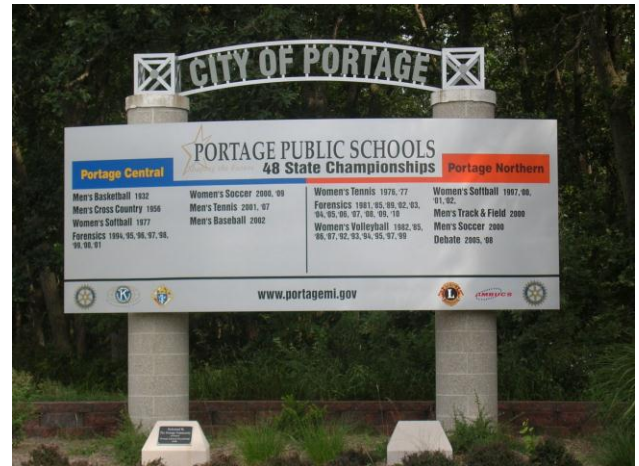


2010-2011

- The new Lake Center Elementary opened in time for this school year, featuring a public dedication on September 9. The two-story school shares the same design as 12th Street Elementary which opened last year.
- “The Commons” at Northern High School was completed in time for the start of the school year, with a public dedication on September 20. This new multi-level space features the new entrance to the school, state-of-the-art cafeteria, administrative offices, and a “commons” space for students to gather. Renovations and construction at the school will be completed by August 2011. The new Central High School will also be completed in time for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Northern High School’s Media Center was selected as the top school library in Michigan, and among the top 35 nationwide by the American Association of School Libraries.
- The District began weekly Spanish language classes at 4th and 5th grades at all eight elementary schools this school year.
- A pilot Chinese language and culture program was launched for the start of this school year at two elementary schools in the District through a partnership with Western Michigan University.
- The District Business Office received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 6th consecutive year by the Association of School Business Officials and the Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting from for the 5th consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Kathy Mirakovits, Northern High School science teacher, won the “2011 Distinguished Service to Physics Education Award” from the Michigan Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers.
- Two teams from Central Middle School placed 2nd and 3rd at the 2011 National Transportation and Civil Engineering Bridge Building Competition sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.
- Laurel Scheidt, Portage Northern forensics coach, was chosen as “2011 Coach of the Year” by Michigan Speech Coaches, Inc.
- The District debuted, “The Portage Connection,” an alumni electronic magazine. The publication is one of the first public high school alumni magazines in the state and one of few of its kind nationwide. As of June 2011, the first two issues have been viewed more than 60,000 times.
- Northern High School’s Forensics team took the State Championship for the 10th consecutive year, and the 13th state title in the history of Northern’s forensics program, more than any other Class A school in Michigan. This title brought the District’s state championship total to 49.



2009-2010

Faculty Achievements

- More than 70% of our faculty hold graduate degrees.
- Amy Meyer, Northern High School, was named “Teacher of the Year” for Business Education by the Michigan Business Education Association.
- Theresa Mills, Central High School, received “Coach of the Year” for Forensics/Speech from the Michigan Speech Coaches, Inc.

- Mary Roobol, North Middle School science teacher, earned her National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- Kathy Mirakovits, Northern High School science teacher, co-authored the textbook *Forensic Science: The Basics*.
- Lindsey McConney, a physics teacher at Northern High, was one of 21 high school science teachers nationwide by the National Science Foundation to study the integration of nanotechnology into curricula.
- Seven Northern High science faculty presented at the National Science Teachers Association conference in Philadelphia.

Student & School Achievements

- Central and Northern High Schools made Newsweek's "2010 Best High Schools" ranking, placing both schools in the top 6% nationwide.
- Northern and Central High Schools had 7 students selected as National Merit Finalists and 24 students named as Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars.
- 90-93% of our graduating high school seniors pursue college immediately following graduation.
- Central High School's Legislative Debate team took 1st place in the state Novice Division, and 2nd place in varsity.
- Northern High School's Nat Zegree won the national title for Prose Interpretation at the National Forensic League tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, defeating 334 contestants.
- West Middle School was ranked in the 98.9 percentile statewide based on math and English scores on state assessment tests administered from 2007-2009.
- Eleven middle and high school student musicians were selected by audition to perform in the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association's All-State Bands & Orchestra.
- North Middle School presented "Assembling the Pieces: Strategies for Implementing and Sustaining Systems of Care" at the National System of Care Conference.
- Central Middle School won national recognition for a second year in a row for its Character Counts Program by the National Forum for Education.



District Achievements

- 12th Street Elementary School opened for the start of the 2009-2010 school year.
- All employee groups contributed compensation concessions totaling \$1.7 million to avoid mid-year layoffs and program disruption due to a shortfall in state funding.
- Instructional initiatives included:
 - Implementation of Professional Learning Communities, Differentiated Instruction, and Response to Intervention which are capacity-building frameworks and strategies to ensure that all students learn at the highest level possible.
 - Identification and training of District-wide Differentiation Trainers and Data Coaches at each school.
 - Implementation of K-9 Literacy training, interventions, and programming.
- Academic programs and curriculum implemented include: Y-5 mathematics and reading program, Elementary Spanish and Chinese, K-7 Science curriculum, K-12 Media curriculum, K-8 Social Studies curriculum, and expanded summer school programming to include reading and math grades K-8.
- The District's two foundations, the Portage Education Foundation and the Portage Athletic Foundation, provided more than \$67,000 to support academic and athletic programs for which there were no District funds.