

HOMER HIGH SCHOOL
403 S. HILLSDALE ST.
HOMER, MICHIGAN 49245

TOM SALOW, PRINCIPAL

JULIE RAYSIN, SECRETARY

P: 517-568-4464 • F: 517-568-7125

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT (AER) COVER LETTER

May 23, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for the Homer High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Homer High School Principal Mr. Tom Salow or Homer Community Schools Superintendent Scott Salow for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/oh4WfB> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 school year, schools were identified using new definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Homer High School has not been given one of these labels.

Homer High School continues to work to maintain our high levels of achievement within our building. Our building continues to perform above state average in Social Studies, and while making gains in science, we continue to strive to make improvements. Some of the key challenges that we continue to address are the low performance rates for economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. Key initiatives being undertaken in this school to accelerate student achievement and close persistent gaps include the implementation of a college/career readiness course, after-school tutoring and academic support programs, and Trojan Learning Communities, teacher/student mentoring groups.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Students assigned to Homer High School either live within the boundaries of the school district or attend under school of choice. Students are assigned to their respective grades within the school based on total credits earned. Students will typically earn up to 7 credits within a school year. Students need to complete a total of 26 credits in accordance with the Michigan Merit Curriculum in order to graduate. This process has remained consistent for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years.

Homer High School's School Improvement (SIP) has worked to create a 3-5 year plan that aligns our building school improvement goals with the district improvement goals. For 2016-17, SIP goals were focused on an increased awareness and understanding of our economically disadvantaged population, emphasis on the implementation of a common reading strategy to increase reading comprehension, increased achievement on local semester assessments, increased percentage of students proficient on state assessments, and meeting or exceeding the state average on social studies state assessments. In 2017-18, SIP goals more closely mirror those for the district, including all students becoming proficient in science, social studies, ELA, and math. This plan includes focused professional development, curriculum mapping initiatives, and targeted intervention strategies.

Homer High School offers students all of the required core content classes, with ELA, math, and science offering honors-level courses, as well as a variety of electives in choral and instrumental music, visual arts, applied arts, and agricultural sciences. Homer is also a participating district with the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center, allowing for qualifying students to attend this accelerated STEM program for half of the school day. Junior and senior students may also attend the Calhoun Area Career Center (CACC) for college and career vocational training. Transportation is provided to students that are interested in these programs that best align with their Educational Development Plan. Specialized programs such as Law Enforcement, Culinary Arts, Robotics, and Health Occupations are a few of the programs offered at the CACC.

Our core curriculum can be found on the district website at www.homerschools.net or by contacting the Director of Instructional Services, JoEllen O'Keefe, at (517) 568-4464. All core curriculum is aligned with Michigan K-12 Standards. Curriculum maps are in the process of being updated by the various departments.

At the local level, student achievement is assessed by semester and end-of-year course exams. Students are also assessed using the national normed achievement tests of PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and the SAT. In 2017, our district mean for the PSAT 8/9 was 845, down slightly from 850 in 2016, with 24% of our students

meeting the ERW and math benchmarks. For the PSAT 10, our district mean raised from 854 in 2016 to 908 in 2017, with 33% of our students meeting both the ERW and math benchmarks. For the PSAT/NMSQT, taken in the fall of 2016, our district mean was 920, with 23% of our students meeting both the ERW and math benchmarks, up from 909 in 2015. Finally, our district mean for the SAT, taken in the spring of 2017, was 977, with 28% of our students meeting both the ERW and math benchmarks, up from a district mean of 953 in 2016.

Parent teacher conferences are an excellent opportunity for parents to have dialogue with their child's teachers. Conferences are held twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring. In the 2015-16 school year, we held a total of 640 conferences. In 2016-17, we saw an increase to a total of 912 conferences.

For the 2016-17 school year, Homer High School had 27 students (8.9% of the student body) take postsecondary classes through dual enrollment. This was an increase from 15 students in the 2015-16 school year. Classes were taken at Kellogg Community College and Albion College. Students enrolled in 46 college classes, with 36 classes taken for high school and college credit. 107 hours of college credit were earned. Credits that were earned can be transferred to an accepting college or university.

Homer High School did not offer any Advanced Placement (AP) courses during the 2016-17 school year. However, we did have 4 students take the AP Calculus AB exam. One student earned college credit from this exam. We are offering AP Calculus as a course during the 2017-18 school year, with 7 students that will be taking the AP Calculus AB exam. Honors-level courses are also offered in the areas of English, Algebra II, Physics, and Chemistry.

In conclusion, Homer High School continues to strive to be the "Destination District" within our area. Outstanding educational and extra-curricular opportunities await our students here at Homer. We have great kids and a great staff...this equals a great school!

Sincerely,

Tom Salow
Homer High School Principal

