

Annual Report
2010-11
Volinia Outcomes School
54080 Gards Prairie Road
Decatur, MI 49045
(269)782-9716
Don Price, Principal

I. Overview of the School

Volinia Outcomes School is a program made up of dedicated people who work to help every child have a positive educational experience. Volinia is a small alternative school that serves an at-risk population of 90-100 students.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide positive and caring learning experiences in which students are expected to meet the challenging academic expectations set forth by the state. Students will also receive the opportunity to achieve the outcomes necessary to direct their lives toward developing habits that will help them become cooperative, self-sufficient, responsible and intellectually curious citizens. (Revised May 2007)

- **Education YES!** : Due to the small size of the school and the small number of students who are eligible to take the MEAP test (7, 8 and 11th grades), it is not possible to accurately gauge school achievement performance based on standardized state test scores. (Thirty students per test are needed to record a viable score).
- **Volinia Maple:** a student-operated business is an ongoing project facilitated by Volinia principal, Don Price. Initiated in 2001, the project allows hand-on learning in a real business setting where students gather, produce and sell maple syrup and other maple-related products. Customer service, communication, accounting, teamwork, and public relations are just a few of the skills students learn. Grants and donations by several area businesses and individuals helped make the business possible.
- **Awards and Accomplishments:**
 - Celebrated 20 years as an alternative program serving at risk students in the area.
 - Nearly 750 people attended the annual Volinia Maple Festival in March 2011.
 - Graduated 21 seniors
- **Counseling:** All students participated in weekly counselor-facilitated groups comprised of 6-10 students. Topics covered in this program include nutrition, anger management, substance abuse, self-esteem, healthy choices and tolerance as well as career and post-high school education guidance.

II. School Improvement

Continuous improvement is an important process for the Volinia program. Our school improvement team met the third Monday of each month throughout the school year. The team included a support staff member & parent, a school counselor, five teachers, one administrator, a student and a school board member. Input was also gained through several student and parent surveys, questionnaires and interviews. As part of our school improvement process, the team worked toward reaching several goals and used specific data to drive reform and improvement. The data used included standardized test scores, MEAP data, needs assessment information gathered in previous school years, disciplinary referral and attendance data. The School Improvement Team worked on writing & math improvement goals throughout the school year and created or revised goals mid way through the school year in an effort to address all content areas. Those goals are listed below.

1. All students will be proficient in social studies.
2. All Volinia Outcomes students will be proficient writers.
3. All students will be proficient in science.
4. All students will be proficient in math.

Several strategies and projects were implemented or expanded in an effort to reach school improvement goals. These efforts included:

- Continued work to increase parent and community involvement in the Volinia program by setting and meeting goals for weekly parent/guardian contacts.
- Further review and study of the Michigan Curriculum Benchmarks and Standards, Content Standards, Grade Level Expectations (GLCEs) to ensure alignment. Teachers indicated the HSCE or GLCE in daily lesson plans and submitted the plans to the principal.
- A school-wide citizenship & participation & writing rubrics continue to be incorporated into all core curricular areas.
- MEAP preparation strategies were implemented for appropriate grade levels.
- Continued extended math time in the 2010-11 student schedule.
- Administered a pre and post-test in math & reading for all students. Implemented a pre & post testing program for all middle level students. Initiated STAR Math & Reading testing every 2 months and analyzed results and improvements.
- Reviewed Course success rates and created improvement plans by course as needed.
- Continuation of a Planning & Intervention Room/program for attendance policy violators as well as for students needing behavioral assistance (those with 2 or more referrals).
- Continued after school homework academy.
- Continued weekly progress reports for all students.

III. Student Assessment

The Elementary and Secondary Act requires that all districts and school in Michigan report out on several educational components. A description of these components and a link to the MDE provided reports follows:

2010-11

- Results of state-administered assessments. This link takes you to a report on MEAP data, MME data, Mi-Access student achievement data for Volinia Outcomes School:
[Student Achievement Data Link](#)
- AYP Data. This link takes you to a report on AYP status of Volinia Outcomes School:
[AYP Data Link](#)
- Teacher Quality Data. This link takes you to a report on the Professional Qualifications of teachers in Volinia Outcomes School:
[Teacher Quality Data Link](#)
- NAEP: The national Assessment of Educational progress assessment is administered annually to a representative sample of schools across the 50 states in grades 4 and 8. This link takes you to a report on the achievement of Michigan students.
[NAEP Link](#)

Previous Years

MEAP	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
7th Reading	100%	40%	25%	100%	22%
7th Writing	80%	40%	0%	0%	0%
7th Math	20%	40%	75%	0%	44%
7th Total ELA	100%	40%	25%	0%	0%
8th Reading	86%	100%	50%	57%	80%
8th Writing	71%	50%	50%	0%	0%
8th Total ELA	86%	100%	50%	0%	0%
8th Math	71%	75%	50%	57%	100%
8th Science	100%	100%	67%	25%	100%
9th social studies	80%	66%	45%	29%	56%

	MEAP	MME	MME	MME	MME
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
11th Reading	31%	53%	26%	38%	18%
11th Writing	0%	21%	16%	6%	0%
11th Total ELA	15%	37%	16%	0%	N/A
11th Math	15%	37%	32%	14%	27%
11th Science	15%	37%	21%	7%	27%
11th Social Studies	62%	63%	74%	60%	55%

Scores include all students, even those who were not at Volinia for a Full Academic Year. Test scores are not considered statistically sound due to the small number of testers and do not have to be included in the annual report.

IV. Adequate Yearly Progress

For the 1st time in 6 years Volinia Outcomes School did not achieve AYP. Lower test scores and a reporting error in regards to enrolled students contributed to this. Complete information regarding Education Yes and AYP can be found at www.mde.org

V. Parent & Community Involvement

The Marcellus Board of Education believes that the education of our children is the joint responsibility of the school, the parents and the community. To ensure that the best interests of our children will be served, a strong program of school, parent and community communication must be maintained. (School Policy Handbook #1313, adopted March 11, 1996)

Parental involvement opportunities included open house, parent teacher conferences, Thanksgiving and Christmas socials, as well as softball and basketball events and in the student-operated business, Volinia Maple. Parents volunteered to assist with the ninth annual Maple Syrup Festival which was held in mid- March. Other volunteer opportunities included chaperoning, and fund raising events and tutoring.

Communication with parents occurs in a variety of ways, including:

Telephone	email	voice mail
School wide planners	Monthly Volinia News	Website
Conferences	Open House	News articles
Report Cards	Progress Reports	Online access to grades/attendance
Volunteer Recognition Program		

Parent teacher conferences

Parent attendance	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Fall Conferences	33%	34%	29%	21%	21%
Winter conferences	28%	34%	16%	7%	6%
Spring conferences	30%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The following agencies were involved with the Volinia program throughout the school year:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Cass County Interagency Council | Southwestern Michigan College- |
| Michigan State Extension | Cass County Health Department |
| Cass County Youth Committee | Educational Talent Search |
| Woodlands | Cass & Van Buren, St Joe County Family Courts |
| Family Independence Agency | Wrap-Around / Interagency Committees |
| Cass County Council on Aging | Edward Lowe Foundation |
| Great Start | Volunteer Center of SW Michigan |
| Lions Club | |

VI. Core Curriculum

All teachers and the school principal periodically review curriculum, instruction and assessment. Professional Development time, in-service days and staff meeting time was utilized for curriculum review and development. Grade level content and high school course content expectations were reviewed and have been incorporated into the curriculum. The Michigan Merit Curriculum is now fully implemented at all grade levels.

A web based credit recovery program has become a big part of Volinia School. Students who have fallen behind with their required credits have the opportunity to work at school and on their own to earn those credits back. This includes all core and elective classes. www.odysseyware.com

Marcellus School District Policy ensures that all students have the same opportunities to learn the core curriculum. There are no variances from the Michigan Curriculum Frameworks/ MMC
In addition to the core curriculum, special course offerings and programs include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Weekly counseling groups | Volinia Maple |
| Applied Student Employee Program | Volinia Softball |
| Anger Management counseling | |

VII. Dual Enrollment

Volinia Outcomes School does provide the opportunity for dual enrollment. Zero (0) students participated in that program for the 10-11 school year.

VIII. Advanced Placement

Advanced placement courses are only offered through the online curriculum. Zero students took AP classes online during the 10-11 school year. They have opportunities to dual enroll at Southwestern Michigan College or earn college credit through the Van Buren Technical Center.

IX. Specialized Schools

Van Buren Technology Center enrolls Volinia School students and out-of-county tuition is paid by Marcellus Community Schools. VBTC offers 30 centralized CTE programs. A link to their annual report is listed below.

X. Teacher Qualifications

100% of teachers at Volinia Outcomes School hold teaching certificates and 20% have Masters Degrees. All teachers in core areas are considered highly qualified under NCLB. Every parent has the right to know the particular teacher qualifications of his/her teacher(s). For information about teacher qualifications, contact Superintendent Ron Herron.

XI. Graduate Status

21 students graduated with a high school diploma.

XII. Discipline

Respectful, reasonable and responsible (the three R's) behaviors are expected from all students at Volinia. The Volinia handbook spells out the specific rules and consequences for violation of school rules. Volinia offers students several helpful programs and methods to help deal with any potential problems or conflicts the student may encounter. Peer mediation, individual and group counseling sessions are examples of helpful programs. Students are taught peaceful conflict resolution techniques to help promote positive decision-making. Action plans, behavior plans or contracts are sometimes developed to assist individuals with making positive choices. While many students follow rules, there are specific instances that require out-of-school suspension and even expulsion and/or police involvement.

2010-11- 0 expulsion and 45 out of school suspensions.
2009-10- 1 expulsion and 34 out of school suspensions.
2008-09- 1 expulsion and 22 out of school suspensions.

XIII. Student Recognition

Student accomplishments including social, behavioral, athletic as well as academic, are celebrated on a weekly basis. Award ceremonies are held every Friday during the last 10 minutes of the school day. Students have the opportunity to earn such awards as:

Student of the Week	Honor Roll	Citizenship
Student of the Month	Attendance	
Appreciation	Participation	Athletic/sportsmanship
Birthday	Positive Parenting	Peer Leadership

Student service included participation in the Cass County Adopt-a-Road program and service at the Cass County Council on Aging. Students also helped host the annual Maple Syrup Festival and the annual Thanksgiving Appreciation dinner for area school, community and agency leaders and supporters, as well as preparation for senior breakfasts, and prom planning. Co-ed softball is also available for eligible students.