

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Annual Report**
- **Staff Development**
- **Teacher Leaders**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **October 19
Conferences
4-8 PM**
- **October 19
Board Meeting
7 PM**
- **October 20
Conferences
4-6 PM**
- **October 28
Fish Awards
2:45 PM Gym**
- **October 28
Concert 6:30
PM Gym**
- **November 2
PAVE meeting
6:30 PM**
- **November 9
Parent Meeting–
Internet Safety and
CyberBullying**



Director's Notes

by
Lynn Gluck Peterson

OCTOBER 18, 2010

Annual Report

I am pleased to present, in the attached PDF, Cologne Academy's 2009-2010 Annual Report. I hope this publication will provide you, our stakeholder, with an overview of our educational programming, operations, and management. This report was written to fulfill Minnesota Statute, section 124D.10, subdivision 14 (2009).

The 2009-2010 school year was successful in many areas and the successes are highlighted in the annual report. From student achievement to financial health and continued growth, I am pleased to recap this past school year. This report highlights the many accomplishments of our hard-working student body, the talent and commitment of the entire staff, and the support and encouragement of our families.

Cologne Academy is committed to providing high quality, child-focused educational programs for all students. The staff is diligent and is appropriately trained to ensure that students receive a balanced education that includes academic achievement, physical growth, social/emotional education, and character development through an enriched curriculum. This annual report was approved by the Cologne Academy School Board of Directors on Thursday, September 23, 2010.

As a school, Cologne Academy engages in ongoing improvement efforts at the board, administrative, staff, and student levels. This ongoing improvement involves examining our practices, proc-

esses, and results. We identify both student and professional learning needs.

Our desire to produce high academic achievement is aligned with our authorizer's, Friends of Education, goals of: (1) improving student learning; (2) increasing learning opportunities for students; (3) encouraging the use of different and innovative teaching methods; (4) establishing new forms of accountability for schools, and; (5) creating new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program.

September 2010 begins Cologne Academy's third year of educating students. Among many new initiatives this year, the school continues to work on developing our new Middle School Concept as our student body grows older. Our Middle School theme -*You Don't Know What You Don't Know*- is aimed at providing an education that will foster and encourage our students to seek knowledge and desire to inquire at a higher level.

I encourage you to read the report in its entirety to fully understand the schools programs and to share the report with others in your community.

Enjoy and let me know if you have questions!

Lynn Gluck Peterson
Executive Director

Our Vision

To create an environment for K-8 children where rich character development and effective learning create self confident students who are able to achieve their personal best academically. Using advanced curriculum that is based on goal oriented results, parents will work with teachers to produce the highest possible level of academic achievement for each individual student.

Our Mission

To provide students in Cologne and surrounding rural areas with a content-rich education based on a strong foundation of knowledge through the use of the Core Knowledge Sequence and classical curriculum. We are committed to providing a community school with small class sizes where students, parents and teachers work together to achieve accelerated academic achievement and strong character development.

Did You Know?

Cologne Academy's Staff Development **Working together toward a shared purpose—** **improved student learning.**

After reading the annual report, all will agree that the primary purpose of Cologne Academy, and all schools, is student learning. Research shows that the most significant factor in whether students learn is teaching quality. To this end, one way to improve teacher quality is through continuous professional learning opportunities for teachers.

At Cologne Academy, teachers engage in scheduled professional development meetings three time a week . In addition, we schedule other meetings as the needs develop to support our learners' needs.

The professional learning community (PLC) is the context that is most supportive of professional teacher learning. In order to make our PLCs an efficient vehicle of teacher learning, it is important to define *community learning*.

The teachers at Cologne Academy understand the direct correlation between learning with students in the classroom and learning with their fel-

low teachers. Within our PLCs, we engage in activities that support the analysis of students' work and discover where our students are doing well and also find where opportunities lie for more learning and better student outcomes.

Our teachers work together to support best teaching practices; we strive to champion for all students' needs. In staff development and within our PLCs we prioritize areas where students are not performing successfully and define areas that need immediate remediation. As an entire teaching body, we all take responsibility to learn new skills, content, and strategies to meet our student learners' needs.

At Cologne Academy, the teaching staffs' engagement in student outcomes is not an add-on to the role of teacher. It is an integral component and essential activity. Meeting in PLCs is an ongoing activity where our teachers learn how to learn together for your child!

Teacher Leaders

Cologne Academy has six teachers who perform lead teaching roles. Mrs. Magstadt is the school's Peer Differentiated Instruction Leader, Mrs. Degen and Mrs. Roth are Math Strategists, Mrs. Rasmussen and Mrs. Ferrin are Literacy Strategist, and Mrs. Gordon is the Assessment Strategist. More details about their roles in coaching and mentoring fellow teachers to come in future announcements and newsletters.