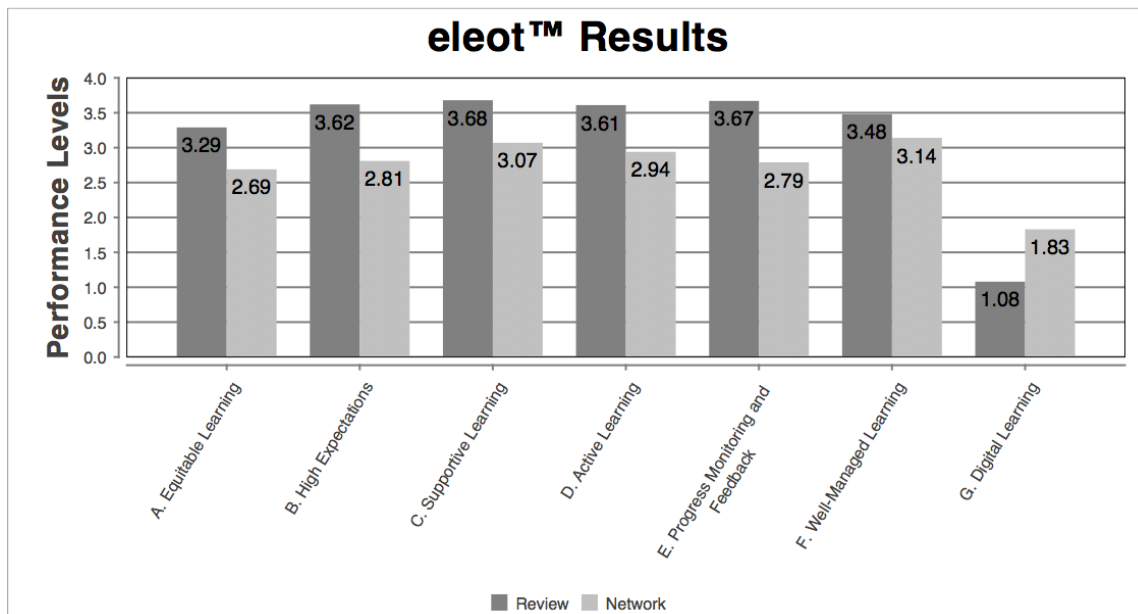


The AdvancED Accreditation External Review Team conducted twelve eleot™ observations over a two day period. By doing so, all of the classrooms were observed by members of the Team and many by both at different times. The ratings for Oak Crest Academy exceeded the AdvancED Network (AEN) average in all but one domain.



Supportive Learning Environment - Students demonstrated positive attitudes about the classroom procedures and procedures for learning. Aided by small class sizes, one on one support and assistance were given to students as they asked questions. In student interviews, students reflected on the one on one support as one of the strengths of the school. Parents reflected on the program being individual paced where teachers "embrace the children even their emotional needs and provide help for gifted children."

Progress Monitoring and Feedback - Students were consistently engaged, working on assignments with frequent interaction with the teachers. Teachers interacted with every student frequently during observations. Emphasis was placed on writing along with verbal assessments of daily assignments. Teacher feedback was cited by parents as a strength of the school. This was supported

by a positive reaction to the school using a narrative report card with descriptors for the various subject areas. Students demonstrated positive attitudes about school and the learning environment, which was confirmed in interviews with staff members and students.

High Expectations - Students were engaged and on-task. The External Review Team observed that exemplars were used to assist students as teachers modeled lesson content. Students reported during interviews the desire to achieve at the highest possible level. Students were aware of the expectations and emphasis placed on gifted student expectations.

Active Learning Environment - Students were actively engaged in the work on their assignments and demonstrated excitement for learning. Student interaction and discussion was prevalent especially during math and science classes.

Well-Managed Environment - It is not a surprise that the Well Managed Learning Environment would receive high ratings due to the small classes. Students were observed consistently working on their assignments and teachers are able to reach every student multiple times.

Equitable Learning Environment - Differentiation of instruction was observed frequently through the use of individualized assignments and related tasks. Student interviews revealed that students considered their teachers very approachable concerning extra help and support with difficult tasks. Every student had the opportunity to receive feedback and be engaged in conversations and discussions.

Digital Learning Environment - The External Review Team found technology to be under-utilized. Use of technology was only briefly observed in two observations. Each middle school student receives a Chromebook.

The External Review Team found the classrooms to be student-centered. Students were generally well-behaved and respectful,

with teacher support, progress monitoring, and individualized feedback evident throughout the class periods. Students seemed very mature and responsible for their chronological ages.

Oak Crest Academy students are engaged and appeared focused on related tasks. The External Review Team observed constant student centered instruction related to individual projects. There were examples of activities such as partner discussions and small group discussions. The External Review Team found when asked questions students' volunteered responses eagerly. The External Review Team observed no student disruptions and students were well-mannered and polite.

Conclusion:

Oak Crest Academy was founded in 2013, but changed its name in 2014. Oak Crest Academy began with only 6 students and grew to 23 students in the first year. Throughout the course of the two days, most evident was the commitment of all staff members to a student-centered education. Students enrolled are served by caring and knowledgeable staff members dedicated to each student's well-being, both academically and emotionally. This commitment to strengthen the personal academic and emotional growth of gifted students is the basis for the school's program. The school is committed to developing a professional and supportive faculty sensitive to the instructional and emotional needs of gifted students and who are strongly dedicated to providing the highest quality education.

Oak Crest Academy offers an exemplary program developed specifically for gifted children. It is described as "a respectful and supportive approach to learning to optimize each student's intellectual, academic, social and emotional development." Effort is to teach responsibility to self, school, and community to help to ensure students achieve their academic and social goals. The curriculum is based on the William and Mary Integrated Curriculum Model (ICM) for gifted learners.

Because of the size of the program every staff member knows

every student. There is a robust staffing formula and teachers are able to teach in their subject area. A Dean of Students works individually with each student and has become the adult who serves as the student's personal advocate.

During the course of the Internal and External Review, a number of general themes emerged related to student success and organizational effectiveness. Oak Crest Academy is a student centered and striving to educate gifted children who arrive with a variety of personality traits, talents, and experiences enhanced outside of the school day in other activities.

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Several strong points are noted by the External Review Team as follows: The school's climate is overwhelmingly positive and provides students with a safe environment for student growth and learning. The day-to-day operation of the school is organized and routine. Students expressed support for the order in the daily program with core subjects in the mornings and electives in the afternoons.

Oak Crest Academy is an effective school by many measures. The energy and attention to individualized instruction and the sincerity and passion of the school's director, Jeannie Gudith, and leadership team have fostered strong support from the students, staff and parents. The school pride is transparent around the campus. All the students and parents interviewed expressed their loyalty to the school and the support they feel from the teachers. The students are happy. Parents did express the desire for increased enrollment, yet they are supportive of smaller classes and an environment where their children feel safe.

Oak Crest Academy has successfully completed the detailed AdvancED Internal and External Review process and is fully accredited.