

# *Spring Lake Middle School*

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August 15, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Re: School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for Spring Lake Middle School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Scott Ely for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.springlakeschools.org/publications/annual-education-reportg> or you may review a copy from the Middle School office.

Spring Lake Middle School has met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2010-2011 school year. For the ninth consecutive year, SLMS has earned a letter grade of "A." Despite posting excellent results on the MEAP Test again this year, the SLMS School Improvement plan addresses efforts to continue to fine-tune core areas so we can continue to raise the bar higher in terms of student academic performance.

There is no specific process for assigning students to Spring Lake Middle School. We are the only middle school in Spring Lake Public Schools. As a result, all resident students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade attend SLMS. Additionally, approximately 13% of our students are non-resident.

We are currently in year three of our 3-5 year School Improvement Plan. The first primary core academic goal includes improving accuracy on the MEAP Test in math. MEAP results convey one measure of how well we are teaching the core curriculum. The entire SLMS core curriculum (math, science, English, and social studies) follows the Michigan Core Curriculum model. Copies of core curriculums can be obtained from specific content teachers. We are progressing well in this area, although finding gain areas with such high achievement is always difficult and takes managed persistence. Goal two includes improving accuracy on the MEAP Test in Reading. Teachers have evaluated data from the Fall 2010 MEAP Reading test, as well as data from the January 2011 ACT Explore Test, which was taken by all students at Spring Lake Middle School. Teachers have developed a set of strategies and activities based on the data review. Those strategies are being partially implemented as the 2010-11 school year comes to a close, and they will be fully implemented for the 2011-12 school year. Goal three addresses improved accuracy on the MEAP Science Test. As mentioned previously, science teachers also reviewed student test scores from both the 2010 MEAP Test and

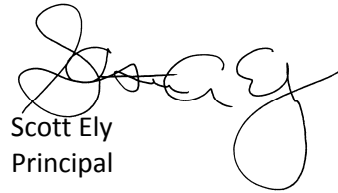
January, 2011 Explore Test. Based on that review, science teachers have developed a set of strategies to be implemented for the 2011-12 school year to reach this goal.

Parents and community members have always been strong supporters and active participants at Spring Lake Middle School. Over sixty-one percent (62.1%) of our students were represented by a parent during Parent-Teacher Conferences in the fall. Winter conferences had over fifty-one percent (51.8%) of students represented. Our Open House in September also had excellent parent participation. Ninety-five percent (95%) of parents either access our website for day-to-day student progress and announcements or receive automatic e-mail progress reports on a weekly basis. We are all grateful for the extra help and thoughtfulness provided by our Parent Volunteer Group during the 2010-2011 school year. More than forty parents signed up to offer their time as volunteers. Thank you, parents!!

We are proud of the work our students have done at Spring Lake Middle School to put us at such a high level of performance. We also appreciate the commitment and dedication of our parents and staff. The partnership among our impressive

Sincerely,

SPRING LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Ely", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the printed name and title.

Scott Ely  
Principal