

# Justus Gage



Justus Gage School  
301 Oak St.  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

**Justus Gage is accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has been recognized for meeting the Goal Approval Requirements for the Outcomes Endorsement.**

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to educate our students to their maximum academic and social potential in a stable and safe environment.

## School Improvement Plan

Justus Gage has an active school improvement team using a variety of different strategies designed to improve our school. Our decisions are made in a collaborative manner and based on relevant data.

## Student Performance Target Areas and Results

### **Social Studies Target Goal**

Students will identify, understand, and apply the Core Democratic Values.

#### **Strategies:**

- Post and focus on Core Democratic Value of the Month
- Student writing assignments/decision making based on Core Democratic Values
- We continue to develop and implement school-wide rules and behavior plans based on MiBLSi and Positive Behavior Supports training

#### **Results:**

Students use and apply the Core Democratic Values in their decision making processes and recognize their significance in our school community.

### **Mathematics Target Goal**

Students will improve their mathematical problem solving skills, concepts, and computation at all grade levels.

#### **Strategies:**

- Use a variety of different curricular materials
- Controlled vocabulary lists
- Tutoring program
- Differentiate Instruction

#### **Results:**

94% of the students are proficient in Math according to state MEAP scores.



A fourth grade student conducts a science experiment at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

### **Science Target Goal**

Students will understand the concept of scientific knowledge and apply it to real world situations.

#### **Strategies:**

- Students will use relevant data
- Design hands on activities
- Poly-Com presentations

#### **Results:**

Students in all grade levels are exposed to hands-on activities and distance learning activities.

### Reading/Writing Target Goal:

Students will improve writing skills across the curriculum. Students will improve their ability to read and comprehend a variety of written materials across the curriculum.

#### Strategies:

- Building use of graphic organizers
- Use of building computer lab
- Individual/small group tutoring
- Summer school focus groups
- Paired reading and questioning
- Higher Order thinking skills
- 6 + 1 Traits of Writing used school-wide

#### Results:

93% of the students are proficient in English Language Arts according to state MEAP scores.

### School Climate Goal:

To increase parental involvement by providing multiple opportunities for positive experiences at school.

#### Strategies:

- Use e-mail, phone, and notes to communicate positive experiences.
- School open house, music programs, parent fair, weekly newsletters, and parent conferences.
- Relationships are developed through Foster Grandparents, Veterans Day Observance, local church support, United Way, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters.
- Use website and Synvoice for important information and updates

#### Results:

Anti-bullying rubric completed and sent home with each student. We have had positive feedback on the use of Synvoice.

### Retention Rates 2007-2010

Year	12 <sup>th</sup>
2009-2010	98.2
2008-2009	97.9
2007-2008	97

### Teacher Qualification

Currently 100% of the Justus Gage teaching staff is "Highly Qualified" as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act.

	High Poverty Schools	Low Poverty Schools
Percentage of Teachers with Emergency or Provisional Credentials	0	0
Percentage of Teachers in district classrooms that are not Highly Qualified	0	0

### Conference Participation

School	2009-2010	2009-2008	2008-2007
Justus Gage	92%	89%	86%

### AYP

Performance of Local Educational Agencies Regarding Adequate Yearly Progress.

	Make AYP in 2009-2010	Grade
Justus Gage	Yes	A

### Schools Identified for Improvement

School	Phase of School Improvement
	All met AYP

## Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP)

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assesses students in the area of English language arts, math, science writing, reading and social studies. This chart illustrates a comparison of Dowagiac performance in each area tested to the state's performance.

Blank areas indicate there were not enough students in that category to provide data.

### English Language Arts

Student Group Math	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade					4 <sup>th</sup> Grade					5 <sup>th</sup> Grade				
	Fall 2009 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend	Fall 2009 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend	Fall 2009 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend
All Students	95%	60%	+35	0	+11	88%	59%	+29	0	+15	94%	57%	+37	0	+23
African American/Black															
American Indian/Native Alaskan															
Asian/Pacific Islander															
Hispanic															
Multiracial															
White	97%	60%	+37	0	+15	84%	59%	+25	0	+3	100%	57%	+43	0	+30
Other															
Students with Disabilities															
Limited English Proficient															
Economically Disadvantaged	94%	60%	+34	0	+11	83%	59%	+23	0	+24	89%	57%	+32	0	+17
Migrant															
Male	89%	60%	+29	0	+8	96%	59%	+27	0	+13	100%	57%	+43	0	+36
Female	100%	60%	+40	0	+12	90%	59%	+31	0	+17	92%	57%	+35	0	+15

### Math

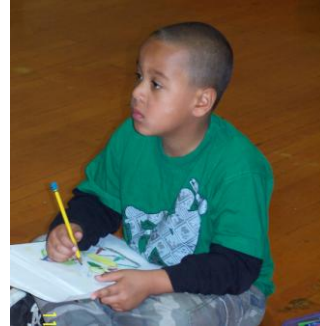
Student Group Math	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade					4 <sup>th</sup> Grade					5 <sup>th</sup> Grade				
	Fall 2008 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend	Fall 2008 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend	Fall 2008 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend
All Students	98%	67%	+31	0	+10	93%	65%	+28	0	+8	91%	62%	+29	0	+15
African American/Black															
American Indian/Native Alaskan															
Asian/Pacific Islander															
Hispanic															
Multiracial															
White	97%	67%	+30	0	+10	94%	65%	+29	0	+0	77%	62%	+15	0	n/a
Other															
Students with Disabilities															
Limited English Proficient															
Economically Disadvantaged	86%	67%	+19	0	-4	91%	65%	+26	0	+15	82%	62%	+20	0	+10
Migrant															
Male	100%	67%	+33	0	+15	92%	65%	+27	0	+5	91%	62%	+29	0	-2
Female	95%	67%	+28	0	+3	95%	65%	+30	0	+10	92%	62%	+30	0	+32

**MEAP continued...**

**Science**

5 <sup>th</sup> Grade			
Student Group	Fall 2009 Assessment Results	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend
All Students	86%	0	+10
African American/Black			
American Indian/Native Alaskan			
Asian/Pacific Islander			
Hispanic			
Multiracial			
White	94%	0	+17
Other			
Students with Disabilities			
Limited English Proficient			
Economically Disadvantaged	79%	0	+7
Migrant			
Male	92%	0	-1
Female	83%	0	+23

- A variety of special activities were planned in order to enhance parent involvement and student achievement. This year we enjoyed the talents of John Mooy, author, and Wendy Anderson Halperin, illustrator.



- Special programs were developed by our media aide and included: a visit from a live reindeer, Guest Readers, Rainforest Assembly, and a visit from area legislators.
- Students participated and performed in the Dogwood Fine Arts Festival.
- We were honored to have local veterans as guests on Veterans Day. They led the Pledge of Allegiance and shared stories with our students.

**Activities & Points of Pride**

- The Justus Gage Parent Teacher Organization helps to provide all students with special programs and field trips. We are proud to be a Market Day School!
- Our Fall Open House gave students and parents the opportunity to meet their child's teachers.
- Student artwork is displayed at our District Administrative Office.
- Teachers meet with students before school, during lunch, and after school for targeted instruction and extended learning opportunities.
- We became a MiBLSi School and have begun working on Positive Behavior Supports. Our children are proud to be Justus Gage HERO's.



- Grandparent's Day was a huge success!
- Justus Gage students participated in the Dowagiac Spelling Bee, Math-A-Rama, County Spelling Bee, Young Writers' Day and Science Olympiad.

