Cranbrook Schools
2011-2012 State of the Schools Report

Arlyce M. Seibert, Director of Schools
Dear Parents and Friends of Cranbrook Schools,

It is once again my pleasure to report to you on the state of Cranbrook Schools.

The 2011-2012 school year has been characterized by both thoughtful change and increased strength—in other words, it has been a time of significant growth.

From changes in leadership within the school to new leadership roles for the school, Cranbrook Schools ended the year better positioned than ever to be recognized as the true educational leader it is, both in the United States and around the world. Every measure of affirmation, from survey results to enrollment to financial support, indicates a vibrantly healthy school community. The accomplishments of our students—the surest measure of the state of a school and the success of its mission—continue to impress.

Last year at this time, I wrote that “there has never been a better time to be part of Cranbrook Schools.” I believe that tenet even more firmly today. I am also more enthusiastic than ever at the thought of what the future holds for Cranbrook Schools and its community.

2011-2012 was another year of record enrollment at Cranbrook.

We continue to enjoy remarkably strong student retention—94 percent over the past ten years—as well as a very strong applicant pool. Indeed, for the coming year many grades have wait lists with students that we would love to enroll were those grades not already full! The 2012-2013 year should be another excellent enrollment year, with the school filled with outstanding students.

The strength of our admission situation demonstrates the quality of our program and our reputation. But it also demonstrates the strength of our community. One of the most common ways for new families to begin the admission process is through the recommendation of a current family or faculty member. In our recent ISACS parent survey, more than 95 percent of parents indicated that they were likely to recommend the school.
Also noteworthy is the fact that, over the past decade, one in ten new students have been “legacy” students, whose parents, grandparents, or other family members attended Cranbrook before them.

Entrusting the school with a child is the strongest endorsement that a parent can show any school. We are honored that our community—parents and alumni alike—remains such a vibrant voice of advocacy for a Cranbrook Schools education.

This spring, Cranbrook Schools entered into a self-study as an important component of our Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) accreditation process. This is an intensive study that happens regularly every seven years.

As a component in this self-study, Cranbrook conducted a survey of all parents, all faculty and staff, and those students enrolled in grades 5-12, to better understand their points of view on the school as it is today.

Results and tabulations are being processed, and key details of the survey data will be made available as the accreditation process unfolds, but I wanted to take the opportunity of this writing to share with you just some of the highlights of the results we have seen so far.

**Across all constituents surveyed, Cranbrook Schools was at or above the ISACS benchmarks** for a wide range of critical indicators, including quality of education, student development (including leadership and character), opportunity, and diversity. The survey was very much a “good news” survey, while still containing important information that will help us improve. I look forward to sharing more data from this survey in the future.

Last year saw the opening of the Cranbrook Kingswood Middle School for Girls – Kingswood. In the months following, the remodeled Cranbrook Art Museum opened with its state-of-the art classroom space. Most recently, the Cranbrook Institute of Science opened its completely remodeled planetarium, which utilizes cutting-edge technology that is unique in the state of Michigan. In the fall, the Institute will open a completely refurbished observatory.
These new and improved facilities are all part of the unequaled resources that Cranbrook Schools offers its students as a part of a uniquely “Cranbrook” education.

Yet another state-of-the-art resource came online this year: one that is not made of bricks and mortar, but will help prepare students for the modern university experience nonetheless.

Cranbrook is a founding member (and the first Midwest member) of Global Online Academy (GOA), a consortium of independent schools that seeks to “replicate in online classrooms the intellectually rigorous programs and excellent teaching that are hallmarks of its member schools.” Cranbrook Schools has embraced the opportunity to explore the integration of online and face-to-face learning. Already familiar with a global classroom setting, a small group of Upper School students chose to broaden their experience even further by being among the first students to enroll in a GOA course in September 2011.

Through the GOA, students are able to experience a rigorous college preparatory curriculum in topics not available in their traditional classroom setting, fostering deeper exploration of particular areas of interest and passion. Further, because the online classroom included students from around the world, it expanded the overall learning experience with global perspectives and a broader cultural literacy. Teachers transformed their courses by adapting their curriculum to a global setting that engaged students beyond their own school boundaries. Both students and teachers developed new skills simply by being in an online learning environment.

Although still in the pilot stage, we look forward with excitement to see how this program develops and enhances the educational experience of our Upper School students.

The Global Online Academy is not the only way in which Cranbrook Schools is demonstrating its leadership in the national and international world of education.

We are in the process of becoming one of very few members of a new initiative called The World Leading Schools Association (WLSA).

The WLSA is a highly prestigious group of 100 top schools worldwide (50 from China and 50 from the rest of the world). Accompanied by the Upper School Dean of Faculty, I am presenting, at an international WLSA symposium in China this summer. My topic is “East Meets West: Building a Cross-National Curriculum Reform Agenda.”
Even as Cranbrook demonstrates its leadership on the world stage, we are going through some exciting changes in our own leadership. The continuity of the school’s culture and the caliber of new leadership could not be stronger.

At the Cranbrook Kingswood Middle School for Girls, acting Head Stacy Rivard was appointed permanent Head. As useful as our exhaustive national search was, I do not believe we could have found a better match for the position. I know that her leadership and her commitment to the outstanding education of girls will not only ensure a high level of continuity for the program but also provide positive growth and change.

Head of Brookside School Dr. Brian Schiller has retired after fifteen years at Brookside and 42 in the field of education. Assistant Head of Brookside School Sue Sweeney has retired at the end of this school year after 25 years at Cranbrook and a decade in her current position. Both have contributed greatly to the success of our elementary program during their time here and will very much be missed.

Mr. Keith McConnell will be joining Cranbrook Schools as the new head of Cranbrook Lower School Brookside effective July 1, 2012. He comes to Cranbrook from his position as Lower School Director at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa. He holds bachelor’s degrees in both business management and elementary education, as well as a master’s degree in educational leadership and administration. Keith has served in various capacities in private schools for more than 20 years, including classroom teacher, assistant to the headmaster, faculty coordinator, assistant lower school director, and interim lower school director. We will welcome Keith in July as he settles into this key position working with our youngest students.

Over the past year, CranNet, divisional emails, alumni publications, and local papers have all carried the ongoing good news about our students’ achievements in athletics, music, fine arts, academics, robotics, community service, and more. Year in and year out, it is so impressive to watch what our talented student body can accomplish with their talents, their goals, and the outstanding instruction and guidance of our faculty.

Some of the good news that has not yet been shared as widely includes our students’ success in both the Advanced Placement (AP) program as well as in college acceptances.
The Advanced Placement program remains the most recognized, flexible, and significant enhanced college-preparatory coursework in the nation. Cranbrook Schools has, through the efforts of its students and faculty, established itself as a leader in the AP world.

According to Sherryl Fletcher, Senior Associate Director of Admissions at Johns Hopkins University, “The depth and breadth of the Cranbrook Kingswood curriculum, both interdisciplinary and AP, is at a level of context and challenge that far exceeds most secondary school curriculum opportunities. The challenge, the nature of the instruction, and the engagement in active learning is unique, and the rigor prepares a student for a highly selective collegiate experience and beyond. Its challenge is broader than an IB curriculum, and its flexibility for independent research and study is of the highest intellectual level.”

This year, in the 8th Annual AP Report to the Nation, the College Board re-asserted goals set in 2008, including increasing rigor of high school courses and supporting science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

In 2011, 287 Cranbrook students, 37% of the upper school, took an AP exam. A total of 123 Cranbrook students were recognized in the AP scholar program as follows:

- **National AP Scholars**: 8 (average grade of 4 or higher on 8 or more AP exams; average grade of 4.0 on all exams taken)
- **Scholars with Distinction**: 45 (grades of 3 or higher on 5 or more AP exams; average grade of 3.5 on all AP exams taken)
- **Scholars with Honors**: 23 (grades of 3 or higher on 4 or more AP exams; average grade of 3.25 on all exams taken)
- **AP Scholars**: 49 (grades of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams)

Cranbrook students achieved higher scores than students at the state (Michigan) and national level. It is important to note the distinction with exam scores of 3 or higher. Our students are even further distinguished by the percentage earning a score of 5, the highest score possible, on an AP exam.

It has been another excellent year for college acceptances. With the number of students applying to college remaining at record
highs, the Cranbrook Class of 2012 distinguished itself with the results of the college application process.

The class of 188 seniors placed 1441 applications to 266 colleges and universities. Of the 266 colleges and universities that our seniors applied to, 215 offered admissions to the applicants (80%). Our seniors received 147 total admissions to the Most Competitive schools in the country (as defined by Barron’s 2011). To date, **Cranbrook Kingswood students have reported earning $6,987,458 in scholarships**.

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) recently reported that as of March 2012, giving to independent schools across the nation was down 14 percent compared to the previous school year.

In a testament to the health of Cranbrook and, more significantly, to the belief and generosity of our community, Cranbrook Schools has completely defied this trend. Giving to Annual Fund has shown meaningful increases in the amount of dollars given to support the school, as well as the number of gifts. Rather than a 14 percent decrease, there has been a 12 percent increase in support (as of the third week in May).

I am also pleased to announce that faculty giving has reached 100% participation for the ninth consecutive year. I cannot emphasize enough how impressive and, on a national level, unprecedented this achievement truly is.

Likewise, the Schools’ Board of Governors has also achieved 100 percent participation.

Annual Fund is not the only program that contributed significant revenue to Cranbrook this year. Our volunteer-led fundraising efforts including Kaleidoscope, SCRIP, the Booster Club, BRAVO, and p@rybook all produced amazing results. Combined, these programs contributed over $840,000 to Cranbrook Schools. To the participants, and especially the volunteer leaders, I offer my personal thanks and congratulations on these remarkable results.

Clearly, the Cranbrook Schools community has made the continued financial health of the school a priority, and I know that this sort of enthusiasm and support
will be the key to securing Cranbrook’s future going forward.

During 2011-2012, Cranbrook Schools has experienced positive change, increased in strength, and taken on exciting new leaders and leadership positions. The strength of our community, our programs, and our mission has been affirmed. Our students continue to impress.

I believe that this is just the beginning for Cranbrook Schools, and that we will continue to gain recognition outside of our community as we play an increasingly dynamic role in educational leadership. The power of our stability is only matched by the power of our desire to grow.

Thank you, as always, for your belief in and support of Cranbrook Schools. This is what makes us strong, and has kept us strong, for generations. Please accept my sincerest wishes for an enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the start of the new school year in the fall.

Sincerely,

Arlyce M. Seibert
Director of Schools
English

- Middle School student received State Level II award for the Letters about Literature contest
- Leadership Award from West Point
- 5th Grade students won the State Bar of Michigan’s first annual Law Day Contest

Math and Science

- Quiz Bowl Team won 4 awards at the IX yearly Rube tournament at MSU
- Cranbrook won 2nd place at U of M Math Field Day
- Robotics Advisor awarded Mentor of the Year Award at the three-day 2012 VEX Robotics Competition World Championship in Anaheim, California
  - 2 Teams Placed in Top 100
  - 1 Team placed 16th in Math division
  - 1 Team placed 23rd in Science division
  - 1 Team placed in top 200 teams
  - 1 Community Award
- IGVC Robofest Sumo Competition
  - (Middle School) Senior Sumo: two first place winners, one second place winners, two third place winners: Junior Sumo, two second place winners
- Middle School Student was awarded a State Honors Award in Science for the You Be the Chemist Challenge
- CK Physics Team won Silver at the U of M Physics Olympiad

Art

- Student received the American Vision Award at the Scholastic Art Awards, as well students winning:
  - 4 Gold Key Portfolios
  - 16 Gold Keys
  - 7 Silver Keys
  - 10 Certificates
- More than 40 Upper School Musicians earned medals at the State Solo & Ensemble Festival
• The Cranbrook String Quartet was named the most Outstanding String Quartet in the State of Michigan by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association

Publications

• The Crane-Clarion received a Gold Medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and a First Class Award from the National Scholastic Press Association

Athletics

This was another incredible year for CK athletics. Highlights include:

• 4 State Championships
• 2 Catholic League Division Championship and 2 Catholic League Division Runner Ups
• 6 Regional Championship and 1 Regional Runner Up
• 10 All Catholic League Honors
• 4 All Catholic Honors
• 2 1st Team All District Team
• 1 2nd Team All District
• 19 All League Team
• 4 Academic All League Honors
• 3 All Catholic Team
• 9 All District Team
• 17 All State Honors
• 9 Individual State Champs
• 8 All Catholic Team Honors
• 7 All State Team
• 2 2nd Team All State Honors
• 4 Honorable Mention All State Honors
• 1 All American Honors and 1 Honorable Mention All American
• 6 Academic All League Team
• 15 All Region Team
• 13 All State First team
• 9 2nd Team All State
• 1 All American Team
• 3 All Academic Honors
• 2 Divisional Runner Ups
• 1 3rd Team All State
• 4 Honorable Mention All State Teams
• Members of Academic Boys and Girls for All State Teams
• 1 All Academic Recognition