

Northwood Elementary School

Sheila Michael, Principal
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Key Results from 2008-09 School Improvement Plans

Improvement plans, which outline current and ongoing school goals, are developed by each Fulton County school. These guide school administrators and teachers toward improving student achievement and overall school success.

Objective – Improve student achievement in reading by increasing the percentage of third and fourth graders scoring at Level 3 (Exceeding Expectations) on the reading CRCT

Results – We nearly maintained the total percentage of students meeting or exceeding performance on the Reading CRCT from the previous year, yet we did not increase the percentage of Level 3 students. In 2007-08, the percentage of students scoring in Level 3 was 60% while in 2008-08 the percentage dipped to 47%.

Objective – Improve student achievement in math by decreasing the percentage of first through fifth graders scoring at Level 1 (below expectations) on the math CRCT

Results – We increased the percentage of grades 1-5 at Level 1 by 1% (from 7% to 8%) which represents about seven additional students scoring at the lowest level.

Objective – Improve student achievement in writing by increasing the percentage of first through fifth graders who meet or exceed standards on local spring writing practice tests. This was a baseline-setting objective. We aimed for a percentage of 85%.

Results – We achieved 87% (737 students out of 848) who were able to meet or exceed standards on the grade levels' writing practice tests. Third and fifth grades used state exercises; all other grades used schoolwide grade level writing exercises.

About this Report

The Fulton County School System uses a framework – called the **Value-Added Performance System** – that guides school leaders in raising student achievement by measuring academic growth as well as performance and by comparing or “benchmarking” against similar schools achieving excellent results.

The system helps answer the questions:

- **How effective are our schools?**
- **How much difference do our schools and teachers make?**
- **How much added value do our schools offer over other schools and school systems?**
- **How can we improve in order to better help each and every student reach his or her fullest potential?**

The Value-Added Performance System uses analytical tools to isolate data that reflects the school's impact on student learning. It enables the school to focus on factors over which they have control to better focus improvement initiatives.

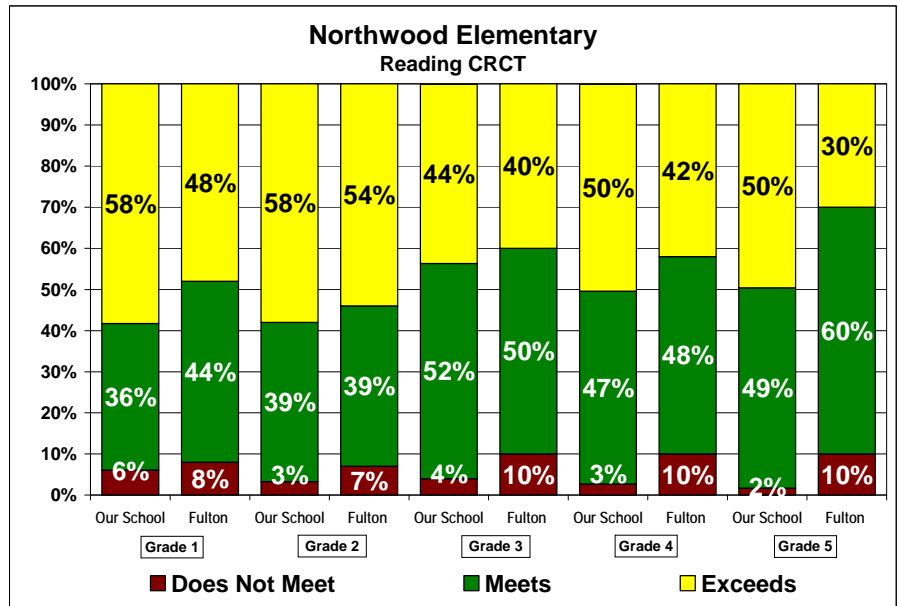
2008-09 Academic Achievement

Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests

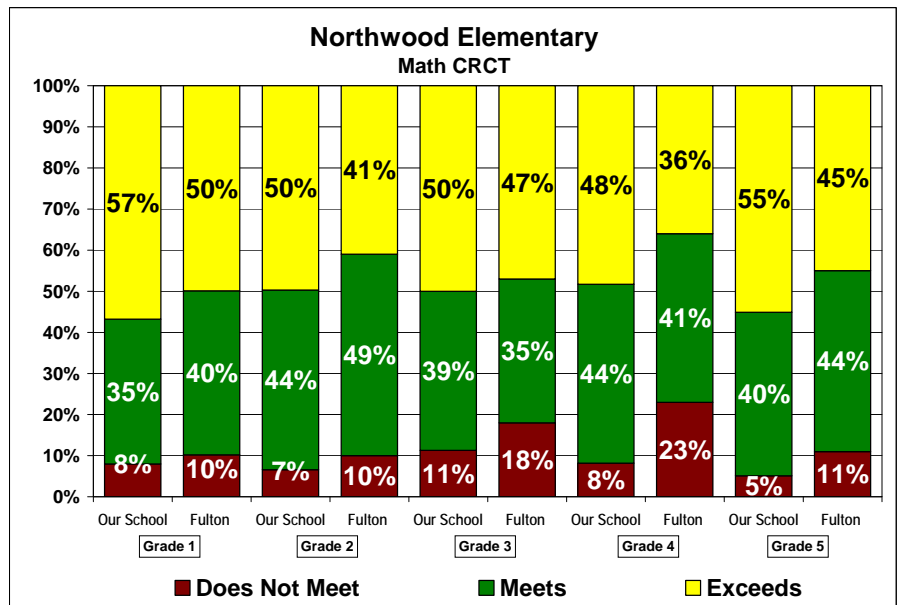
The Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) are given in grades one through eight. The test measures specific skills included in the Georgia core curriculum that are considered essential for continued academic progress.

CRCT scores are reported as levels. Level I indicates students do not yet meet expectations. Students scoring at Level 2 meet the state's expectations of being on grade level, and students at Level 3 exceed expectations, or are above grade level. Scores are reported by the percent of students in a school scoring at or above grade level.

Reading Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



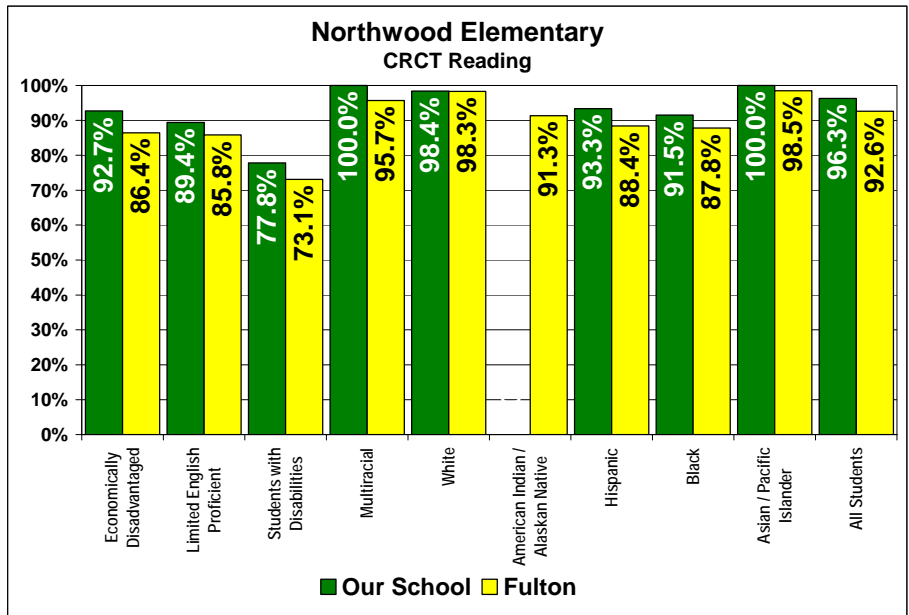
Math Achievement – Our School vs. Fulton County Averages



Reading Achievement –

Separated by Our School’s Student Demographics

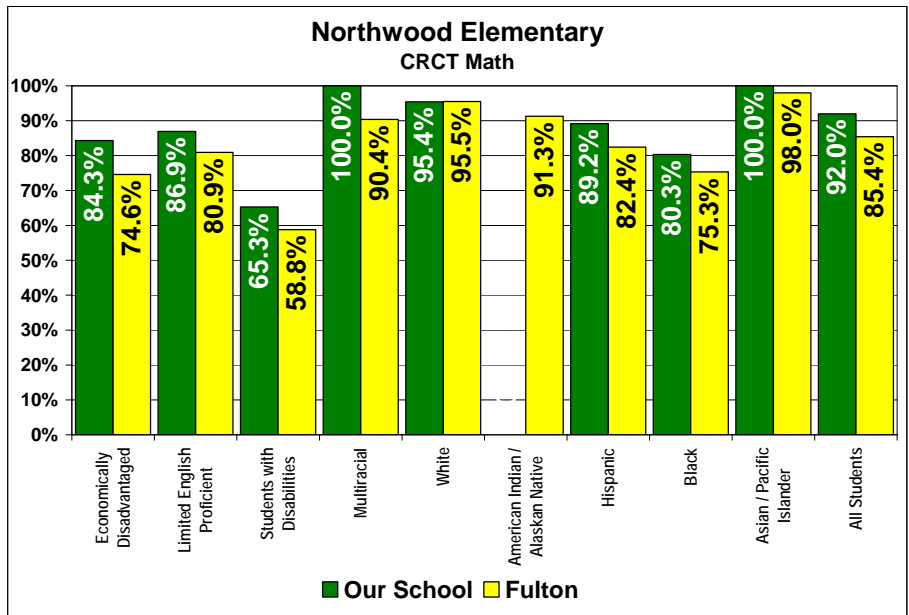
(no data is shown if our school has less than 10 students in a specific demographic category)



Math Achievement –

Separated by Our School’s Student Demographics

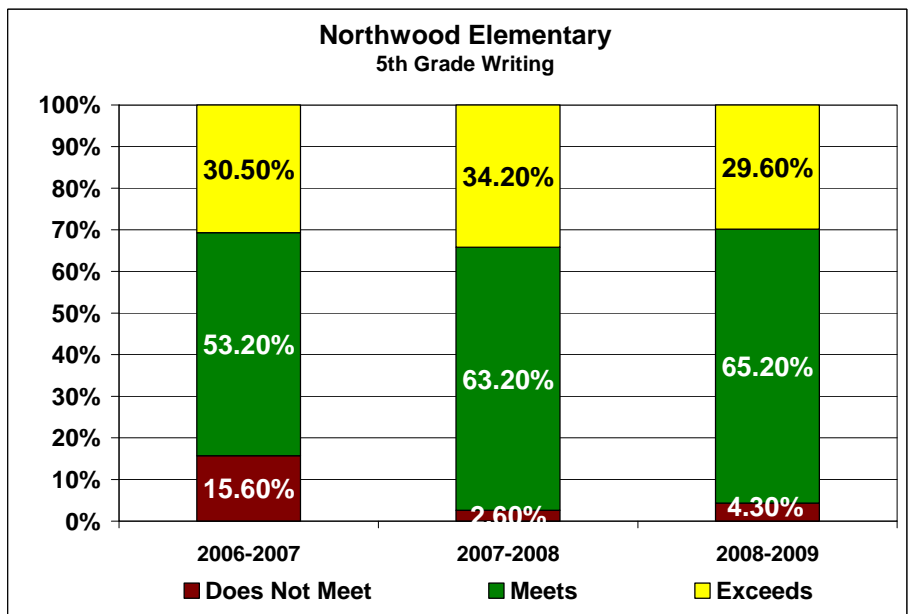
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Grade Five Writing Assessment

Part of the Statewide Testing Program, fifth grade students are assigned an essay topic in one of three genres: narrative, informational, and persuasive. Students are allowed approximately 120 minutes to write their essays. Papers are scored by trained raters using a standardized scoring system.

Similar to the CRCT, scores are reported as Does Not Meet, Meets and Exceeds Standards.



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2008-09 Highlights and Achievements

Academics and Activities

- Earned the Governor's Silver Award for the Highest Performance in fifth grade math in the Statewide Accountability System Program
- Northwood fifth graders have the highest writing scores in the district, region, and state on the Fifth Grade State Writing Test
- Northwood scored above overall Fulton County CRCT scores in all subject areas in all grade levels.
- Northwood's Professional Development Committee developed school-wide Power Standards, an initiative to help teachers, parents, and students understand standards essential for mastery at each grade level.
- Northwood's Curriculum Support Teacher brought the Northwood Power Standards Model to Central Office personnel and to other schools who have requested in-service training in how to implement it.
- Northwood also developed a Special Education Inclusion Model in the upper grades that has been replicated by other schools
- Northwood boasts 37 ActivBoards (interactive whiteboards) – 31 of 35 classroom teachers plus the Computer Lab, art room, ESOL, and Media Center utilize this progressive technology for instruction.
- Northwood established the county's first elementary school level Junior BETA club, a national service organization for students who excel in academics and leadership to volunteer their time productively to their school and community.
- Nine students competed at the county level Technology Fair. One student was a finalist at the state level.
- Northwood's media center is open to families on Thursday nights after school hours for homework help, use of computers, research and reading. The attendance at these evenings has steadily grown over the years to upwards of 60 people per night. In addition, the media center is also open Wednesday mornings in June for story hour and crafts.
- Northwood's parent liaison held monthly parenting meetings for our Hispanic population and brought in community leaders to help families with job, health care, and school information. We also held a twice-weekly yearlong English class for ESOL parents.
- Northwood's fourth annual Oratorical Contest, sponsored by Optimist International, sent boy and girl winners to compete at the region level.
- Five Red Team/ Blue Team meetings offer classes a chance to show off what they have learned to the rest of the school and parents.
- Continued partnership with Roswell Parks and Recreation to develop nature paths and bike trails behind the school connecting to the Greenway Trail.
- Local PTA Reflections Contest winner went on to the state contest.

Other Notable Achievements

- Fifth Grade Decades Day Festival showcases all the research students compiled about the history, politics, and culture of the 20th century.
- Fourth Grade Wax Museum allows students to share all they learned about explorers in a unique "press my button" statue display.
- Schoolwide Wellness Fair was held to foster improved health and wellness among the school community
- Received local PTA Grant to promote health and wellness
- Gold Apple award for 100% PTA enrollment by parents and staff
- Over 900 volunteer hours per week
- Northwood Foundation continues to support local school initiatives
- Activities for student involvement:
 - After-school Chess Club, Grades 3-5
 - Junior BETA Club
 - School Green Team (conservation)
 - Fifth Grade Safety Patrol
 - Explorervision Morning News Broadcast team for fifth graders, celebrating 10 years
 - M.A.S.H. Team for fifth graders – students helping out in media center
 - PTA Movie Nights for grades K-3
 - PTA Music Nights for grades 4-5
- Activities for community involvement:
 - Hands On Atlanta Day for school beautification
 - Brusters' Scoop Night
 - Domino's Pizza Nights
 - Skating Parties at The Cooler
 - Bingo Nights at school
 - PTA Fall Festival carnival
 - Book Fair Family Night
 - VCG Tutoring program – company sends employees to work 1:1 with selected students

**This report was produced by the Fulton County School System
with the assistance of our school.**

Equal opportunity agency. Compliance Coordinator. 404-763-4585. TTY 1-800-255-0135

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