



August 17, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010 – 2011 educational progress for the Discovery Arts and Technology Academy. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's progress report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and teacher quality. If you have any questions about AER, please contact Mr. Hurt, Chief Administrative Officer, for assistance.

You can view the AER electronically by visiting the following website: www.discoveryartstech.org or you may obtain a copy from the main office at your child's school.

For 2010 – 2011, Discovery Arts and Technology Academy made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in both reading and mathematics. Science and social studies are currently not used to determine AYP. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff, and our community in this effort.

Our building's Title I, School – wide School Improvement Plan is evaluated annually by Arts and Technology Academy staff, parents, and community members. Student achievement data, demographic data, and school process data is collected and reviewed. Parent input on effectiveness of the plan is collected via surveys twice during the school year. Teacher and student surveys on program effectiveness are done annually. Revisions to our school – wide plan are considered after the presentation of the above analyzed data to the school improvement team (comprised of staff, parents, and community members). The school improvement team attempts to determine the effectiveness and ineffectiveness of the current plan's strategies. Next, current research and best practices are examined and implemented in our renewed attempts at improving student achievement.

Discovery Arts and Technology Academy is a public charter school located in Inkster, Michigan. Discovery was opened in September 2005. We currently have open enrollment for all student grade Pre - K through 8th, using a lottery process when applicants exceed our capacity. Discovery has 98.4% African American students and 1.6% that consider themselves other. Ninety – six percent of our student body is eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Discovery Arts and Technology Academy implements a thematic, interactive program that incorporates multiple learning styles and provides differentiated instruction to better meet the needs of our students. Mornings are dedicated to building solid skills in the core subject areas of reading, writing, math, and science. The afternoons are reserved for language arts, physical education, and a daily 90 minute block of Discovery Arts and Technology Academy's Paragon humanities curriculum. The Paragon curriculum is interdisciplinary, engaging, discovery – based, and multi-cultural. The hands-on approach of Paragon addresses students' multiple intelligences and individual learning styles. This enhances students' communication skills, analysis, and self – expression. Students also have ready access to computers and technology.



Discovery Arts and Technology Academy offers an emotionally and physically safe learning environment. Our teachers are committed and highly qualified. Also, students have the support of a social worker, speech therapist, and behavior intervention specialist. Our school provides multiple opportunities for parental involvement and a parent liaison is available to facilitate communications between home and school. Teachers conduct regular goal setting conferences with individual students and their parents to ensure each student's success. Individual and small group interventions are provided for students at risk of not meeting Michigan standards and benchmarks in core academic subjects. These sessions are held during the regular school day, during after school tutoring programs, and during summer school.

Parents are encouraged to access Discovery Arts and Technology Academy's curriculum by visiting the main office or arranging an appointment with any classroom teacher. Discovery implements the Michigan K- 8 Curriculum and Standards approved by the State Board of Education (available online at www.michigan.gov/mde). The school's curriculum is aligned to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations. Instructional staff utilizes Open Court Reading, Step – Up to Writing, Saxon Math, Harcourt Science, and the Mosaica designed Paragon Humanities program to implement curriculum.

Parent – teacher conferences are scheduled three times throughout the school year in November, March, and May. During the 2009 – 2010 school year, an average of 65% students were represented by a parent during parent – teacher conferences. During the 2010 – 2011 school year, an average of 70% were represented by parents during parent – teacher conferences. For the 2011 – 2012 school year, we have plans to increase parental involvement participation and continue to gather data pertinent to the various subgroups represented at Discovery.

We would like to thank all of our parents and community members who continue to support our efforts at Discovery Arts and Technology Academy. We are very excited about the 2011 – 2012 school year and anticipate the returning and new faces that will grace our halls. Parents, please stop by the main office to visit with our administrative team, take a tour and/or voice your opinions or concerns. Our doors are always open. Again, thank you for sending your children to Discovery Arts and Technology Academy where, "Failure is not an Option!"

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn Hurt
Chief Administrative Officer

