
MADISON-GRANT HIGH SCHOOL

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Fairmount, IN 46928

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PHILIP NIKIRK Principal

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some insight with you about the "School Performance" letter grade designation of a "C" given to Madison-Grant High School for our End of Course Assessment (ECA) results from last year. In the past schools have been given "title designations" as a result from these tests but this year Indiana schools and corporations were assigned letter grades. I am providing a simple comparison to help you understand how they relate to each other.

<u>Past Designation</u>	<u>Current Corresponding Grade</u>
Exemplary Progress	A
Commendable Progress	B
Academic Progress	C
Academic Watch	D
Academic Probation	F

An important fact to remember when looking at our results in English 10 and Algebra and the assigned letter grade is the Annual Yearly Performance (AYP) created through the Federal No Child Left Behind legislation and its impact on the grade for Madison-Grant High School. Last year, Madison-Grant High School did not make AYP because we did not test enough of our 10th grade students and our Participation Percentage was too low. We made a decision not to test 10th grade students who had not passed Algebra or English 10 and would not be able to pass the End of Course Assessment. We are talking about not testing a total of 12 students. The irony of this is that if we would have tested these students and even if they failed, given the number of students we had who passed both, Madison-Grant High School would have made AYP in 2010. We chose to do what we thought was in the best interest of our students. As a result because we had not made AYP in the past two years, we could not be awarded a grade above a "C" for 2011. Theoretically, every student could have passed last year's ECAs and the best we could have done would have been a "C".

But let's look at some positives. Our 2011 results were great. We had an increase of over 10% in our success with students passing the Algebra and English 10 ECAs last year. We had 88.9% of our 10th grade students pass the Algebra ECA and 75.7% pass the English 10 ECA. In the past three years Madison-Grant High School has seen an increase in our passing rates of 3.5% in 2009, 5.3% in 2010, and 10.3% in 2011. Last year we were the highest performing high school in both Madison and Grant Counties. Pretty good for a school that could only "earn" a "C" this year.

We are extremely proud of our students and of their accomplishments in the classroom. And I am extremely proud of our teaching staff. Their dedication to our students and their desire to improve the quality of the instruction they offer our student body is second to none. We are well on our way to reaching our goal of becoming the highest performing school in Central Indiana and eventually the State. I am proud to be your Principal and I am proud to be an Argyll. I want to thank everyone for their support of our students and our school.