



Menlo Park Academy

Developing the Potential of Gifted Children

2022-2023 Annual Report



MENLO PARK ACADEMY

Menlo Park Academy has continued to offer exemplary education during the 2022-2023 school year. We concluded the year with an enrollment of 488 students.

Menlo Park Academy's efforts also garnered public recognition for its excellence in education. The community school was ranked as the No. 1 Charter Elementary School and No. 1 Charter Middle School by Niche.com as well as among the top 1.5% of elementary schools in the country.

The 2022-2023 school year presented unique opportunities for Menlo Park Academy to showcase its skill and family-centered support. The school decided to return to our roots and focus on our *foundational focus*. We had the opportunity to fully return to the classroom and slowly move out of the COVID era. We focused on classroom culture, and positivity while using the responsive classroom model. We brought on several dynamic new hires who helped us reach our cultural and educational goals.

As Ohio's only tuition-free school for gifted children in grades K-8, Menlo Park Academy is proud to share the many accomplishments of our students and programs from the 2022-2023 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 unique intellectual, social, and emotional needs.

Menlo Park Academy's innovative model offers more depth 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.

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Teri Harrison, Board Chair

Susan Dornan, RN

Tiffany Randle

Twana Rogers

Geoffrey Belanger

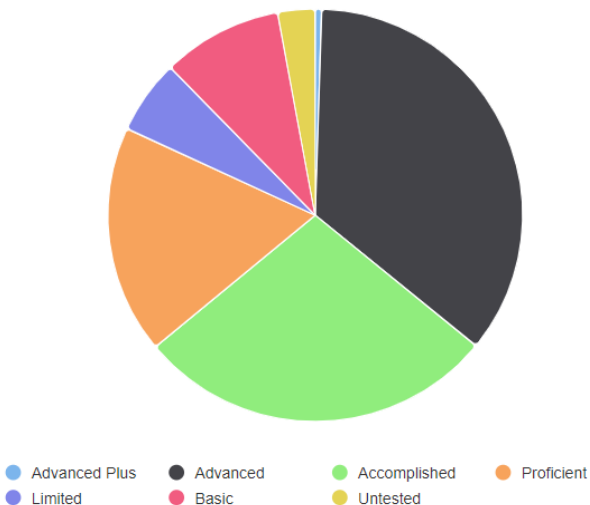
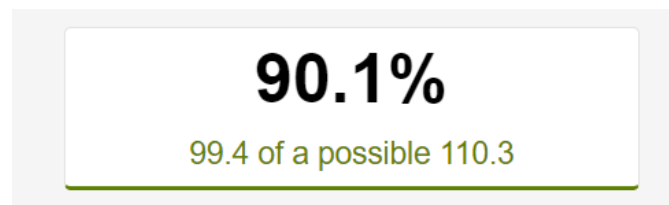
Shruti Aring

State Testing

As a public charter school, Menlo Park Academy participates in all required state-mandated testing. State testing is not the focus of our academic instruction.

Performance Index

“The performance index measures the test results of every student, not just those who score proficient or higher. Schools and districts receive points on the index for every student who takes the test. The higher the performance level on the state tests, the more points awarded toward the index score. The index score is divided by the maximum possible score. Each year the maximum possible score is determined by the average of the highest 2% performance index scores in the state.”



The preferred benchmark assessment used by Menlo Park Academy is MAP or the Measure of Academic Progress. MAP is a computerized adaptive test that helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students and make informed decisions to promote a child's academic growth. Menlo Park Academy is proud to share our students' MAP data. Menlo Park Academy's MAP data demonstrates that our 2022-2023 academic achievement persisted.

MAP Reading Assessment		
	Spring 2023	
Grade	Menlo Mean RIT Score	National Achievement Percentile
K	174.9	96
1	190.1	91
2	201.2	84
3	213.9	84
4	213.2	69
5	220.6	72
6	230.4	77
7	234.4	83
8	238.8	84

MAP Math Assessment		
	Spring 2023	
Grade	Spring 2023 Mean RIT Score	Achievement Percentile
K	181	98
1	192.9	88
2	202.7	83
3	215	84
4	216.4	64
5	229.4	74
6	238.3	81
7	253.6	92
8	259.6	92

Staff, Parent and Student Satisfaction Survey

Annual Survey Summary

Three stakeholder groups responded to the 2022-2023 Menlo Annual Survey: teachers/staff, parents, and students in grades 5 to 8. There were 58 parent respondents, 25 teacher/staff respondents, and 160 middle-level student respondents. Respondents indicated that they Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Disagreed, or Strongly Disagreed for each item. Respondents also could mark each item as Not Applicable. Questions having responses of 85% or more combined Strongly Agreed or Agreed responses were considered “met” and not noted as an area of concern.

Staff: The 2023 results show that 60 percent (compared to 30% last year) of the responding teaching staff Strongly Agreed or Agreed that “Overall, I am satisfied with my personal and professional growth at MPA this year.”

Parents: Sixty-eight percent of parents responded to “Overall, I am satisfied with my child’s experience at MPA this year” with Strongly Agree or Agree and 82% of parents also felt their middle-level students were advancing.

Students: On the student survey, 68% of grade 6 to 8-grade students responded Strongly Agree or Agree to “Overall, I am satisfied with my progress and learning at MPA this year.”

Attendance

The Menlo Park Academy student body continued to attend with a daily student reporting rate of 92.8% percent for the 2022-2023 school year.

Re-enrollment

Of our 2021-2022 school year student population, 93 percent returned for the 2022-2023 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 the community and allows MPA students to thrive in a way that could not be accomplished otherwise.

Fundraising Activities

Parent volunteers are also an important part of Menlo Park Academy's fundraising efforts. In 2022-2023, the school hosted our signature Winter Benefit which consisted of a virtual auction and student concert. Additionally, the school engaged in various other fundraising activities which in total earned \$22,883.92 for Menlo Park Academy. Beyond the stated fundraising endeavors, the school launched its Annual Appeal and raised \$25,749.03. These activities demonstrated passion and support for our unique Menlo Park Academy community.

Sponsor

The Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) served as a sponsor for Menlo Park Academy during the 2022-2023 school year.

ESCLEW monitored the school's academic and fiscal performance, as well as the organization and operation of the school, and determined that the school was overall compliant with all laws and rules.

ESCLEW Community Schools Center's 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 53 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.

A Review by the Numbers

Revenues

State Sources \$4,170,138

Federal Sources \$ 503,990

Local Sources \$876,001

TOTAL REVENUES: \$5,550,129

Expenses

Teachers and Staff Salaries and benefits \$ 2,671,307

Building Maintenance and Operation \$ 1,183,190

Purchased Services – Back Office \$ 449,345

Purchased Services – Other \$ 640,141

Supplies, Materials, and Other \$ 353,858

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$ 5,297,841

* Financial Results (Unaudited, as of June 30, 2023)

Graduation

The 46 graduates of the Class of 2023 left Menlo Park Academy to attend the area's best public, parochial, and independent high schools throughout Northeast Ohio.



Year in Review

Competitions, Community Events, and Field Trips

Competitions

Cardboard Boat Races
Mock Trial
National History Day Regional and National Competition
Ohio History Day Competition
Quiz Bowl
Regional chess tournaments
Scripps Spelling Bee 2023
Young Astronauts Day

Special Events

Character Trait of the Month events
Field Day
Intercession Week
Grandparents Day
Music In Our Schools Week
Pi Day
Spring Art Show
Spring Drama Production
Trunk-or-Treat & fall celebrations
Valentines Day parties
Veterans Day program
Walk-a-Thon
Winter Concert
World Kindness Day

Field Trips

Baldwin Wallace University Biology Department

Camp Nuhop
Canalway Center
Cedar Point
Cleveland History Tour
Cleveland Metroparks Nature Tracks Program
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Cleveland Mural tour
Cleveland Museum of Art
Cleveland Orchestra
Cleveland Playhouse
Dearborn, Michigan
Lake Erie Crushers
Lake Erie Islands
Lake Farm Parks
Maltz Museum
National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton
New York City
Playhouse Square
Sree Venkateswara Temple of Cleveland
University of Akron Women in Engineering

COMPETITIONS

Providing in-building competitions that may lead to state and national competitions, we offer support to students for the experience of self-motivation, self-expression, and being gracious competitors. Students learn to support one another throughout these challenges as well.

Competition Highlights

2023 Scripps Spelling Bee

MPA's annual Spelling Bee took place on January 27, 2023. 20 students competed in the final rounds to become the MPA Spelling Bee Champ! Competition was fierce, but in the end, 7th grader Olivia P. was the winner and advanced to the Scripps Spelling Bee regional competition. 6th grade student Kason K. finished second and 7th grader Olivia P. (and Sophia's twin sister) came in third.



National History Day Competitions

Our middle school students continued Menlo's impressive track record at National History Day (NHD) competitions at the regional, state, and national levels.

At the Region 3 competition in March 2023 at the Cleveland History Center, 33 Menlo Wizards competed, with 19 of them advancing to the state-level Ohio History Day in April. Menlo was the top middle school in the six-county region.

At Ohio History Day at Ohio Wesleyan University, Menlo students competed in five of the nine Junior Division categories, and finished in the top two in all five categories, with an amazing eight students (five projects) who advanced to the NHD Nationals! All eight competed at the University of Maryland in June, and although none placed at the top, they all had an amazing experience.

Here are the five projects and eight students who competed at NHD Nationals:

Junior Division Group Documentary:

- The Frontiers of Interracial Marriage in America: Loving vs. Virginia - Sylvia S. & Leanne Z.

Junior Division Group Exhibit:

- Frontiers in Labor Unions in Britain: The Matchgirls Strike (1888) - Kyla M. & Eliza B.

Junior Division Group Performance:

- Taking Their Swing: The Rockford Peaches - Beth D. & Ollie Reitz

Junior Division Individual Performance:

- The Frontier of Women Investigative Reporters: Nellie Bly - Juliana S.

Junior Division Individual Website:

- Frontiers in Leadership - Women as President: Corazon Aquino - Ariel C.



Mock Trial

Menlo's two mock trial teams (Edison and Tesla) participated in the 2022-23 Ohio Center for Law-Related Education Middle School Mock Trial State Showcase Competition. This was the 12th year in a row that Menlo students competed, and this year's teams continued the trend of earning high marks and awards, earning two "Outstanding" team rankings, three "Best Attorney" awards, and two "Best Witness" awards. Over its 12-year history, Menlo teams have

garnered eight “Outstanding,” four “Superior” team rankings, and numerous “Best Attorney” and “Best Witness” awards. Special congratulations to Best Attorney award winners Naisha K., Elena S., and Celia S., and Best Witness award winners Charlotte D. and Keegan W.

SPECIAL EVENTS

From fun events like our fall celebration, Valentine's Day party, and Grandparents Day, to outdoor activities that promote physical health like Field Day and the Walk-A-Thon, from artistic performances such as the Spring Art Show, Drama Performance and band and choir concerts to week-long special projects, Menlo held a diverse range of special events throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

Special Event Highlights

Intersession Week

Intersession Week was a unique opportunity for students to take a deep dive into a topic/area of interest, called an Enrichment Cluster, for the entire week. Teachers chose what topic they wanted to lead, and students then signed up for one of 26 Clusters available. For each Cluster, there was a progression in learning and engagement that culminated with an end product and/or activity at weeks-end.

Just some of the Enrichment Cluster topics included: building cardboard boats (and then competing at the Westlake Cardboard Boat Regatta); Rube Goldberg machines; gardening, paper and bookmaking; weaving; local history; designing and building roller coasters (with a trip to Cedar Point included); Shakespeare; climate change; scrapbooking; Origami; and much more.

Character Trait of the Month Events

Each month in the spring, our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Team selected a different trait. For example, in March 2023, it was respect, and April was responsibility. For each topic, pep rallies with fun activities, presentations and special guests were held.

Throughout each month, students had the opportunity to earn tickets by demonstrating the trait of the month. If a student was "caught" by a teacher doing so in school, they received a ticket that was then entered into drawings for weekly prizes!

FIELD TRIPS

In 2022-23, Menlo provided dozens of field trip opportunities to students in all grades. For example, our kindergarten and first grade students went to the Cleveland Museum of Art, caught a show at Playhouse Square and went to the Zoo and more. Our second and 3rd graders went to Lake Farm Park, enjoyed a Cleveland Orchestra concert at Severance Hall and caught a Lake Erie Crushers game to name a few. Fourth and fifth graders took a trip to COSI in Columbus, the Zoo, and much more, and our sixth, seventh and eighth graders went to New York City, the Lake Erie Islands, Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan and more.

Field Trip Highlights

Middle School Signature Trip: New York City

In April 2023, our middle school students took a three-day trip to New York City, where they visited Chinatown, the One World Trade Center Observatory, the Central Park Zoo, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, and the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. They also took a harbor cruise, and caught *The Lion King* on Broadway and more.



Middle School Signature Trip: Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan

Sixth and seventh grade students traveled to Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan for a two-day trip. They visited the Charles H. Wright Museum of African History, Greenfield Village (site of Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Lab), The Henry Ford Museum and Ford Factory Rouge Tour.



Intersession Week Field Trips

As part of Intersession Week, students in various Enrichment Clusters took field trips as part of their deep-dive learning on their chosen topic. Local History students took a day trip to the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton along with tours of downtown Cleveland and a visit to the Maltz Museum. The Roller Coaster Designer cluster got a taste of the real thing at Cedar Point, while students in Evolution of Animal Behavior visited the Cleveland Zoo and those in the Mural cluster took a tour of murals around Cleveland for inspiration in designing their own mural.

Annual Evaluation Information

2022 - 2023	School Report Card Rating	Contract Goal
Overall Rating	4 stars	N/A
Achievement Component	5 stars	MET
Performance Index	99.4	NOT MET
Progress Component	2 stars	NOT MET
Gap Closing Component	5 stars	MET
Chronic Absenteeism	21.7	MET
Gifted Performance Indicator	N/A	N/A
Graduation Component	N/A	N/A
4 yr. Graduation Rate		N/A
5 yr. Graduation Rate		N/A
Early Literacy Component	5 stars	MET
Proficiency in 3rd Grade	98.4	MET
Promotion to Fourth Grade	100	MET
Improving K-3 Literacy	nc	N/A
College, Career, Workforce	N/A	N/A
PBIS	No	NOT MET
Comparative School #1	N/A	N/A

Comparative School #2	N/A	N/A
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Other Academic Measures

2022	Contract Goals
Sub - Group	MET
Reading	MET
Math	MET
Improving K-3 Literacy	MET
Pre-School	N/A

Operational

2022	Contract Goals
Mission Statement	MET
Parent Satisfaction	MET
Governing Authority	MET
Student Discipline - K-3	NOT MET
Student Discipline - 4-8	MET
Student Discipline - 9 - 12	N/A