

Homer Middle School

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ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT (AER) COVER LETTER

January 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-19 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/2Hd37lr> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2018-19 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 a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. 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.

Our school has not been given 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. We also implemented the use of Imagine Math to help provide supplemental intervention support for math that could be individualized to meet student needs.

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 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years.

Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

In 2018-19, the Homer Middle School Improvement Team continued aligning and updating the middle school curriculum using a Google Doc template to document curriculum. Curriculum maps and unit/lesson plans were updated so that they are in line with the Common Core State Standards. In 2019-20, this work continues, along with an emphasis on providing support to help increase student achievement in mathematics has been supported by the addition of an honors math class for 8th grade students, as well as the implementation of Imagine Math as an intervention support. All teachers are utilizing time each week in their seminar and/or enrichment hours to work on this targeted math program.

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 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 2018-19 school year and will continue to do so for the 2019-20 school year. The following charts shows the percent of students that met or exceeded the national NWEA norms for winter of 2017-18 and winter of 2018-19.

% At or Above National Norms

Grade Assessed	Reading		Math		Language		Science	
	Winter 2017-18	Winter 2018-19						
Class of 2026	35%	29%	38%	28%	N/A	31%	55%	51%
Class of 2025	21%	25%	10%	16%	19%	20%	28%	40%
Class of 2024	41%	49%	22%	40%	37%	44%	52%	60%
Class of 2023	31%	34%	36%	41%	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. In the 2018-19 school year, we had 53.5% 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