

# Homer Middle School

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## **ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT (AER) COVER LETTER**

March 1, 2019

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 Middle 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 Middle School Principal Mr. Duane Sitkiewicz 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/2IeGsSQ> 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.

Our school was NOT identified with one of these labels.

While analyzing the data, the School Improvement Team found that additional support was needed to help close the learning gap of our economically disadvantaged students compared to our non-economically disadvantaged students, as well as our students who have been identified as at risk. The two key initiatives that were put in place were the addition of Academic Paraprofessionals, one in each grade level and one additional to help strengthen tier II instruction. The second key initiative is the addition of an after-school supplemental math support program, 2+2=Success, for students who have been identified through testing via M-STEP scores, NWEA scores and classroom assessment data.

### **State law requires that we also report additional information:**

#### Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Students assigned to Homer Middle School either live within the boundaries of the school district or attend under school of choice. This process has remained consistent for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

#### Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

The Homer Middle School Improvement Team continues aligning and updating the middle school curriculum using a Google Doc template to document curriculum. Curriculum maps and unit/lesson plans are being updated so that they are in line with the Common Core State Standards. Revised goals and strategies were developed last year by the Homer Middle School SIP Team and will be implemented throughout the 2018-19 academic school year.

#### Brief Description of Each Specialized School

Homer Middle School covers grades 5-8, with students receiving content from highly qualified teachers in the core content areas of ELA, math, science, and social studies. All students receive instruction in physical education, health. And computers, with additional offerings in choral music, instrumental music, visual arts, and outdoor education. All students also participate in a rotating selection of enrichment courses that allow for core curriculum extension activities, high interest elective content, and focused intervention support. Specialized help is also provided to all students with IEPs, 504 Plans, and those additional students identified as at risk.

#### How to Access Core Curriculum, Description of Implementation, and Explanation of Variances from the State's Model

Our core curriculum can be found on the district website at [www.homerschools.net](http://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.

Aggregate Student Achievement Results for National Normed Achievement Tests

Homer Middle School teachers use a variety of ways within their classrooms to collect data on student achievement. Pre- and post-tests to show growth, consistent writing rubrics in ELA, and classroom grades are all local ways in which teachers monitor student achievement. Homer Middle School has also administered the nationally normed assessment of NWEA three times a year in reading, language, math, and science to measure student achievement results for the 2017-18 school year and will continue to do so for the 2018-19 school year. The following charts shows the percent of students that met or exceeded the national NWEA norms for winter of 2017 and winter of 2018.

**% At or Above National Norms**

Grade Assessed	Reading		Math		Language		Science	
	Winter 2017	Winter 2018						
Class of 2026	38%	29%	35%	31%	N/A	31%	55%	51%
Class of 2025	21%	28%	10%	20%	19%	20%	28%	40%
Class of 2024	41%	49%	22%	43%	37%	44%	52%	60%
Class of 2023	31%	42%	33%	45%	34%	41%	55%	51%

Number and Percent of 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 the 2017-2018 school year, we had 58% participation in parent teacher conferences. This was a slight decrease from 2016-17, where we had 69% attendance at parent/teacher conferences.

In conclusion, Homer Middle School continues to strive to be the “Destination for Excellence” within our area. Outstanding educational and extra-curricular opportunities await our students at Homer Middle School. We have great kids and a great staff...this equals a great school!

Sincerely,

Duane Sitkiewicz  
Homer Middle School Principal