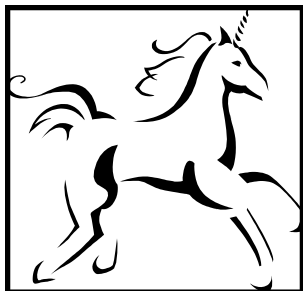


Cheryl Pulliam, Principal
Debbie Ryan, Asst. Principal

August 10, 2009



Oakland Terrace Elementary School
2720 Plyers Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902
(301) 929-2161
School Hours: 9:15 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Mrs. Pulliam's Welcome

I hope you have had a relaxing and fun summer. I'm sure that you have spent many hours enjoying the great summer weather. Since June, we have been working to prepare for the 2009-2010 school year. I am anxiously awaiting the start of school on Monday, August 31, 2009. I am also looking forward to working with you throughout the year as we provide the highest level of instructional programs and services for our students.

In this newsletter you will find information that will assist you as you prepare for the start of the school year.

Staffing at Oakland Terrace

As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. Unfortunately, as a result of this current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, I will do my best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. I will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school."

Open House

Open House is scheduled for students and their families on Thursday, August 27, 2009 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Please plan to bring your child to the Open House to meet his/her new teacher.

Class lists with class assignments will be available at that time.

Ice Cream Social

An Ice Cream Social will follow the Open House on Thursday, August 27th. It will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. This event will take place on the blacktop. This will be a great opportunity for all staff, students, and parents to get to know one another.

Dates to Remember

Thursday, August 27

Open House

2:00 - 3:00

Ice Cream Social

3:00 - 4:00

Monday, August 31

First Day of School for
Students

Monday, September 7

School Closed

(Labor Day)

Wednesday, Sept. 9

Grades K-2

PTA Meeting 6:15 PM

Back-To-School Night

7:00 PM

Thursday, Sept. 10

Grades 3-5

PTA Meeting - 6:15PM

Back-To-School Night

7:00 PM

School Hours

School will begin on **Monday, August 31, 2009**. Each day school will begin at **9:15 a.m.** and end at **3:30 p.m.** Students should begin arriving to the school at 8:50 a.m. Supervision is not available before that time. Parents bringing their children to school **should not walk** them to their classrooms. I realize that it is important for you to make sure that your child is safe, but we ask that you trust us to get your child to his/her classroom. We will have staff members posted to assist students getting to their destinations. When we have an overwhelming number of parents/adults in the building, it is very difficult to ensure the safety of all students. Remember, we have approximately 800 students in our building that we want to keep safe and responding to parents while trying to assist students is indeed a difficult task. I am requesting your assistance in this matter by asking you to say goodbye at the entrance to our school or in the car. I hope that you will join me in maintaining a safe and warm environment in our school

Back To-School Night

Back To-School Night for parents of students in **kindergarten and grades 1 and 2** will be on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. following the PTA meeting at 6:15 p.m. For safety reasons the bus circle in front of the school will be closed off so be aware that parking will be at a premium.

Back To-School Night for parents of students in **grades 3, 4, and 5** will be held on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. following the PTA meeting at 6:15 p.m. For safety reasons the bus circle in front of the school will be closed off so be aware that parking will be at a premium.

Instrumental Music Orientation for 4th and 5th grade parents new to instrumental music will also be on Thursday, September 10th at 8:00 p.m. after Back-To-School Night.

School Supplies

Attached is a grade level list of supplies needed for students. I hope you find these lists helpful as you prepare to return to school.

The First Week of School

This is an important time for students, parents, and staff. During this week, a packet will come to you that will include information and several forms to complete. This information will be sent home with your child. Please be sure to check your child's backpack each night and take the time to complete these forms accurately and completely. Return these forms to school by the requested deadline since this information is greatly needed for us to establish an accurate database and to have ways to contact you throughout the year. During the school year, please let the school be made aware of any changes in your contact information because it is vital for us to always be able to contact you about your child.

Transportation

I have attached a letter from the depot manager that explains transportation routes and regulations. It also provides contact information and information on emergency closures and early dismissals. In addition, I have attached a bus schedule as part of this packet. Each bus will have a route number displayed in its side view window. In addition, a color will be assigned to each bus to make it easier for students to remember their bus. **(See attached bus information for route numbers and color.)** It is important to note that the route numbers have been given by the Division of Transportation and should be referred to when calling that department. The color listed next to the route number has been given by our school, and may be referred to when contacting the school. It is important for parents to be familiar with both the route number and the color assigned to the bus. Bus schedules are available in various languages. Please feel free to contact the school if you would like a copy in a particular language. **Lastly, please remind your child/children that they are to only ride the bus they are assigned.** At the school level we only allow students to ride another bus if we receive a parent note, otherwise students must ride their assigned bus.

Parent Drop-Off

If you transport your child to and from school by automobile, please remember to use the drop-off and pick-up circle area in front of the school. The bus lane is off limits to automobiles. Staff and patrols will direct the traffic pattern. Children can only be dropped off in the circle not on Plyers Mill Road. We also ask that prior to school you take time to have your younger children practice getting out of the car quickly and safely on their own. This will alleviate traffic back ups that occur when parents have to assist their children from the automobile. Again, our goal is to keep a safe and orderly environment for our school community. Parents, please be patient when using this area!

Saying Goodbye and Congratulations!

Several of our Oakland Terrace staff members will be taking on new professional growth opportunities throughout the Montgomery County School system. Although they will be missed dearly, we are extremely proud of them and their new professional endeavors. We thank them for their spirit of teaching and learning, and providing the best for the students at Oakland Terrace.

Mr. Chacko Abraham, assistant principal, has decided to take a break in administration & supervision to return to the classroom at Rock Creek Forest ES in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Ms. Crystal Turner, kindergarten teacher, will serve as a Reading Recovery program teacher at Watkins Mill ES in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Ms. Lucy Vargas, kindergarten teacher, has chosen to work part-time as an academic intervention teacher at Charles Drew ES in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Ms. Elynn Lewis, second grade teacher, completed graduate work in reading and will serve as the reading specialist at Kemp Mill ES in Wheaton, Maryland.

Ms. Kate Mervis, second grade teacher, completed graduate work in special education and will serve as a teacher of autism students at Roscoe Nix ES in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Ms. Brenda Schultz, special education teacher will serve in a dual role as a part-time special education teacher and primary reading teacher at Greenwood ES in Olney, Maryland.

Ms. Carolyn Isaacs, special education teacher has joined the Montgomery County Public Schools Infants & Toddlers program in Olney, Maryland.

A Message from Mrs. Debbie Ryan,

Oakland Terrace's New Assistant Principal

I am very excited and honored to serve as the assistant principal of Oakland Terrace Elementary School. I have already met many wonderful staff, students and parents this summer and look forward to the great work we will achieve together for students in this community.

I grew up in Wheaton and am a proud alumnus of MCPS. I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from the University of Maryland in College Park, and my administrative certification through McDaniel College.

My teaching experience in MCPS began as a fifth grade teacher in a Title I school where I also served as a team leader and a staff development teacher. Last year, I had the opportunity to gain a system-wide perspective, supporting schools at all levels in the Blair, Einstein, Northwood and Kennedy clusters. Prior to my career in education, I spent 16 years in the business world.

I look forward to learning from each of you!

Additional New Staff Members

It brings me great joy in welcoming several new members to our staff. I am excited about each member who will join our family this year. They have demonstrated the characteristics of great teaching that have made Oakland Terrace such an outstanding place to learn. They are:

Kindergarten:

Ms. Tracy Gurevich - holds a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education from the University of Maryland College Park. She served as a student teacher at Arcola Elementary in their Head Start program and most recently gained experience as a long term substitute at East Silver Spring Elementary.

Ms. Sarah Krehbeil - comes to us from Roscoe Nix Elementary, where she performed her student teaching experience in the primary grades. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Maryland College Park.

1st Grade:

Ms. Lanita Callahan – performed her student teaching experience in primary and upper elementary grades in Howard County. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Towson University.

Ms. Allycia Joseph – joins us with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary and Middle School Education from Frostburg State University. She performed her teaching internship in Allegany County Maryland and Mineral County West Virginia.

Ms. Emily Weyman – brings experience in Deaf and Elementary Education with a degree from Towson University. Emily's student teaching was conducted in Howard and Frederick Counties. She recently served as a substitute teacher in Howard and Montgomery Counties.

2nd grade:

Ms. Cathleen Debelius – holds a Master's degree in Elementary Education and a Bachelor's in History from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She student taught in Fredericksburg and has served as a substitute teacher in Montgomery and Frederick Counties in Maryland, as well as in Spotsylvania County in Virginia.

4th grade:

Ms. Julie Papia – achieved her Bachelor's from the University of New York College at Oswego. Julie gained student teaching experience in New York, and recently served as an associate teacher at The Harbor School, an Independent Maryland School in Bethesda.

5th grade:

Ms. Denise Galbo – has a B.A. in Psychology, Master's in Public Administration, Ph.D in Counseling and Student Development and Master's in Elementary Education. Denise has taught upper grades in Montgomery County since 2005 at Brookhaven and Piney Branch Elementary Schools.

Special Education

Ms. Kimberly Fordham – has been a member of the Oakland Terrace staff since her internship through our Professional Development School partnership with Towson University. This past May, she received her Bachelor's degree from Towson with a dual certification in both regular and special education.

ESOL:

Mr. Jonathan Praff – received his Bachelor's in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland and his Master's in Education from George Washington University. He has student teaching and teaching experience at the elementary and secondary levels where he participated in the Teachers 2000 Partnership. Jonathan's most recent experience was at Pine Crest Elementary, where he provided ESOL instruction to students in grades three and five.

Part –Time Counselor and Part Time Academic Support Teacher:

Mitchell Markovitz – recently attained a Master's in School Counseling from Johns Hopkins. He performed his counseling internship in Frederick County, Maryland. Mitchell also holds a Bachelor's in Elementary Education. His teaching experience includes upper elementary grades at Piney Branch Elementary, where he also served as a team leader.

Staff Changes:

Several existing staff members have made changes within the school building. I am excited about each of these changes as well!

Kim Schmidt- moving from 2nd grade to Kindergarten

Cheryl Johnson- moving from 2nd grade to 1st grade

Amy Young- moving from Kindergarten to 2nd grade

Jennifer Seibert- moving from 1st grade to 2nd grade

Jill Sullivan- moving from 3rd grade to 2nd grade

Latasha Taylor- moving from 1st grade to 3rd grade

Christine Elder- moving from 5th grade to Academic Support Teacher

In addition, Becky Flory got married over the summer and will use her new name, Becky Clemmer. Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Becky Clemmer!

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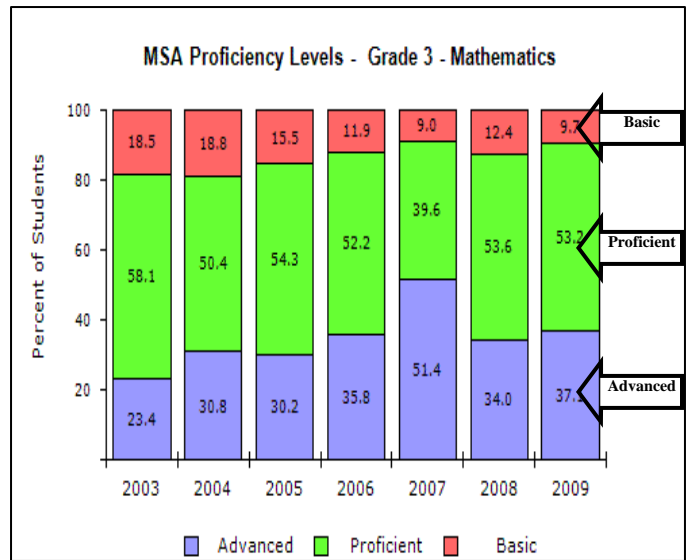
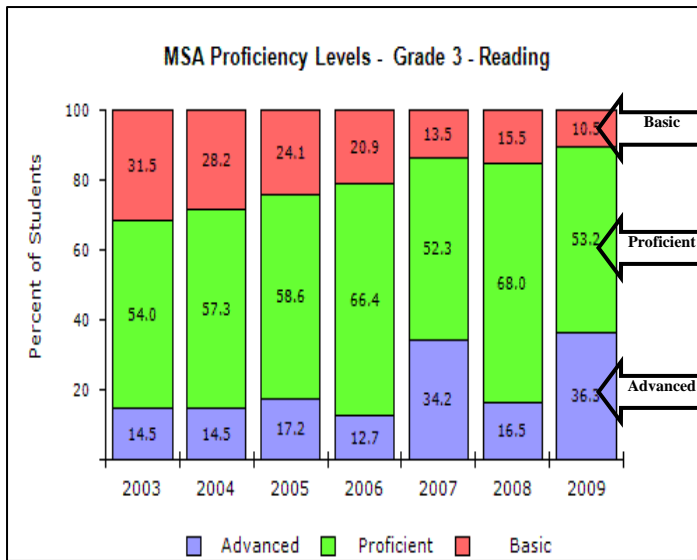
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MSA Third Grade 2009

Reading & Mathematics



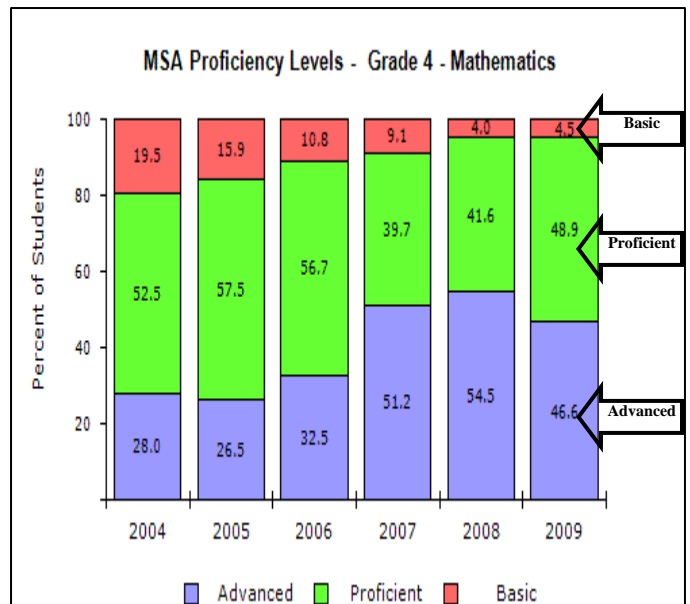
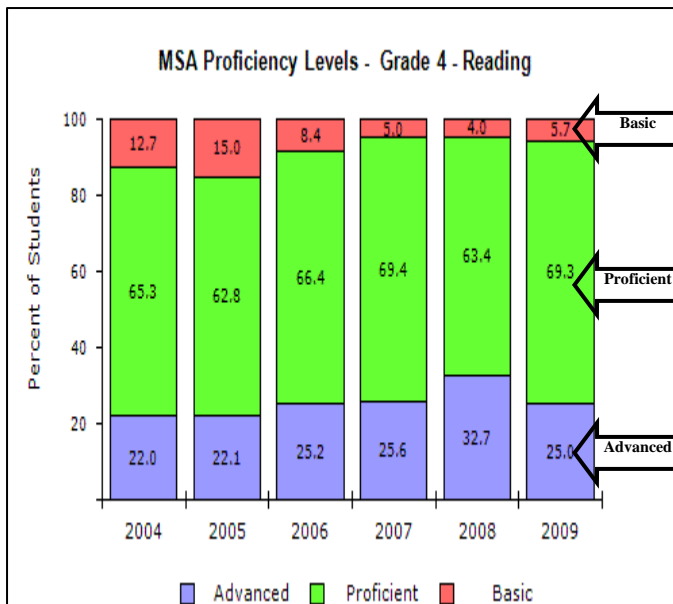
Analysis of the Data

Reading—89.5% of Oakland Terrace students scored at the advanced and proficient levels.

Math— 90.3% of Oakland Terrace students scored at the advanced and proficient levels.

MSA Fourth Grade 2009

Reading & Mathematics

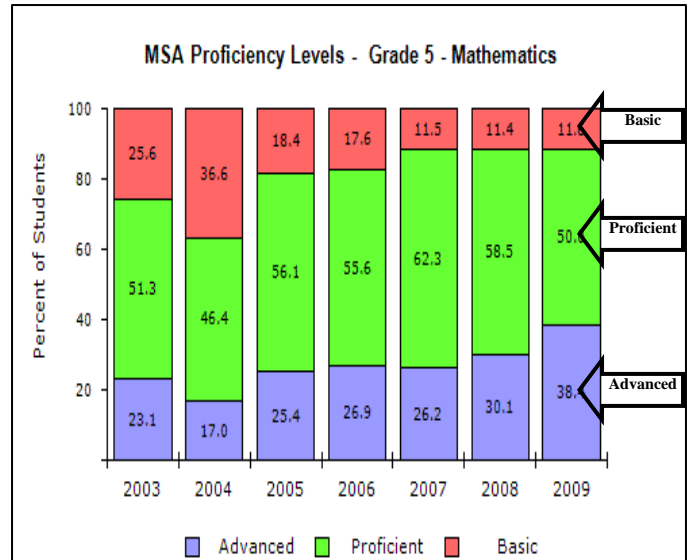
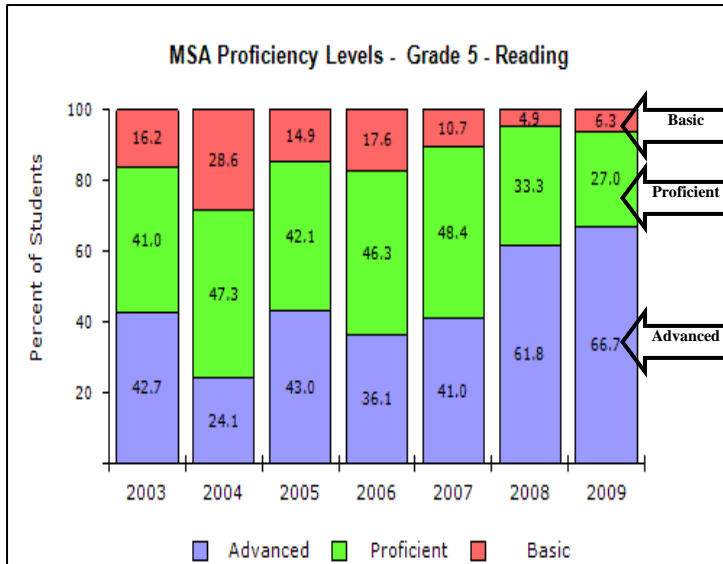


Analysis of the Data

Reading—94.3% of Oakland Terrace students scored at the advanced and proficient levels.

Math— 95.5% of Oakland Terrace students scored at the advanced and proficient levels.

**MSA Fifth Grade 2009
Reading & Mathematics**



Analysis of the Data

Reading—93.7% of Oakland Terrace students scored at the advanced and proficient levels.

Math— 88.4% of Oakland Terrace students scored at the advanced and proficient levels.