



*Aurelia Community School
Annual Progress Report
September 2010*

“Promoting and Providing Excellence in Education”

Aurelia Community School Mission Statement

*The mission of the Aurelia Community School District
is to provide a solid foundation of essential skills
and an environment of excellence in educational opportunities,
so each student will become a life-long learner.*

Aurelia Community School Board of Directors

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Annual Progress Report to the Community

Published September 2010

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Aurelia, IA 51005

Academic Achievement

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills & Iowa Tests of Educational Development

Aurelia teachers and administrators use test data in planning curriculum, developing school improvement plans, and making instructional decisions.

Aurelia students in grades 2-8 continue to perform above the national average and either at or above the Iowa average on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS).

For students in grades 9-11, the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) are used to determine growth and proficiency in the areas of math, science, language, and social sciences. Again, the students of the Aurelia High School demonstrate a high test profile.

The following test results are given in both, Iowa and National Grade Equivalents. The first number indicates the grade level; the second number indicates the school month of that year. For Example: 1.6 means first grade - sixth month; the student is performing at a grade equivalent of an average student in the 1st grade, 6th month of school. The 1st month is September, 2nd is October, etc.

2009-10 Iowa Tests of Basic Skills - Elementary: 2nd Grade - 4th Grade

- Students were tested in October 2009 – Month 2
- 100% of students participated in testing

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Reading</u>		<u>Math</u>		<u>Science</u>	
	Iowa	Natl.	Iowa	Natl.	Iowa	Natl.
2nd	2.4	2.5	1.9	2.2	1.9	2.3
3rd	3.3	3.9	3.3	3.8	3.5	4.3
4th	4.3	5.5	4.3	5.1	4.0	5.1

2009-10 Iowa Tests of Basic Skills - Middle School: 5th - 8th Grade

- Students were tested in October 2009 – Month 2
- 100% of students participated in testing

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Reading</u>		<u>Math</u>		<u>Science</u>	
	Iowa	Natl.	Iowa	Natl.	Iowa	Natl.
5th	5.9	7.0	6.0	6.7	6.9	8.3
6th	6.0	6.7	6.5	7.3	6.8	8.0
7th	8.7	9.8	7.4	8.5	8.3	10.1
8th	8.9	10.2	7.0	8.4	8.3	10.5

2000-10 Iowa Tests of Educational Development - High School: Grades 9-11

- Students were tested in October 2009 – Month 2
- 100% of students participated in testing

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Reading</u>		<u>Math</u>		<u>Science</u>	
	Iowa	Natl.	Iowa	Natl.	Iowa	Natl.
9th	51%	61%	36%	51%	47%	63%
10th	59%	66%	42%	53%	57%	71%
11th	46%	62%	36%	55%	41%	66%

Special Note: In the Aurelia Community School District, all special education students take the ITBS and ITED tests along with regular education students. All students are tested and test scores are a reflection of our **total** student body.

Iowa Collaborative Assessment Modules (ICAM)

In the spring of 2010, our students participated in the Iowa Collaborative Assessment Modules tests. The Iowa Collaborative Assessment Modules (ICAM), were developed by reading and mathematics teachers and consultants from all areas of our state to meet the requirements of both our federal and state governments in having multiple assessments to measure students' progress.

These tests compliment the ITBS and ITED in assessing content standards adopted by most Iowa schools. The tests go beyond the typical multiple-choice tests and ask students to write responses that further demonstrate their understanding of the material. The "Comprehending Academic Texts" module was used for reading in 4th, 8th, and 11th grades. In math, the 4th, 8th, and 11th grades used the "Solving Work-Related Math Problems" module. The results reported for the 2008-09 school year are as follows:

Reading	4th Grade(18)			8th Grade(18)			11th Grade(14)		
	Low	Middle	High	Low	Middle	High	Low	Middle	High
Number of Students	8	9	1	5	11	2	3	10	1
Pct. of Students Tested	44%	50%	6%	28%	61%	11%	21%	71%	7%
Mathematics	4th Grade(18)			8th Grade(18)			11th Grade(14)		
	Low	Middle	High	Low	Middle	High	Low	Middle	High
Number of Students	2	13	3	6	11	1	6	5	3
Pct. of Students Tested	11%	72%	17%	33%	61%	6%	43%	36%	21%

Local Science Assessment

An assessment tool was developed by the district to determine progress in science. In 2009-10, it was administered to our 8th and 11th grade students. The results are as follows:

Science	8th Grade(18)		11th grade(14)	
	Low	Proficient	Low	Proficient
Number of Students	4	14	2	12
Pct. of Students	22%	78%	14%	86%

Attendance

Student attendance is a valuable indicator of success in school as well as success in a career. Research indicates that effective schools have consistently high attendance rates. On average, 95.9% of Aurelia students are in attendance each day. Average 2009-10 daily attendance rates for each level were:

Elementary	96.3%
Middle School	96%
High School	94.7%

Graduation Rate

The Aurelia Community High School Class of 2010 graduated 27 of 27 students. The Aurelia Community School is pleased to report that in the past twelve years, we have had only eight students who have not received a diploma at the completion of the senior year. **Note: There were no dropout students in grades 7-12 during the 2008-09 school year.**

Completion Core Academic Program

Students who complete a rigorous program of required and elective courses in the core areas generally score substantially higher on college entrance exams. A core program is defined as four years of English and three or more years each of mathematics, science, or social studies. Of the 27 graduates in the Class of 2010, 27 or 100% completed a core program.

Graduates Who Intend to Pursue Post-Secondary Education or Training

Students planning to attend a 4-year college or university	15
Students planning to attend a 2-year or technical school	10
Students planning to enter the armed services	1
Students planning on entering the work force	1

96% of the Class of 2010 plan to continue their education.

(Iowa average is 82% of graduates statewide plan to pursue post-secondary education or training. Source: **Iowa Condition of Education Report – 2008**)

College Entrance Scores: ACT Testing

The American College Testing Program (ACT) is the usual college entrance exam taken by Aurelia students planning to go to college. A score of 20 or higher on the 36-point scale for the test indicates probable success in college. During the 2009-10 school year, 24 Aurelia high school students took the test. Of these students, 20 students (**83%**) scored a 20 or above on the ACT test. Four students scored below 20 on the test. (la. avg.=71.2% Nat. avg.=61.4%)

Long Range Reading Goal

Using "two-year rolling averages," by completion of the 2009-10 school year testing process, the averaged proficiency score of students at grades four, eight, and eleven will be at the 75% "proficiency" level in **READING** as determined by the scores from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development.

Annual Reading Improvement Goal for 2008-09

By the end of the 2009-10 school year, the reading achievement of the students in the Aurelia Community Schools will improve to 75% proficient or higher. Specifically, the percentage of students in grades 4, 8, or 11 scoring at the proficient level will increase by using one or both of the following methods: (a) compare data involving cohort groups (4th, 8th, and 11th grades) of the current testing year to the previous testing year (3rd, 7th, and 9th grades). (b) Compare biennium data from 2007-2009 to 2008-2010 involving 4th, 8th, and 11th grades.

Results From 2008-2010 Biennium Data

4th Grade: 85.4% Proficient

8th Grade: 87.5% Proficient

11th grade: 91.4% Proficient

The reading improvement goal for the 2009-10 school year was accomplished.

Annual Reading Improvement Goal for 2010-11

Using biennium data, Aurelia students in grades 4, 8 and 11 will show a 1% improvement in their reading comprehension proficiency on the ITBS/ITED's in the 2010-11 school year.

Long Range Math Goal

Using "two-year rolling averages," by completion of the 2009-10 school year testing process, the averaged proficiency score of students at grades four, eight, and eleven will be at the 75% "proficiency" level in **MATHEMATICS** as determined by the scores from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development.

Annual Math Improvement Goal for 2009-10

By the end of the 2009-2010 school year, the math achievement of the students in the Aurelia Community Schools will be 75% proficient or higher. The proficiency level will be analyzed by using one or both of the following methods: (a) compare data involving cohort groups (4th, 8th, and 11th grades) of the current testing year to the previous testing year (3rd, 7th, and 9th grades). (b) Compare biennium data from 2007-2009 to 2008-2010 involving 4th, 8th, and 11th grades.

Results From 2008-10**4th Grade: 85.4% Proficient****8th Grade: 63.6% Proficient****11th Grade: 91.4% Proficient**

The math improvement goal for the 2009-10 school year was accomplished in grades 4 and 11. The math improvement goal for the 2009-10 school year was not accomplished for grade 8 even though there was an increased level of achievement; the overall proficiency was below the 75% goal. The plan to meet our Future goal includes the following: Professional development in differentiated instruction for grades TK-12; implementation of Iowa Core Curriculum; and implementation of Star Math and Accelerated Math.

Annual Math Improvement Goal for 2010-11

Using "two-year rolling averages," by completion of the 2010-11 school year testing process, the averaged proficiency score of students at grades four, eight, and eleven will increase by 1% in **MATHEMATICS** as determined by the scores from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development.

Long Range Science Goal

Using "two-year rolling averages," by completion of the 2009-10 school year testing process, the averaged proficiency score of students at grades four, eight, and eleven will be at the 75% "proficiency" level in **SCIENCE** as determined by the scores from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development.

Annual Improvement Goal for 2009-10

By the end of the 2009-10 school year, the science achievement of the students in the Aurelia Community Schools will be greater than 75% proficient. The proficient level will be measured by using one or both of the following methods: (a) compare data involving cohort groups (4th, 8th, and 11th grades) of the current testing year to the previous testing year (3rd, 7th, and 9th grades). (b) Compare biennium data from 2007-2009 to 2008-2010 involving 4th, 8th, and 11th grades.

Results From 2009-10**4th Grade: 80.2% Proficient****8th Grade: 87.9% Proficient****11th Grade: 93.4% Proficient**

The science improvement goal for the 2009-10 school year was accomplished.

Annual Improvement Goal for 2010-11

Using "two-year rolling averages," by completion of the 2010-11 school year testing process, the averaged proficiency score of students at grades four, eight, and eleven will increase by 1% in **SCIENCE** as determined by the scores from the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development.

How We Are Integrating Technology Into Our Classrooms

Part of the stated mission of the Aurelia Community School is preparing our students with the skills for a lifetime of learning. It is difficult to imagine that this goal could be attained without preparing students for the information age of the 21st century. Our instructional practices and our curriculum, and our instructional management system, must take advantage of the power of current and emerging technologies.

It is our goal to infuse and integrate technology into all aspects of the educational program of the Aurelia Community School.

- In 2009-10 teachers used staff development time to further develop their knowledge and skills with computer applications, presentation software, and a mobile computer lab. Staff members participated in a technology class, which met after school on a weekly basis.
- Forty additional laptops were added to the seven existing mobile labs. The mobile labs make it possible to share the computers across classes and grade levels. Additional software was purchased to facilitate and improve our instruction and assessment for elementary and middle school reading, math, and science. Also, new software was utilized to facilitate the Accelerated Reader Program that was implemented six years ago.
- Interactive white boards with LCD projectors were installed in fourteen classrooms.
- Teachers from all grade levels utilized the district's ICN room for distance learning opportunities, virtual field trips, and enhanced multi-media instruction.

It is our goal that all students graduating from the Aurelia High School will be proficient in the use of technology to accomplish career goals, succeed in post-secondary education, and pursue individual interests and life-goals in the twenty-first century information age.

- Students receive instruction in various technologies beginning in kindergarten and continuing through their senior year in high school.

- Instruction in computer applications begins in the elementary grades. The use of computer applications by students to solve problems and complete classroom assignments is integrated into the curriculum of the middle school and high school.
- Successful completion of two credits (one year) in technology and computer applications is a graduation requirement for Aurelia High School students.

Technology Features of the Aurelia Community School

- 100% - Classrooms, computer labs, and offices connected to the internet and a local intranet
- 100% - Classrooms with computers
- Seven mobile computer labs with printers
- Five computer presentation projectors for classroom usage
- Fourteen interactive whiteboards in mounted LCD projectors in classrooms.
- 3 Computer labs (The elementary and middle school have a Macintosh lab; the high school features a Macintosh lab and an IBM lab. High school students taking industrial technology courses have access to computer assisted drafting (CAD) and computer assisted manufacturing (CAM) facilities.
- ICN Room provides distance-learning opportunities for students, staff and community. The ICN Room also functions as a multi-media classroom for teachers, a location for ‘virtual’ field trips, and a multi-media presentation center for community, staff, and student meetings.
- Internet filtering software has been installed to assist us in meeting Federal standards of Internet safety. This filtering software is used in conjunction with a commercial filtering service to block access to Internet sites that are not appropriate for students due to hate messages, nudity, bad language, etc. The filtering system also provides security for the information stored on our school’s servers.

Our School Environment and Student Success

With recommendations from the district’s School Improvement Advisory Committee, and input from members of the staff of the school, the Middle School continued an anti-bullying education program this year. Special emphasis was placed on school-wide climate.

Extended Learning Opportunities for Our Students

2009-10 marked the 14th successful year of Aurelia High School's participation in the Cherokee League of Schools in cooperation with Western Iowa Technical College (WIT). Junior and senior students taking classes at WIT have the opportunity to earn both high school credit and college level credit. Students interested in agriculture had the opportunity to take classes at Alta High School. Post-Secondary-Enrollment Options were also available to students through Buena Vista University, via distance learning opportunities through our ICN facilities, and online courses.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Classes Taken</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>
Western Iowa Tech.	Auto Technology	1
Western Iowa Tech	Construction	4
Western Iowa Tech	CNA	3
Post-Secondary		<u>33</u>
	Total Courses Taken	41

Small Class Size – A Contributing Factor to Our Students' Success

The Aurelia Community School is committed to maintaining small class sizes in the primary grades: Pre-Kindergarten through third grade. Our goal is to provide master teachers and highly qualified teacher associates to maintain an average class size of 17 or less when students are receiving instruction in reading, language arts, math, science, and social studies. Our district's elementary enrollment tends to fluctuate from year to year. Therefore, the administration, instructional staff, and members of the school improvement advisory committee review and evaluate the staffing patterns and instructional strategies utilized in grades TK-3 on an annual basis; develop options to maintain the state class size goal, and make recommendations to enhance the instructional program.

Recommendations concerning class size and staffing needs for the upcoming year is made to the Board of Directors by June 30th of the preceding school year. All-day, everyday kindergarten, the pre-kindergarten program (expanded to full-day in 2000-01), and Reading Recovery (implemented in 1999-00), will remain integral components of our curriculum.