



George Rogers Clark Middle/High School

School City of Hammond

## Educational Report

March 11, 2011

### *Success is as Easy as 1, 2, 3 at GRC!*

Welcome to George Rogers Clark Middle/High School, a comprehensive school for students in grades 6-12, where all students are supported to achieve their potential. In today's global society and economy, it is imperative that students be prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century upon completion of high school, whether that means entering college or the workforce. To ensure that students are college or workforce

ready, Clark has adopted three goals, centered on academics and achievement. This document is designed to inform you on where we are in meeting our goals. Those goals include:

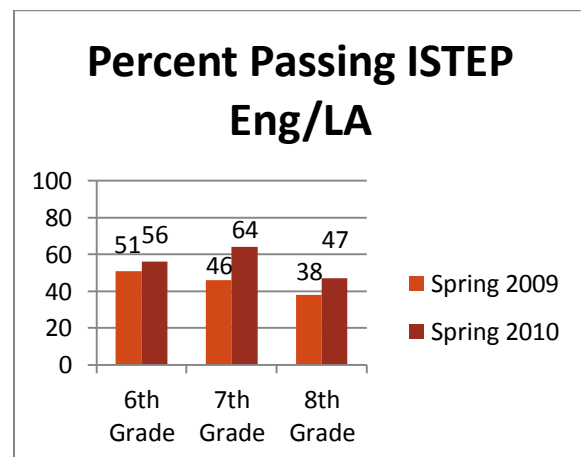
- 1. Improve English and Language Arts skills and performance.**
- 2. Improve mathematics skills and performance.**
- 3. Improve the graduation rate.**

### **Goal 1: English and Language Arts**

#### *Improve English/LA scores on ISTEP and ECA*

ISTEP for English/Language Arts in middle school measures a student's abilities in six skill levels, called **standards**. The first three standards (Vocabulary, Information/Nonfictional text and Literary Text) all measure a student's reading ability. The last three standards measure how well a student writes. After reviewing ISTEP results from the spring of 2010 and comparing it to that of 2009, Clark students saw a tremendous rise in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade scores, going from 46% up to 64% passing! In addition, each of the other grade levels

also saw an increase in 2010 from the previous year.



In addition to participating in ISTEP, Clark also utilizes Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) to diagnose at what level each student is reading at. Students are categorized as Advanced, Proficient, Basic, or Below Basic. At each grade level assessed, which are grades 6-9, over 80% of students are at least Basic, and typically, about 50% are either Advanced or Proficient.

Finally, a new assessment to come to Clark, as well as the rest of Indiana, is the English

10 End of Course Assessment (ECA). This test replaces the English component of the Graduation Qualifying Exam for all students, except for those graduating this June, and is required in order for a student to earn his or her diploma. The 2009-2010 school-year was the first time this test was given, and Clark students had a pass rate of 37%. When those who needed to re-take the English 10 ECA this winter retested, they had a 47% passing rate.

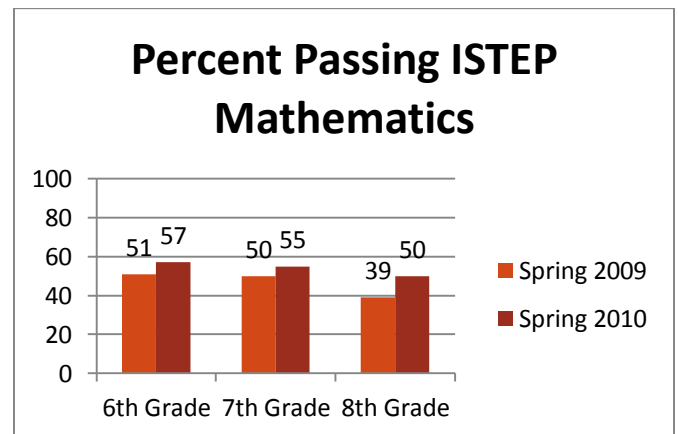
## Goal 2: Mathematics

### *Improve mathematics scores on ISTEP and ECA*

The middle school mathematics portions of the ISTEP assess a student's abilities in seven standards covering everything from changing percents to fractions to decimals, up to basic probability and statistics, as well as some basic algebra skills. Like English/LA, results in all three grade levels improved over where students performed the previous year.

Like the English 10 ECA, there is also a component which is required for graduation for mathematics. Students, except for seniors graduating this June, must pass the Algebra I ECA to be eligible for a diploma in Indiana. We are very proud of our

students for passing the Algebra I ECA at a higher rate than the state average. During 2009-2010, Clark students passed at a 62% rate, while the state average was 61%. In the 2008-2009 school-year, Clark's passing rate as 43%, while the state averaged 41%.



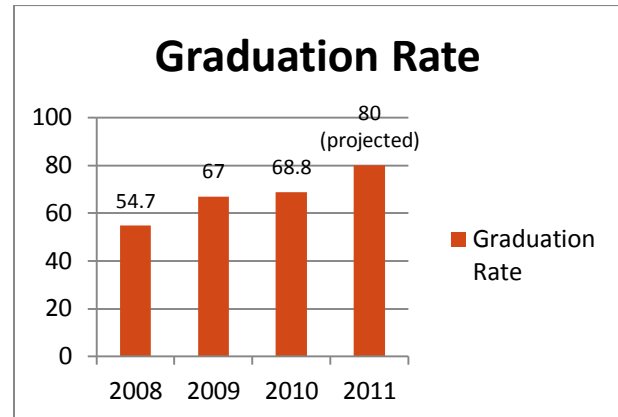
## Goal 3: Graduation

### *Improve the graduation rate each year*

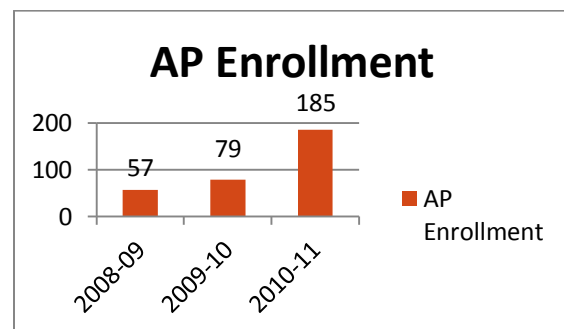
There are many factors that help determine whether or not a student will graduate in four years from high school. Support at the school and from parents/guardians at home, making good decisions, good attendance, and working to potential are just a few. At Clark, we have put in the following support systems to help students reach graduation:

- **Freshmen Teaming** – Students are grouped to have a community of teachers that work with them only to make the transition to high school more successful.
- **Attendance Recovery** – Students who violate the attendance policy are given an opportunity to make up hours missed to earn credits they may have otherwise lost.
- **Credit Recovery** – Using the Plato computer system, students are afforded an opportunity to make up courses they previously failed. This after school program can also be completed, in part, at home or anywhere there is an internet connection.

The graduation rate at George Rogers Clark has risen at a steady rate over the past several years and we anticipate it continuing to do so. Going back to the graduating class of 1998 (the furthest the Indiana Department of Education has data for), the most graduates Clark has ever had is 151. Currently, there are 190 forth-year students who are on pace to graduate this spring!



As mentioned earlier, there are many factors that affect a school's graduation rate. One of those is the school preparing students for college coursework. Students participating in Advance Placement (AP) courses are an excellent way to expose students to the rigors of college coursework. When students excel in these courses they can earn college credit by earning a score of at least 3 (out of 5) on an AP exam. Clark now offers seven AP courses, including Calculus, United States History, Government, Economics, English Literature, English Language and Art History. For the 2011-2012 school-year, plans are being made to offer additional AP courses, including Studio Art, Physics, and Environmental Science.





George Rogers Clark Middle/High School is an AdvancED/NCA accredited school and has been since 1939. Accreditation means that our students graduate assured that the education they receive adheres to high national standards. The process of accreditation includes continual self-evaluation of practices, procedures, and educational programming as well as a site

visit to verify adherence of those standards of excellence. GRC will host our next site visitation team during the 2011-2012 school-year for a three day evaluation. Identifying, improving, and communicating the three goals mentioned above, will help us continue our accreditation status with AdvancED/NCA.

### **Vision**

*Graduates of George Rogers Clark succeed in a global society by being respectful, productive citizens who embrace learning as a lifelong process.*

### **Mission**

*To provide all students a quality education by creating a culture of high expectations through effective communication and a shared commitment toward learning that is supported by the school, family, and community.*