



WILLIAM S. JAMES ELEMENTARY

January 2009

1 Laurentum Parkway, Abingdon, MD 21009 • 410-638-3900 • 410-638-3906 fax

AT A GLANCE

FACILITY OPENED: 1976

ADDITIONS/RENOVATIONS: None

SCHOOL CAPACITY: 476

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 487

CLASSROOM TEACHERS: 42

ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPAL:

Raymond F. Schmalzer, III

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:

Alison M. Donnelly

INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITATOR:

Peter S. Carpenter, II



WELCOME

William S. James Elementary is located at the center of the dynamic, growing community of Box Hill North in Abingdon, Maryland. It is a community school and we continually strive to develop its reputation as the hub for positive, child-centered activities in this neighborhood. Our community is one of growing diversity, and our staff utilizes monthly cultural arts assemblies as one vehicle for meeting the needs of our increasingly diverse student body.

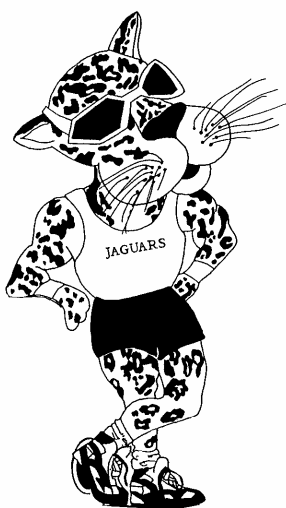
Student learning takes center stage at William S. James. Our school-wide mission is to "Lead the learning, live the learning, love the learning." Our vision is to achieve the 300% mark for all students: 100% learning, 100% of the time, for 100% proficiency. At William S. James, our staff takes this motto very seriously, and our students' achievement on MSA and a variety of criterion and nationally norm referenced assessments bears this out.

Professional Learning Communities, in which groups of teachers work collaboratively to improve instructional practice and meet the learning needs of all students, have developed and are thriving at William S. James. Our staff has been actively engaged in this embedded staff development process for the past several years and has attained considerable expertise in analyzing student achievement data and working collaboratively to refine daily instructional practices. This expertise has been recognized at the system level, and we celebrate the fact that our school has been selected to host a number of "model classrooms" for teachers new to Harford County Public Schools. The efforts of our classroom teachers have been augmented by a very capable support staff that includes two reading specialists, a math specialist, three full-time special educators, a full time speech/language pathologist, and an experienced guidance counselor.

This year's school improvement plan will focus on continuing to develop our staff's capacity as a professional learning community, closing identified achievement gaps, and expanding the school's use of technology both as an instructional tool and as a vehicle for students to learn together.

As a community school, we place great emphasis on creating positive home-school partnerships with all of our families. This process is enhanced by our PTA and volunteer programs, both of which are very active and supportive of our school in a number of critical ways. At William S. James, we recognize that parents are our students' first teachers, and we strive to seek their input as our school community moves forward. Welcome to William S. James Elementary, where all strive to learn and grow together.

Ray. Schmalzer
Principal



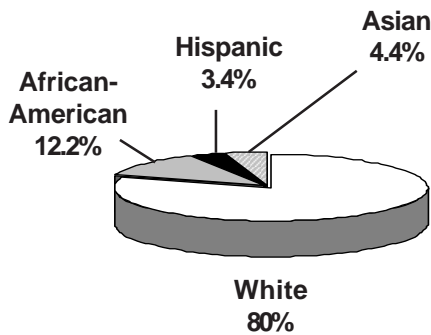
Student Population Characteristics

Student Enrollment	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Grade					
Pre-School	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-K	40	40	40	41	40
Kindergarten	69	69	77	78	75
1	86	72	66	80	76
2	71	89	73	69	80
3	82	65	81	81	61
4	84	80	75	78	78
5	89	83	84	74	77

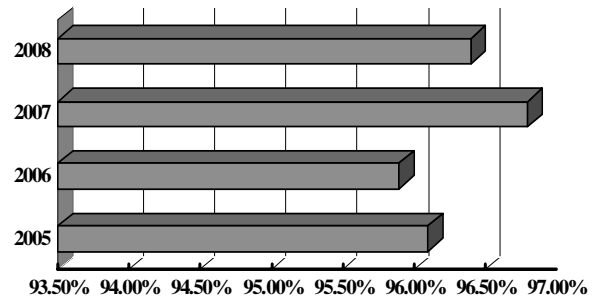
Students Absent				
< 5 days	38.5%	35.5%	47.1%	47.1%
> 20 days	3.4%	3.4%	2.6%	2.6%
Student Mobility				
Entrants	5.6%	4.6%	8.5%	4.8%
Withdrawals	8.7%	6.3%	8.1%	4.4%

Students Receiving Special Services	2006 %	2007 %	2008 %
Free/Reduced Price Meals	13.2	12.8	17.3
Limited English Proficient	1.9	1.4	2.8
Special Education	11.2	9.6	12.6

Student Membership by Ethnicity (2008)

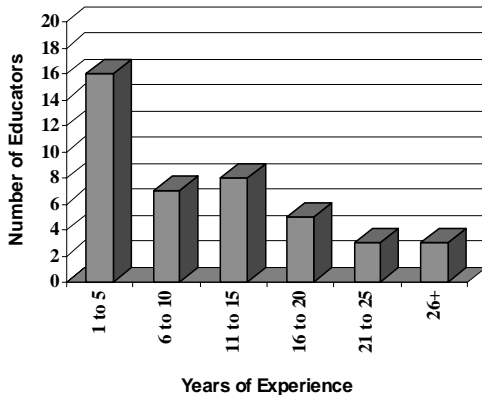


Student Attendance

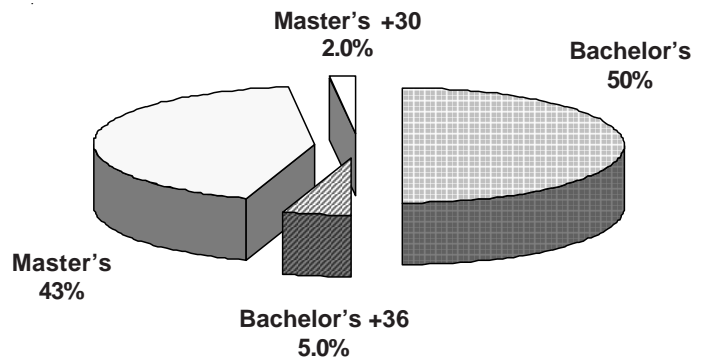


School Staff Characteristics

Professional Staff Experience

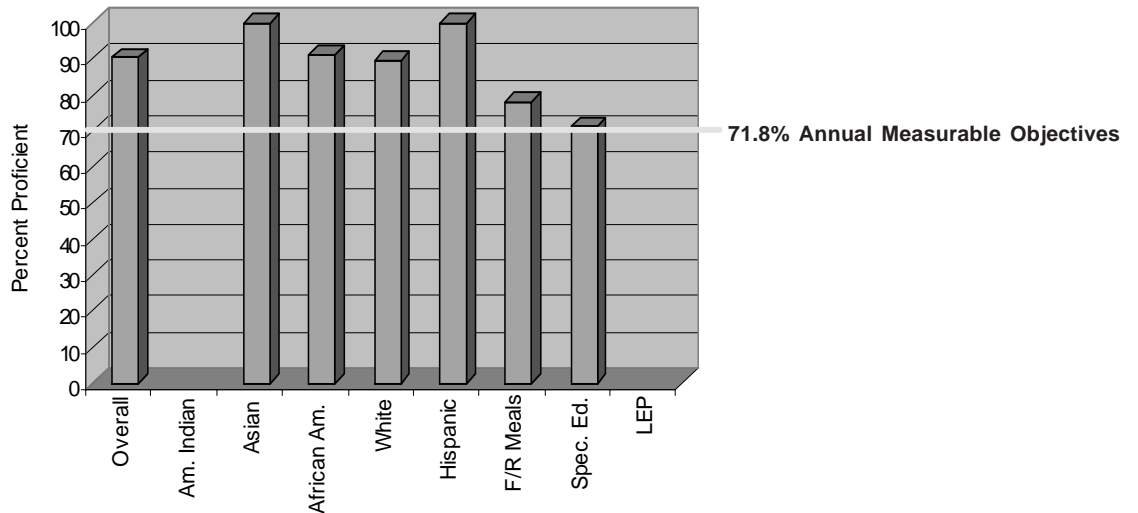


Education of Professional Staff

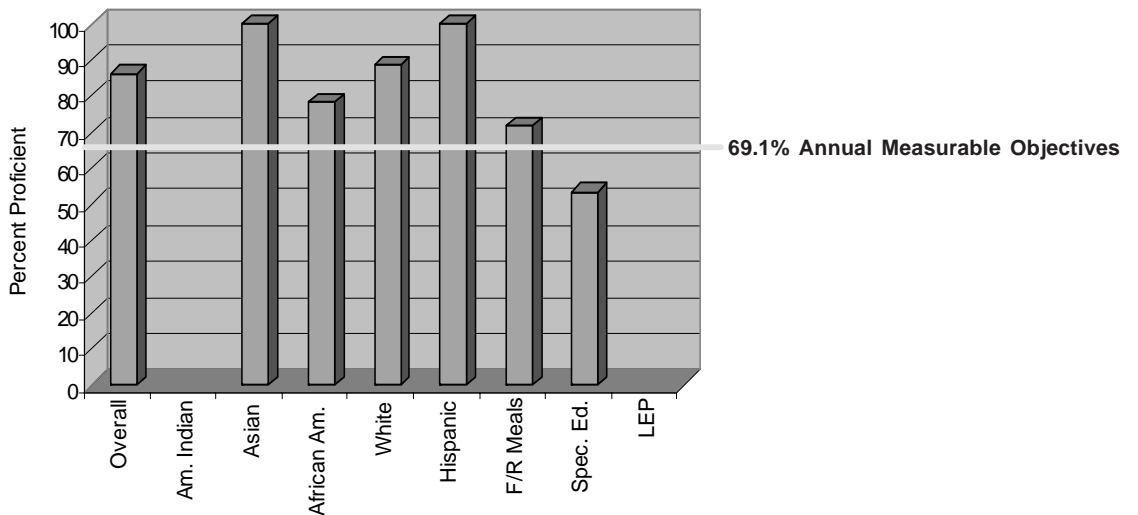


MSA Results: 2008

Reading: Grades 3, 4, and 5 Weighted Average



Mathematics: Grades 3, 4, and 5 Weighted Average



The graphs above show the percent of eligible third, fourth, and fifth grade students who performed at the proficient level on the Maryland State Assessment Reading and Mathematics tests. If a category is empty, there were too few students to monitor. For more information, go to www.msde.state.md.us, and click on 2008 Performance Report.