

Menlo Park Academy Annual Report

2019-2020

Introduction

Menlo Park Academy continued to grow both its reputation and enrollment during the 2019-2020 school year, with 556 students from 51 school districts and eight counties across the State of Ohio. This number represents an 11 percent increase in enrollment from the previous school year.

Menlo Park Academy's efforts also garnered public recognition for its excellence in education. The community school was ranked as the No. 1 Public School by the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, and was recognized as a Niche.com 250 Best Schools in the Nation for the second consecutive year, and the No. 1 Charter Middle School in the Greater Cleveland Area.

The 2019-2020 school year was the third year for Menlo Park Academy within its renovated space — the historic Joseph & Feiss factory building — and marked the school's 11th year since its founding in 2008.

As Ohio's only tuition-free school for gifted children in grades K-8, Menlo Park Academy is proud to share its many accomplishments from the 2019-2020 school year throughout the pages of this report.

Our Mission

Menlo Park Academy is a public school that develops the potential of gifted children through an exemplary program of rewarding experiences that nurture the whole child.

Our Philosophy

Gifted Children are an at-risk group of learners. They need a dynamic environment customized to their individual needs. They deserve enriched experiences designed to develop their skills and their unique intellectual, social and emotional needs.

Menlo Park Academy's innovative model offers more density and complexity, and moves at a faster pace than a traditional school. Students are also afforded the opportunity to interact and build friendships with their intellectual peers.

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Teri Harrison, Board Chair

Susan Dornan, MS, RN

Dante Giancola
Fraser Hamilton
Dr. Richard Hronek
Dr. Suzanne McFarland
Cindy Wang

Academic Success

Testing Summary

As a public charter school, Menlo Park Academy participates in all required state-mandated testing. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic last spring the Ohio Board of Education was not able to complete its 2019-2020 AIR Testing, therefore no data exists.

A Review by the Numbers

Staff, Parent and Student Satisfaction Survey

Annual Survey Summary

Three stakeholder groups responded to the 2019-2020 Menlo Park Academy Annual Survey: Staff, Parents and Students in grades 5-8. There were 38 Staff respondents, 209 Parent respondents and 118 Student respondents.

Respondents indicated they either Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree or Strongly Disagree with each item. Respondents could also mark each item as Not Applicable. Similar questions were asked across all three surveys, including the measurement of each group's overall satisfaction related to experience and growth at Menlo Park Academy.

Overall Satisfaction

Staff 84.2 percent Strongly Agreed or Somewhat Agreed that "Overall, I am satisfied with my personal and professional growth at Menlo Park Academy this year."

Parents 81.3 percent Strongly Agreed or Somewhat Agreed that "Overall, I am satisfied with my child's experience at Menlo Park Academy this year."

Students (Grades 5-8) 90.7 percent Strongly Agreed or Somewhat Agreed that "Overall, I am satisfied with my progress and learning at MPA this year."

Attendance

The Menlo Park Academy student body continues to exceed the required 93 percent attendance rate, with a daily student-reporting-rate of 95 percent.

Re-enrollment

Approximately 93 percent of our 2018-2019 school year student population re-enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year.

Volunteers

Menlo Park Academy would not exist, let alone thrive, without the commitment of our parent community. A productive parent relationship with school faculty strengthens community and allows MPA students to thrive in a way that no one can accomplish alone. Volunteer teams have helped with academic enrichment programs, assisted faculty and administrators by providing school-day support, raised funds for capital campaigns, among other countless contributions.

On average, our volunteers contributed more than 1,500 hours each month.

Fundraising Activities

Parent volunteers are also an important part of Menlo Park Academy's fundraising efforts. In 2019-20, the school participated in the following fundraising activities, raising more than \$100,000:

Annual Appeal
Cleveland Browns Concession Stand
Winter Concert
Labels for Education Programs
Retailer Cashback Programs

Financial Results

(Unaudited, as of June 30, 2020)

REVENUES

State Sources	\$4,100,996
Federal Sources	\$ 256,995
Local Sources	\$1,010,851
TOTAL REVENUES	\$5,368,842

EXPENSES

Salaries & Wages	\$2,233,439
Employee Benefits	\$ 677,857
Purchased Services	\$1,882,790
Supplies & Materials	\$ 161,850
Capital Outlay	\$ 9,930
Other Expenses	\$ 420,660

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$5,238,526**

Highlights

Graduation

The 42 graduates of the Class of 2020 were offered more than \$700,000 in scholarships, and are attending the best public, private, parochial and independent high schools throughout Northeast Ohio.

New Board Members

Menlo Park Academy welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year: Tiffany Randle and Melissa Picone.

Sponsor

Menlo Park Academy is sponsored by The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West.

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) served as sponsor for Menlo Park Academy during the 2019-2020 school year. ESCLEW monitored the school's academic and fiscal performance, as well as organization and operation of the school, and determined that the school was overall compliant.

Mission

The ESCLEW Community Schools Center is a student-centered authorizer of charter schools, advancing quality educational opportunities throughout the state of Ohio.

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) has been sponsoring community (charter) schools in Ohio since 1998 and was one of the original pilot program sponsors. Today, ESCLEW provides responsible oversight, monitoring, and technical assistance to 54 community schools statewide. The staff in our Community Schools Center helps to provide a focus on academic, operational, and fiscal integrity. The Community Schools Center is accepting applications for new schools and replication or transfer of sponsorship for the 2021-22 school year.

Community schools attract students because of the uniqueness of their particular educational approach and program offerings. Community schools prioritize developmentally appropriate instruction, educational effectiveness, and academic achievement. Schools sponsored by the ESC of Lake Erie West include 22 special needs schools, two autism schools, a gifted school, and an e-school. We also

sponsor schools that focus on STEM education, college preparatory classes, career and technical education, and character development.

The promise community schools hold for educational reform lies in a thoughtful combination of freedom and accountability. Underwritten with public funds but run independently, community schools are held accountable by their sponsors for academic and fiscal performance and must meet the same rigorous standards as traditional school districts.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Menlo Park Academy

The ESC of Lake Erie West Community Schools Center is a student-centered authorizer of charter schools, advancing quality educational opportunities throughout the state of Ohio. Every year, the ESC of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) produces an Annual Performance Report for each community school it oversees. The report provides an overview of the school and a summary of its performance in academics, non-academics (fiscal and organizational/operational), and legal compliance over the current contract term. For schools in the first year of a renewal contract, the report also includes a summary for the last year of the previous contract, due to a requirement by the Ohio Department of Education to provide multiple years of performance data. The report also identifies the school's strengths, areas for improvement, and prospects for renewal.

As an Ohio community school sponsor, ESCLEW has a duty to monitor and provide oversight and technical assistance to all sponsored schools which includes an assessment of each sponsored school's academic performance on an annual basis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio ordered the closure of all schools, effective March 17, 2020, and cancelled all in-person academic assessments and the release of report card ratings for the 2019-2020 school year. Largely because of the state-ordered closure and lack of academic data, ESCLEW is unable to fully complete its assessments of the academic performance of its sponsored schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

I. Overview

School Information				
IRN	Contract Term	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Grades Served
000318	10 Years	07/01/2011	06/30/2021	K-8
Address	2149 W 53 rd St. Cleveland, OH 44102			
Contact	Phone: (440) 925-6365		Fax: (216) 453-0157	
Website	https://menloparkacademy.com/			
Leadership	Tara Schmitt, Principal			
Governing Authority	Teri Harrison, President; Suzanne McFarland, Vice President; Susan Dornan, Secretary; Fraser Hamilton Sr.; Richard Hronek; Dante Giancola; Melissa Picone; and Tiffany Randle, Board Members			
Mission Statement	Menlo Park Academy is a public school that develops the potential of gifted children through an exemplary program of rewarding experiences that nurtures the whole child.			
Student Demographics			Enrollment	
Gender	%	#	Grade	#
Female	46.4%	258	K	82
Male	53.6%	298	1	76
Race/Ethnicity	%	#	2	76
American Indian/Alaskan Native	NC	NC	3	59
Asian/Pacific Islander	19.2%	107	4	54
Black, Non-Hispanic	10.3%	57	5	65
Hispanic	3.1%	17	6	60
Multiracial	12.2%	68	7	42
White, Non-Hispanic	55.2%	307	8	42
Historically Underserved	%	#	9	X
Economically Disadvantaged	21.4%	119	10	
English Learner	9.2%	51	11	
Migrant	NC	NC	12	
Students with Disabilities	4.7%	26	Total	

II. Academic Performance

School Grade			
Overall Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	B		N/A
2017-2018	B		N/A
Achievement			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	A		N/A
2017-2018	B		N/A
2016-2017	B		N/A
2015-2016	A		N/A
Performance Index	#/#; %	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	107.2/120; 89.3%	B	Not Met
2017-2018	108.8/120; 90.1%	A	Met
2016-2017	106.4/120; 88.7%	B	Met
2015-2016	110.8/120; 92.3%	A	Not Met
2014-2015	100.9/120; 84.1%	B	N/A
2013-2014	113.7/120; 94.8%	A	X
2012-2013	112.2/120; 93.5%	A	
Indicators Met	#/#; %	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	19/20; 95.0%	A	Met
2017-2018	17/20; 85.0%	B	Not Met
2016-2017	19/21; 90.5%	A	Not Met
2015-2016	19/20; 95.0%	A	Not Met
2014-2015	16/17; 94.1%	A	Not Met
2013-2014	14/14; 100%	A	X
2012-2013	14/14; 100%	A	
Chronic Absenteeism	%		Contract Goal
2019-2020	9.0%		Met
2018-2019	9.7%		N/A

Progress		
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	F	N/A
2017-2018	F	N/A
2016-2017	F	N/A
2015-2016	C	N/A
Value-Added Overall	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	F	Not Met
2017-2018	F	Not Met
2016-2017	F	Not Met
2015-2016	C	N/A
2014-2015	B	N/A
2013-2014	D	
2012-2013	D	
Gifted Students	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	F	Not Met
2017-2018	F	Not Met
2016-2017	F	Not Met
2015-2016	C	N/A
2014-2015	B	N/A
2013-2014	F	
2012-2013	F	
Students with Disabilities	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	NR	N/A
2017-2018	NR	N/A
2016-2017	NR	N/A
2015-2016	NR	N/A
2014-2015	NR	N/A
2013-2014	NR	
2012-2013	NR	
Lowest 20% in Achievement	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	NR	N/A
2017-2018	NR	N/A
2016-2017	NR	N/A
2015-2016	NR	N/A
2014-2015	NR	N/A
2013-2014	NR	
2012-2013	NR	
Gap Closing		
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	B	N/A
2017-2018	A	N/A
2016-2017	A	N/A
2015-2016	A	N/A

Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A	NR	N/A
2018-2019	89.9%	B	Not Met
2017-2018	100%	A	Met
2016-2017	100%	A	Met
2015-2016	100%	A	Met
2014-2015	89.9%	B	Met
2013-2014	100%	A	X
2012-2013	100%	A	
Graduation Rate			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	NR		N/A
2017-2018	NR		N/A
2016-2017	NR		N/A
2015-2016	NR		N/A
4-Year Graduation Rate	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	NC	NR	N/A
2017-2018	NC	NR	N/A
2016-2017	NC	NR	N/A
2015-2016	NC	NR	N/A
2014-2015	NC	NR	N/A
2013-2014	NC	NR	X
2012-2013	NC	NR	
5-Year Graduation Rate	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	NC	NR	N/A
2017-2018	NC	NR	N/A
2016-2017	NC	NR	N/A
2015-2016	NC	NR	N/A
2014-2015	NC	NR	N/A
2013-2014	NC	NR	X
2012-2013	NC	NR	
Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	A		N/A
2017-2018	NR		N/A
2016-2017	NR		N/A
2015-2016	NR		N/A
Lit. Improvement/ Moved to On-Track	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	83.3%	A	N/A
2017-2018	NC	NR	N/A
2016-2017	NC	NR	N/A
2015-2016	NC	NR	N/A
2014-2015	NC	NR	N/A
2013-2014	NC	NR	X

Third Grade Reading Guarantee	%	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	100%	N/A
2017-2018	NR	N/A
2016-2017	96.0%	N/A
2015-2016	100%	N/A
2014-2015	100%	N/A
2013-2014	100%	
State Reading/ELA Test Proficiency	%	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	N/A
2018-2019	95.9%	N/A
2017-2018	NR	N/A
2016-2017	90.9%	N/A
2015-2016	93.2%	N/A
2014-2015	97.5%	N/A
2013-2014	100%	
Prepared for Success		
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR	N/A
2018-2019	NR	N/A
2017-2018	NR	N/A
2016-2017	NR	N/A
2015-2016	NR	N/A

Other Academic Measures	
Nationally Normed Assessment	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A
2018-2019	Met
2017-2018	Met
2016-2017	N/A
2015-2016	N/A
2014-2015	N/A
Specific Subgroup	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A

Comparative Data	
Similar School #1	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A
2018-2019	Not Met
Similar School #2	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A
2018-2019	N/A

III. Non-Academic Performance

Mission-Specific	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Met
2017-2018	Met
2016-2017	Met
2015-2016	Met
2014-2015	Met

Attendance	
	Contract Goal
2018-2019	Met
2017-2018	Met
2016-2017	Met
2015-2016	Met
2014-2015	Met

Parent Satisfaction	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Not Met
2018-2019	Not Met
2017-2018	Not Met
2016-2017	N/A
2015-2016	N/A
2014-2015	N/A

Governing Board Performance	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Met
2017-2018	Met
2016-2017	Met
2015-2016	Met
2014-2015	Met

Student Discipline	
Grades K-3	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Not Met
Grades 4-8	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
Grades 9-12	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A

Organizational and Operational	
On-Time Rate	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Not Met
2018-2019	Met
Accuracy Rate	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Not Met

Financial Performance	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met

Financial Performance and Sustainability	
	Contract Goal
2018-2019	Met
2017-2018	Met
2016-2017	Met
2015-2016	Met
2014-2015	Met

Financial Sustainability	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Not Met

IV. Legal Compliance

Menlo Park Academy was in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations for the 2019-2020 school year.

V. Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

Menlo Park Academy was not on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) during the 2019-2020 school year.

VI. Performance Summary

Performance Summary	
Areas of Strength	Menlo Park Academy is a school for gifted learners located in Cleveland, Ohio. The school has a compelling mission, grounded in the fact that gifted students tend to be under-served by traditional school districts. The school is situated in a newly renovated facility and is equipped with flexible space. A strength of the school is its focus on student emotional growth and development, offering several programs to forward those aims.
Areas for Improvement	Menlo Park Academy earned an "F" in overall growth and gifted growth on the last Local Report Card. While I tend to concur that the school probably is disadvantaged in the manner that the scores are calculated, I consider it a weakness that the school has not provided achievement data that would thwart the awarded grades. Menlo Park Academy would be greatly improved as a school if they were to articulate student performance goals and hold themselves accountable to reaching them.
Prospects for Renewal	Probable