

HOMER HIGH SCHOOL

403 S. HILLSDALE ST.
HOMER, MICHIGAN 49245

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2017-18 educational progress for 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 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 <http://bit.ly/2tGvPmS> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2017-18 school year, schools were identified using 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 or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.

ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school.

Homer High School was not 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, which are teacher/student mentoring groups.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

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 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

2. Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

Homer High School's School Improvement (SIP) Team has worked to create a 3-5 year plan that aligns our building school improvement goals with the district improvement goals. In 2017-18 and 2018-19, SIP goals closely mirrored those for the district, including all students becoming proficient in science, social studies, ELA, and math. This plan included focused professional development, curriculum mapping initiatives, and targeted intervention strategies. The school improvement plan is revisited each year by building and district level teams. Copies of this plan are available in each individual school office.

3. Brief Description of Each Specialized School

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.

4. How to Access a Copy of the Core Curriculum & Description of Implementation

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.

5. Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Tests or Nationally Normed Tests

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 2018, our district mean for the PSAT 8/9 was 871, with 41% of our students meeting the ERW and math benchmarks, up from 845 in 2017. For the PSAT 10, our district mean was 876 in 2017, with 21% of our students meeting both the ERW and math benchmarks, down from 908 in 2017. For the PSAT/NMSQT, taken in the fall of 2017, our district mean was 918, with 18% of our students meeting both the ERW and math benchmarks, down from 920 in 2016. Finally, our district mean for the SAT, taken in the spring of 2018, was 1005, with 32% of our students meeting both the ERW and math benchmarks, up from a district mean of 977 in 2017.

6. Students Represented by Parents at Conferences

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 2016-17, we held a total of 912 conferences, with approximately 37% of students represented. In 2017-18, we had a slight decrease to 792 conferences, with approximately 33% of students represented.

7. Other High School Info – Advanced Opportunities

For the 2016-17 school year, Homer High School had 27 students (8.9% of the student body) take postsecondary classes through dual enrollment. 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. In the 2017-18 school year, we had 32 total students take postsecondary classes through dual enrollment, with classes taken at Kellogg Community College, Albion College, and Spring Arbor University. Students enrolled in 51 different courses, with 50 courses passed, earning high school and college credit, for a total of 153 credit hours earned.

Homer High School offered AP Calculus as a course during the 2017-18 school year, with 7 students taking the AP Calculus AB exam. One student earned credit. In the 2018-19 school year, we are offering AP Calculus and AP Computer Science. 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

