



open meadow

report to the community 2008



we achieved great things together



We exceeded state averages meeting middle school benchmarks.

We exceeded state and national college-going rates.

We served as teachers' assistants in elementary classrooms.

We advocated for universal healthcare coverage.

We traveled to Ecuador to perform service projects and learned about issues surrounding global justice.

We spent the summer as part of the City Corps program, and provided solutions to problems faced by our local government.

We spent hours reading to first, second and third graders as part of Outdoor School.

We created newsletters as outreach to parents and the larger community.

We wrote, produced, and directed our own theatrical performances.

We built Open Meadow's first raised garden beds as part of our long-term vision of sustainability.

Most importantly, we graduated when statistics said we wouldn't.

to our community

Just as Open Meadow students achieve great things together, so do we. As a community, we expanded every program and served more youth than in years past. Just look at the numbers: 82% of our graduates passed college classes, 96% of Career Connections participants were placed in good jobs, and Step Up freshmen and Middle School eighth graders dramatically outperformed their peers. But it's not the statistics and awards that mark our successes; it's the cheers of our students and their families that's the true reward.

For our students, recognition comes after many tough moments of transition, when the way forward is rarely clear. During these pivotal times, our students need the extra support they find through Open Meadow communities. We see these shifts as an opportunity for transformation. By carefully charting our students' paths ahead, we ensure their transitions are personal and make room for all of their talents and dreams. We thank you all for your ongoing support, because we know that it takes the entire community coming together to create this nurturing environment. We can't do it alone.

We are proud of our students and our community. Thank you for your hard work over the past year. Together, we will achieve great things in the year to come.

Keep the spirit,



Andrew Mason, Executive Director



Our Mission

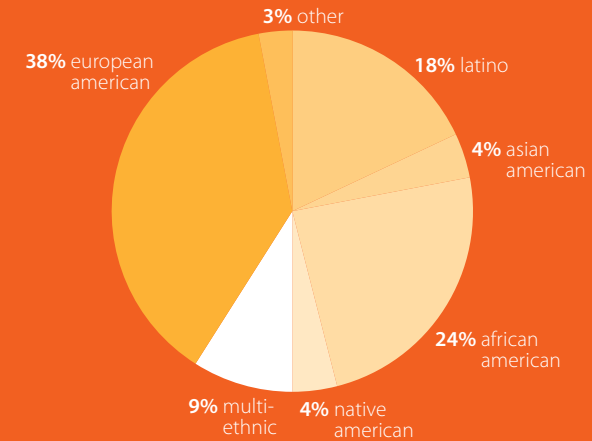
To educate youth in small, relationship-based programs that emphasize personal responsibility, academics, and service to the community.

Our Vision

A community strengthened and enriched by young people with a vision for their future, a love of learning, and an ethic of contribution to the community.

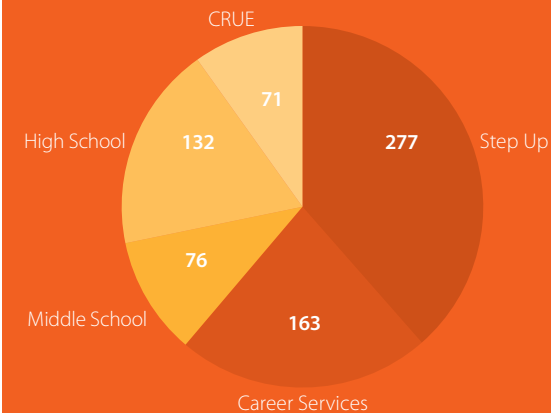
Student Body Profile

79% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch.



Program Enrollment

Total unduplicated students served: 719



Open Meadow Students Exceed Average Expected Gains

82% of graduates passed a college class prior to graduation or were admitted to a four-year university

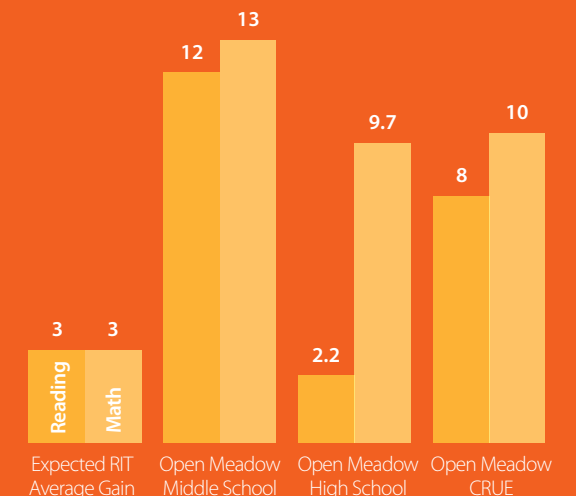
88% of graduates entered a post-secondary education or were employed at graduation

92% of Open Meadow High School students were still in school at the end of the 2008 school year

93% Attendance Rate

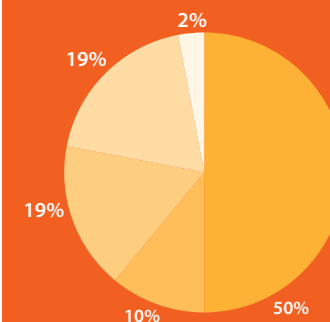
99% of Open Meadow Middle School students were still in school at the end of the 2008 school year

130 youth were placed in jobs or internships



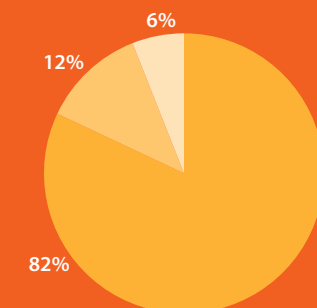
MAP/OAKS Test Results

Statement of Functional Activities, July 2007 – June 2008



Revenue: \$3,885,992

Portland Public Schools 50%
Federal Program Sources 10%
City, County and State 19%
Contributions and Grants 19%
Interest and Other 2%



Expenses: \$3,885,992

Programs 82%
Middle School, High School, CRUE, Step Up, Career Services, Community Partnerships
Management 12%
Fundraising 6%

we shift thinking

Every Open Meadow student remembers the moment when it happened—the day they made the decision to take responsibility for their own learning style.

During these crucial transitions, Open Meadow provides the intense and rigorous support students need in order to transform their lives. Through our strong belief in community and advocacy, we empower our students to make a difference not only in their lives, but the lives of others.



our schools

Extending our community

This year our hands-on approach to learning extended our work to communities in Iraq, the City of Portland's Office of Sustainability and wetland plant communities at Cedar Mill. In each of our school programs—middle school, high school and CRUE (Corps Restoring the Urban Environment)—our students make the decisions. They decide when to work and give back to their community. They choose to study, learn, and listen. And they, ultimately, decide their dreams. Our job is to make sure they reach for them.

Pat

"Some people might think that I came to an alternative school like Open Meadow because I did something horrible in public school. There's this perception that alternative schools only accept students who have been kicked out of public school. This is wrong. Students like myself enroll at Open Meadow because we want to better ourselves both socially and through education. And Open Meadow only accepts students into the organization who are trying to be on the right path, not the other way around. I'm on that path."

—Pat completed Open Meadow middle school four years ago, received his Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) while in CRUE (Corps Restoring the Urban Environment) and became one of Open Meadow's 17 high school students to graduate in 2008. He plans to enroll in a brick mason union to pursue his dream of becoming an entrepreneur.

"Step Up is a model for all communities—large and small—on how to get involved and make a difference."

—Alma Powell, National Board Chair of Pew Partnership

2007 Pew Partnership Award for Civic Change

This national accolade is awarded to individuals and organizations who change their communities and the people who live in them in profound ways.

2008 HILLTOP Award

Awarded by the Multnomah County Commission on Children Families and Communities, this regional award is given to programs that have demonstrated extraordinary capacity and caring in helping individuals, families and communities resolve the issue of poverty.

our transition programs

Touching lives

Building upon our successful partnership with Roosevelt High School, our Step Up program expanded to serve additional students on Marshall and Madison campuses – reaching a total of 277 youth this year.

Started in collaboration with Portland Public Schools, Step Up reaches out to Portland's most challenged youth. Recognizing that forty percent of youth who drop out leave during their freshman year, this grassroots program supports students from middle school through tenth grade. And it works. For the past six years Step Up has helped kids stay in school and earn better grades. Retaining over 95% of our students last year, Step Up won both national and regional recognition and awards. And we're looking forward to the opportunity this year to touch even more student's lives.

Career Services expand opportunities

At Open Meadow, our academic programs provide the foundation, but our Career Services give young adults the tools to set and achieve their long-term goals. This three-year professional training program offers support during a crucial transition in our students' lives. This year we're excited about our new partnerships with Multnomah County, allowing us to make connections and open doors for our youth looking to enter the workforce. Students gained new skills through new partnerships with Multnomah County, Metro Regional Government, and six regional banks through our bank teller program.

Farukh

"The Step Up program has really changed me. In eighth grade, I was only passing one class. I failed everything. I just didn't care about school. But that summer, I went to Step Up camp and met Sierra, my counselor. She started pushing me. By my first quarter in high school, I had passed all my classes with a 3.2 GPA, and the second quarter I had a 3.5. I just kept coming in after school to do my homework and by the third quarter, I had a 4.0.

School is actually fun now. I have learned what it means to be responsible and to take responsibility for my actions. I like the challenge. I'm passing all my classes and I feel much better about myself. [Sierra and Step Up] helped and changed me at the same time. They went the extra mile."

—Farukh, a Step Up student and sophomore on the Madison campus.

we create community

Thanks to all our sponsors, we were able to provide over 700 students with Open Meadow's services in 2007-08.

advocacy society

Special thanks to our advocate group sponsors. Advocacy is the foundation of Open Meadow. Teacher/advocates provide structure to a small group of students in daily peer support groups which provide an array of support services designed to build relationships and reconnect youth with their education.

You can partner with Open Meadow to give students tools for success by sponsoring or co-sponsoring an Advocate Group of 12 students for the 2008-09 school year. A teacher/advocate works with each group of students in daily peer support groups and provides an array of support services designed to build relationships and help students thrive.

Advocate Sponsors

\$10,000+

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The Collins Foundation
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PGE Foundation
Qwest Foundation
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William & Kathryn Smith
The Standard

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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legacy donors

We deeply appreciate those who have planned a legacy for Open Meadow.

Anonymous	Marcia Gross	Emily Munro
Karen Belsey	Larry King	Carole Smith
Jon Dickinson	Andrew and Lori Mason	Michele Taylor

To include Open Meadow in your estate plans, contact the development department at 503.488.5184 or development@openmeadow.org.



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\$50,000+

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\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Schoolhouse Supplies
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Portland Schools Foundation
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Open Meadow Board Presentation
The Pangaea Project
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Coffee House
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Portland Trail Blazers
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Seth Warren, Integrity Mortgage Planning

As a volunteer, partner and contributor, you are the cornerstone of Open Meadow.

Every year, you donate your time, dollars and gifts to help our students make a difficult but rewarding transition in their lives.

Kate Mytron
Michael & Laura Navarro
Nike Employee Matching Gift Program
Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.
Nancy Pallari
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Steve Pfeiffer
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Ethan Thrower

Our donors and partners are important to us. Open Meadow strives to publish accurate information.

Please report any errors or omissions to 503.488.5184 or development@openmeadow.org

we grow tomorrow's leaders

Our commitment to the communities we serve goes far beyond the boundaries of our home town. Through our student volunteer programs, Open Meadow students are encouraged to spend time each year volunteering in their communities and around the world.

Through student volunteer programs like the Pangaea Project, Open Meadow students travel and work with communities around the globe. They learn and develop leadership skills and discover a deep commitment to work toward social change. It's a hands-on approach to learning that not only transforms our students, but every community involved.

“Visiting a school in Ecuador for kids less fortunate gives me hope that education will soon become more important to society. Meeting people that have created programs from the ground up inspires me to become an even better grassroots leader.”

—Isabel, an Open Meadow student, who went with six other Open Meadow students to Ecuador through the Pangaea program.

mentorship and modeling


Leading by example

The 100% participation in community service by the Open Meadow staff exemplifies our commitment to the community. The staff's dedicated example serves as a model for our students. In this way, Open Meadow's community members demonstrate to each other, and the world, what matters every day, with everything they do.

Nancy

“I wanted to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a Mentor for the Open Meadow Transition Program. It has been a very rewarding experience for both me and my Mentee (Nicole). I was very fortunate to have such a great connection with Nicole, and to build a great trust and friendship with her. I know that our relationship will continue well after her graduation. Nicole has worked hard to achieve her diploma and to achieve the goals that she set for herself these past months. Thank you again for the opportunity.”

— Nancy Murphy, Bank of the West
Open Meadow Board Member



“Meeting people that have created programs from the ground up inspires me to become an even better grassroots leader.”

we change lives

Brittany

Brittany dreaded going to school. Attending large, crowded classes brought about severe anxiety and depression. That's when Brittany discovered Open Meadow School's Natural Resources program, CRUE (Corps Restoring the Urban Environment). It offered her a new perspective on education and an opportunity to go beyond the classroom to work on projects, like wetlands restoration and bird surveying. "I knew that if I took the opportunity, I could be involved with projects that interested me," she admits.

At Open Meadow, Brittany's anxiety and depression disappeared. The small classes, close relationships with her teacher/advocates and opportunities to perform field studies in the outdoors made learning fun and interesting. "You could feel that the teachers loved what they were doing. They had the time to work with you," she remarked. "And I knew that they would be there for me."

A year after graduating from Open Meadow's CRUE and Career Services programs, Brittany is studying Landscape Technology at Portland Community College. "I'm not sure where I would be today if I had stayed in my high school. I needed structure and attention. I needed the focus." She said, "Most importantly, I needed to feel like I was part of a community. Open Meadow provided that and more."

"You could feel that the teachers loved what they were doing. They have the time to work with you."

together we reach new heights

It takes the entire community to achieve great things. We appreciate the many partners who have recognized us and helped to propel us forward. In the end, it's the mission that matters.

2008 HILLTOP Award

Multnomah County Commission on Children Families and Communities for the Step Up program

2008 Oregon Ethics in Business Award Finalist

Open Meadow was a finalist

2007 Pew Partnership Civic Change Award

Recognized for exemplary drop-out prevention, Step Up program

2006 ING Unsung Heroes Award

Awarded to Brian Smithers, Open Meadow Middle School teacher, for innovative science teaching

2006 American Youth Policy Forum

Recognized for reconnecting out-of-school youth

2005 Northwest Area Foundation

Recognized for innovative solutions to poverty

2005 Institute for Educational Leadership

Recognized for successful school-to-work programs and youth leadership opportunities

2004 Neighborhood Builders Award

Bank of America Neighborhood Initiative





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At Open Meadow, we believe all students have minds of their own. Our job is to keep it that way.

STAFF LEADERSHIP TEAM

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David Ball, Development Director
Karen Belsey, Associate Director
Rosemary Donnelly, High School Program Director
Hanif Fazal, Step Up Program Director
Sierra Hill, Step Up Coordinator
Michael Hoover, CRUE Program Director
Elizabeth Jensen, Middle School Program Director
Nick Knudsen, Career Services Director
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