

GAP SCHOOL 2022-2023 STATE OF THE SCHOOL REPORT

This State of the School Report gives you a chance to reflect back on the past school year, take a glimpse at the current state of the school, and a peek into the bright future of the 2023-2024 school year. The 2022-2023 again started with excitement, as for the first time since March 2020, we were able to hold school without making numerous adjustments due to COVID. We no longer had regularly talk about vaccines or testing. Separating specific groups of students to different floors became a thing of the past and all students could once again eat lunch together in the same cafeteria. Learning and enrichment opportunities outside of our GAP School building once again began to be the norm. Students were able to take part in hands on work trips, service projects, college & career fairs, as well as other educational experiences. We were even able to finish the year with two all-school field trips; a two hour boat ride on the Mississippi and an afternoon of bowling and pizza!

Returning to a state of “normalcy” at school was about more than just getting back to supplying a proper education for our students. Many of our students have a variety of challenges already present in their lives, but the pandemic presented new challenges that unfortunately for a number of our students began to be a new “normal”. More than ever, students had to deal with isolation, lack of social interaction, reduced emotional support, mental health issues, digital burnout, loss of developmental milestones, and uncertainty about the future. Our goal last year, and in the years to come, was not only to provide an education, but also to provide an environment that allows are students to overcome these and other challenges that they have in their lives. To achieve this goal, GAP School set out to be a place where students always know that they are cared for, respected, and will find the support they need.

Our end of the year surveys for parents & students help show that GAP is heading in the right direction...

91% of Parents Agree or Strongly Agree that GAP School lives by its Mission & Philosophy Statements.

100% of Parents Agree or Strongly Agree that GAP is a caring community of staff, parents, and students.

95% of Parents Agree or Strongly Agree that GAP has a positive learning environment.

90% of Parents Agree or Strongly Agree that GAP assists in the preparation for life after high school.

91% of Parents Agree or Strongly Agree that GAP School provides a positive overall experience for students.

79% of Students said their overall experience with GAP School was Very Good or Excellent.

97% of Students said they experienced no bias or discrimination from GAP students or staff.

0% of both Parents and Students said they had a poor Experience with GAP School.

We also found support of our efforts from MNSAA (Minnesota Nonpublic School Accreditation Association). GAP school is accredited by MNSAA, and in April 2023, GAP completed its MNSAA Self Study and Site Visit. As a result, our accreditation was renewed without conditions for seven more years! The following were the leading sentences in MNSAA’s report following the visit...

“GAP School has an extraordinary story, with rich, deeply-rooted, Westside neighborhood history. The school is a prime example of serving its students, their families, its own community and beyond. The Team recognizes a strong sense of commitment and community from staff. It is evident that there is rapport amongst the staff, and between the staff and students--an indicator of a loving and caring community. The Team noted this throughout the visit.”

We owe these kind words to the hard work of our students, families, community members, and staff that put in the hard work and care to make GAP School such a positive learning environment. If you’d like a copy of the full MNSAA Onsite Accreditation Team Report, email Joe Ferraro at jferraro@thechangeinc.org.