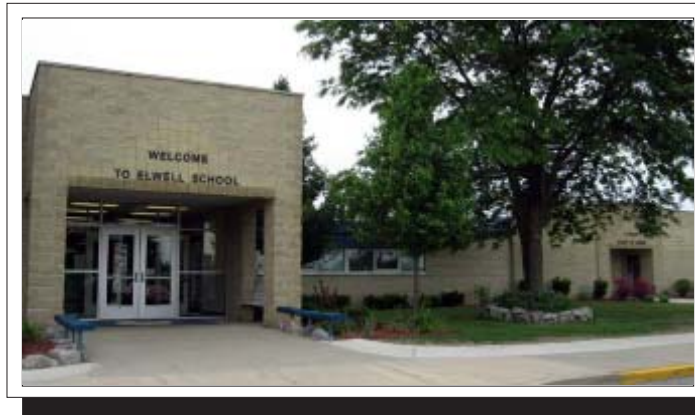


Mission Statement

We, the entire staff, believe that every student can learn. Our purpose is to create a safe, secure environment that will enhance each student's ability and desire to learn. We will challenge our students to master academic and social skills and to become critical thinkers and responsible citizens.



2008-2009 Enrollment

Elwell Elementary School serves 353 students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Daily attendance averages 87%. All students are assigned to Elwell Elementary School based upon attendance within the geographic boundaries of the school as well as students who transfer in based upon seats available.

Teaching and Support Staff

Teachers: 25

Professional and other support staff include: Paraprofessionals, 1.5 Title I teachers, 4 A.I. teachers, occupational therapists, physical therapist, school psychologist, school social worker, speech and language therapist, learning specialist, 1.5 resource room teachers, homebound or hospitalized services, three Professional Learning Community (PLC) teachers, lunchroom supervisors, volunteer parents, and numerous pre-student teachers. All certified staff and paraprofessionals and highly qualified as mandated by NCLB.



*Home of
the
Bulldogs!*

Accreditation

Accreditation is a process whereby staff, district personnel and the Board of Education as a district undergo a set of preconditions or standards identified as necessary for a quality education. These standards are identified by an external source such as the North Central Association, the State of Michigan, or the Association for Evaluation of Elementary Schools. Elwell School is in the fifth year of accreditation with the North Central Association of College and Schools and it continues to work toward standards set by the Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement of the North Central Accreditation. Elwell's Michigan Report Card composite grade for 2009 is a B, and we met Adequate Yearly Progress. The school is not identified for school improvement under NCLB.



2009
E
L
E
M
E
N
T
A
R
Y
S
C
H
O
O
L
A
n
n
u
a
l
R
e
p
o
r
t

Core Curriculum

The core curriculum at Elwell Elementary School provides learning experiences in all areas of language arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening, spelling and handwriting), mathematics, social studies, science, health, physical education, art, vocal and instrumental music and enrichment activities.

The goal of education is to provide all learners with a solid foundation of skills, knowledge and understandings that are necessary for their continual growth and success as students within the school setting and as adults in society.

As a result of sound K-12 education based on well-defined educational outcomes, a Van Buren Public Schools graduate will be: A person capable of learning over a lifetime, applying knowledge in diverse situations and making decisions for successful living. This individual will be a caring, sensitive, creative, innovative and flexible person who is capable of communicating effectively in written and spoken language. He or she will be a competent and productive participant in society.



Staff Members Build Skills

The Elwell staff attended professional development during the 2008-2009 school year. Staff members also completed and submitted an all school Title-I application which was approved by the State for the 2009-2010 school year. Elwell staff also presented at the Annual Parent Involvement Exposition (PIE).

Weekly scheduled Professional Learning Community time allowed grade level teachers to collaborate on student instruction issues. Weekly staff meetings were utilized for the sharing of information and topics promoting student performance.

School Improvement Goals

- Goal 1:** All students will continue to develop proficiency in their writing skills aligned with the ELA Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations.
- Goal 2:** All students will employ multiple strategies to increase comprehension in reading according to the ELA Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations.
- Goal 3:** All students will improve their understanding of math operations related to problem solving.



Points of Pride

Elwell teachers continually review curriculum and assess student needs to provide differentiated education and motivating strategies to each student.

Throughout the school year we held numerous enrichment activities to support classroom learning and student motivation.

- The students attended the Amazing Animals assembly and the Yo-Yo Man assembly as well as motivational speeches by Bruce Ross, Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Director.
- Reading Month dictionary contest, Shamrocks for Reading, and a visit from "The Cat in the Hat" were high lights of March is Reading Month.
- Interactions between classrooms included upper elementary students reading and listening to their lower grade reading buddies and intra-school mail delivery.
- Rotary Dictionary Program and PTO Give-Away provided free books.
- School wide activities were the International Fair, field day, bus safety practice, mobile dentist visit, holding sing-a-long, annual music concert, the Literacy Night program, and Book Fairs.
- After school opportunities include tutoring and summer school, boys and girls basketball and cheerleading; scouts, PTO Carnival, and Boys and Girls club.
- Fourth and fifth grade students were part of the Service Corp, and competed in the National Geographic GEO Bee.
- Our students were chosen to participate in the district-wide art show and Young Authors' Conference.
- Fifth graders participated in Life Skills Instruction, Book Worm Reading Club, the district spelling bee, and in the band.
- The entire school recycles with the help of the 4th grade Green Team.
- The Literacy Lab provided additional small group reading instruction for K-2 students.
- We received two grants from the Van Buren Schools Education Foundation to purchase an ELMO projector and headphones for the students with Autism program.

Parent Involvement Crucial to Success

Communication is key to building and maintaining good relationships between school and family. All parents are invited to participate in PTO and its sponsored activities. Parents are encouraged to be involved in classroom activities and field trips. Elwell Elementary is fortunate to have many parent and community volunteers providing classroom support. Fall conferences had a 73% attendance rate.



Challenges We Face:

- To address and meet the needs of the whole child.
- To provide a safe and secure atmosphere for optimal learning.
- To promote and increase family involvement.
- To improve homework completion.
- To address truancy issues.
- To improve MEAP scores in reading, writing, math and science.
- To continue to develop student skills in technology.



Test Results

MEAP Scores by Grade Level

Additional disaggregated test data is on file at the school building and on the district web site at www.vanburenschools.net

	2007-08 % Proficient	2008-09 % Proficient
Grade 3		
Reading	61	73
Writing	39	52
ELA (reading and writing)	57	69
Math	85	80
Grade 4		
Reading	69	55
Writing	22	22
ELA (reading and writing)	59	45
Math	63	76
Grade 5		
Reading	77	72
Writing	49	44
ELA (reading and writing)	72	65
Math	62	65
Science	79	78

Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP) is used to assess reading in grades 1-3. A district developed math test is used to assess mathematics in first grade.

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Van Buren Public Schools District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Should you need to contact someone about discrimination of any kind in the school district, contact the Director of Personnel at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, MI 48111 or (734)697-9123, ext. 211.

P.A. 102, 1999 requires each building to report the number of occurrences reported or called in to the police. Elwell had only two reportable incidents during the 2008-2009 school year.