

Look How Far We've Come

As an inner-city, Title I school, the usual perceptions of lower academic achievement, low attendance, and low parent involvement confronted Ogden Preparatory Academy at its beginning. Fortunately for our community, our school, and our students, this perception is not the reality that is Ogden Preparatory Academy. Our administration, faculty, staff, students, and parents all continually strive for excellence in all that we do. That we have achieved excellence is evidenced by any number of measures, including:

- The test scores for AYP - significantly above average
- The Iowa Test - Ogden Preparatory Academy had 35.8% of students score in the top 10% of the nation.
- Attendance level - 95%
- Parent volunteer hours - 4,278 hours and 11 minutes for 2007-2008.

Ogden Preparatory Academy is an amazing school that is getting amazing results. Our faculty consists of 91.43% highly qualified teachers, as compared to State totals of 78.1%, Charter school totals of 62.13%, and District totals of 79.71% (2007-2008). All members of our learning community are committed to academic achievement and life-long learning.

We not only want all students to become productive, responsible members of society. We also want them to be contributing members now; so we are engaging them in service learning projects throughout the community. A major component of our Ogden Preparatory Academy vision is that students and teachers who serve their community come to appreciate and take responsibility for that community, thus they learn to care about things and others outside of themselves.

- Our long-term service learning project was begun by our seventh, eighth and ninth grade Language Arts classes. They have instituted a successful paper recycling program and have donated tons (literally) of paper to be reprocessed.
- Our seventh grade CTE have created and implemented a “Beanies for Babies” project. The students knitted newborn and preemie caps, took them to Primary Children’s Hospital, and donated the caps for the babies. While there, the students visited the hospital nursery and NICU. (Sherry Marchant, CTE Intro Specialist for the State, having visited our CTE program, has rated it as the model CTE program for charter schools in the state.)
- Our elementary students completed a “Doll Project”. They made various types of dolls, which were also donated to Primary Children’s Hospital.

- Our elementary and junior high students were part of the “Heifer International Project”. In this project, students donated their change or pennies from home to buy animals for needy families/villages in Third World Countries.
- Students have donated food on two separate occasions.
 - For Spirit Week, instead of focusing solely on our school, we decided to expand our focus to our greater community. We gathered 800+ pounds of food, which was given to the Utah Food Bank.
 - On Make a Difference Day 2008, we collected several pick-up truck loads of food and toilet tissue that were donated to the Ogden YCC.
- On Make a Difference Day 2009, our fifth and sixth graders worked with the firemen at the Central Ogden Fire Station to clean and plant flower beds surrounding the station. The station, which is across the street from our school, looks wonderful.
- On Arbor Day 2009, our eighth and ninth grade students were invited by Ogden City to participate in planting trees to beautify our city.
- Our National Junior Honor Society chose to visit a retirement home. They distributed cookies that they had baked, and then they entertained the residents with songs and instruments.
- Our first grade’s veteran teacher, Emma Clisante, became a United States citizen last year. Throughout her long naturalization process, she taught her first graders about the steps that a person must go through in order to obtain citizenship, and then the students accompanied her on a field trip to the Federal Court House in Salt Lake City for her swearing in ceremony.
- Mrs. Thayne, second grade teacher, has had her students complete a “Veterans Project”. The second graders gathered clothes, sleeping bags, and blankets for the veterans.
- The second grade’s next endeavor evolved from an incident that happened in South Ogden City, a neighboring community, where a family had their flag stolen from their yard and off of their front porch. The second graders sent letters to the family expressing their concern, then donated monies to buy the family a replacement flag. Subsequently, the family visited the classroom to talk with the children and share their gratitude. It was a win-win situation for all.
- Continuing the same theme, our sixth grade students wrote letters to serving soldiers in the Middle East as part of a social studies project.

- An additional long-term social studies project for fifth and sixth graders in Ms. Baldwin's social studies class was the Fair Trade Chocolate Project. They spent several weeks studying fair trade to and from the U.S. to South American countries. They presented an assembly to parents and students explaining why fair trade is important for us and other countries, encouraging all of us to do our research for the products we buy, both foreign and domestic.

We feel justifiably proud that our students and teachers are involved so extensively and productively in our community, our country, and our world. We strongly believe we are giving our students experiences that teach them that individual and group efforts truly do make our community and world a better place for all of us. Conversely, students continue to show us, through their independent actions, that they have come to believe this as well.

Ogden Preparatory Academy has been a school of excellence for six years. We began as a kindergarten through fifth grade school with barely 200 students. The principal and teachers walked door-to-door in inner-city Ogden explaining what and where the school was, what we hoped to accomplish, and why this school would be of great benefit to students, as well as the community. From that humble beginning, Ogden Preparatory Academy has evolved into a K-9 school, with grades 10-12 to be added within the next two years. Ogden Preparatory Academy has a current population of 573 students and a 300+ student waiting list. By looking at the increase in our student population and the number of students anxiously remaining on our waiting list, Ogden Preparatory Academy is clearly more than meeting the needs of students and parents.

Our academic offerings and achievements are amazing and continue to improve each year. In response to the expressed and continuing concerns of business and higher education that students graduating from high school still do not write well, we have incorporated a full year of writing into our eighth grade curriculum, in addition to the writing instruction students routinely receive in Language Arts classes. As a result of our writing focus, our ninth grade scored a remarkable 100% on the Direct Writing Assessment last year.

Ogden Preparatory Academy is now focusing even more intensely on the fine arts. We already have an elementary choir of 60+ students. For next year we've added choir to our junior high curriculum to be taught by a Julliard-trained instructor, who also offers violin classes. Our visual art program is led by a world-recognized professional artist, who elicits amazing, creative projects from students. Also for next year, we will be adding a photography class to our schedule.

Our library is one of the busy, truly effective learning hubs of our school. After a recent review of library operations by Jamie Johns of the Utah State Charter School office, utilizing the Northwest Accreditation Association model criteria, our library was reported to be the best charter school library in the state.

Ogden Preparatory Academy continues to push the envelope of excellence. Our students deserve our best energy and efforts on their behalf. As a faculty and staff, we are

committed to meeting their evolving needs and to delivering that energy and effort. We want their experience here at Ogden Prep to prepare them for the world and to imbue them with great and realistic hope for their future. Kreig Kelley, Title I Director of the State Office of Education, visited our school on May 7, 2009. His comment regarding our students is just exactly what we are striving for: "I've visited all the Title I schools across the state of Utah. I've never seen such hope in children's eyes." That is our vision for Ogden Preparatory Academy and also our greatest accolade.

IOWA Test of Basic Skills

Grade 3

Reading:	OPA – 62 Utah – 57
L. A.:	OPA – 55 Utah – 46
Math:	OPA – 54 Utah – 47
Core Total:	OPA – 56 Utah – 50
Social Studies:	OPA – 72 Utah – 60
Science:	OPA – 72 Utah – 63
Composite:	OPA – 65 Utah – 57

Grade 5

Reading:	OPA – 53 Utah – 55
L.A.:	OPA – 50 Utah – 51
Math:	OPA – 48 Utah – 52
Core Total:	OPA – 50 Utah – 52
Social Studies:	OPA – 53 Utah – 53
Science:	OPA – 68 Utah – 64
Composite:	OPA – 68 Utah – 64

Grade 8

Reading:	OPA – 62 Utah – 60
L.A.:	OPA – 52 Utah – 53
Math:	OPA – 48 Utah – 53
Core Total:	OPA – 55 Utah – 54
Social Studies:	OPA – 70 Utah – 51
Science:	OPA – 73 Utah – 65
Composite:	OPA – 62 Utah – 57

Number of students scoring in the top 10% of the nation:

Grade 3 – 35%

Grade 5 – 30%

Grade 8 – 42%

Utah Performance Assessment

Whole School Proficiency: 87%

Whole School Progress: 223

Subgroup Proficiency: 81%

Subgroup Progress: 220

Participation: Yes

State Level of Performance: Yes

Proficiency

Progress

L. Arts 88%

221

Math 86%

217

Science 84%

237

Attendance 95%

221

U-Pass/CRT Scores

Language Arts			Math		
Grade	OPA	Utah	Grade	OPA	Utah
2 nd	90	77	2 nd	94	73
3 rd	90	77	3 rd	92	74
4 th	90	78	4 th	84	76
5 th	76	78	5 th	84	74
6 th	85	79	6 th	87	75
7 th	87	79	7 th	88	75
8 th	91	84	Pre-al	79	78
9 th	92	82	Geom	74	71
			Alg 1	91	70

Direct Writing Assessment			Science		
Grade	OPA	Utah	Grade	OPA	Utah
6 th	77	76	4 th	69	63
9 th	100	76	5 th	94	70
			6 th	91	69
			7 th	77	68
			8 th	83	68
			Earth Systems	80	67

Awards Won By Teachers

- 95% of our teachers have received the Apple for the Teacher Award
- Golden Apple for Teacher Award
- E+ Team Excellence
- “I Love Teaching” Award
- Teacher of the Year for Weber District
- Social Studies teacher nominated for VFW M.S. Outstanding History Teacher
- Who’s Who in American Teachers (2 teachers nominated several times each)
- Graphic Design Award
- OPA Presidential Service Award
- English Teacher nominated for the Huntsman Award

Awards Won By Students

2009 Science Fair:

Chemistry

Kasper Kubica - 1st Place, Utah Chemical Society Award

Special Awards:

1st Place - American Chemical Society - Kasper Kubica

Social/Behavioral

Courtney Sharp - Honorable, Honorary Award

Brandon Ward

Engineering

Ashlee Harms - Excellent

Rachel Quimby

Sterling Long - 3rd Place Plaque

Microbiology

Jessica Graves - Excellent

Annie Taveapont

Medical

Violet Taylor - 3rd Place

Botany

Colin Anderson - Excellent

Ravyn Casey - Excellent

Earth/Space

Tony Scalise - Excellent

Math/Physics

Marcelina Kubica - Honorary Plaque

Zoology

Krista Harris - Excellent

2009 Utah Jr. Duck Stamp (Art):

2nd Place Group II

Matisse Mosher

3rd Place Group I

Katelyn Smout

Allyson Deem

Brielle Reichert

2nd Place Group I

Amy Astorga

Hannah Mosher

Honorable Mention

Olivia Arbogast

Mazzy Hymas

United Way – Live United Award:

Collecting 400+ pounds of food

State Spanish Writing Award:

Spanish Writing

Youth Impact:

Elected Officer – Denise Ceron

State History Fair:

2nd Place – Kasper Kubica

Yearbook:

1st Place – Interstate Studio & Publishing Co. Yearbook Contest

Utah State Math Competition:

2nd Place – 7th grade small school team

Dinosaur Park Art Contest:

1st Place – Ally Deem – 2nd Grade

Kiara Hernandez

Feather Program:

(Given for Random Acts of Kindness)

100 kids per quarter received 10 or more feathers

75% of students received at least 1 feather

S.P.Y. Program at the Treehouse Musuem:

Special Participating Youth – 5 students from Ogden Preparatory Academy were chosen among applications from across the state

Kiwanis Club Awards:

Hope of America Award:

2008 – Marcelina Kubica

Gehrig Urry

2007 – Sarah Dosier

Jordan Hardy

Kierra Law

Nicole Nava

Lonny Vandenberg

Freedom Leadership Award:

2008 – Jordan Hardy

Kasper Kubica

Tynesha Long

Kelsey Taulbee

2007 – Jeremy Andelin

Adam Call

Alexis Wheeler

2006 – Clarissa Anguiano

Taylor Burgess

Annie Taveapont

David Schvaneveldt

2005 – Camden Urry

Brittney Lyman

Tanner Eastman

Kiara Law