility/hunting saw combo knife kits and 4D MAG-Lites went to the team of Justin Duggan and Sam Barber. Third place went to Jordan Yeck and Tom Brown who won Carhartt winter hats and tape measures.

MEAP Information

The Fall 2007 MEAP scores are listed here. We hope you're as proud of these scores as we are. It takes the support of the community, parents, and staff for students to achieve at these levels year after year. We know you join with us in congratulating our students. The scores are the percent of All Students in each grade who earned scores of Advanced and Proficient (Levels 1 or 2). The state scores are also listed, so what you see here is Ludington/State.

The **orange** scores for Ludington represent those that are higher than the state scores. Scores for Journey are not available from the State because Journey has fewer than 10 students at grades 7, 8, and 9. District 11th grade scores are not yet available.

Grade 3: Reading **87**/86% Writing **71**/57% ELA **86**/81% Math **96**/90%
 Grade 4: Reading **91**/84% Writing **52**/44% ELA **84**/76% Math **93**/86%
 Grade 5: Reading 82/82% Writing **60**/59% ELA **80**/78 Math **82**/74% Science **87**/82%
 Grade 6: Reading **90**/82% Writing **87**/73% ELA **90**/80% Math **92**/73% Social Studies **89**/73%
 Grade 7: Reading **78**/72% Writing **86**/77% ELA **80**/74% Math **84**/73%
 Grade 8: Reading **87**/77% Writing **79**/70% ELA **83**/75 Math **87**/72% Science **89**/79%
 Grade 9: Social Studies **81**/71%

The English Language Arts (ELA) scores are a weighted combination of the Reading and Writing scores and are used in the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress by the State of Michigan.

As can be seen by comparing the following chart with the one above, Ludington School District achieves well above the State expectations. According to the federal No Child Left Behind act, Michigan and other states must develop annual target goals for AYP. The State must raise the targets in gradual increments with the expectation that 100 percent of the students in Michigan will demonstrate proficiency on state assessments by the 2013-14 school year. The following chart shows the State's expectations for proficiency levels in each grade in Michigan public schools through the 2013-14 school year.

MICHIGAN AYP TARGETS	2007-08	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
ELEMENTARY					
Mathematics	64%	73%	82%	91%	100%
ELA	59%	69%	79%	90%	100%
MIDDLE SCHOOL					
Mathematics	54%	66%	77%	89%	100%
ELA	54%	66%	77%	89%	100%
HIGH SCHOOL					
Mathematics	56%	67%	78%	89%	100%
ELA	61%	71%	81%	90%	100%

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