



School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

March 28, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-15 educational progress for the 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, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Aaron West for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website www.springlakeschools.org/publications/annual-education-report, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

If the results of the M-Step standardized assessment, that was administered in the spring of 2015, are compared with the state and county average, Spring Lake Middle School has a favorable proficiency rate in each grade level regardless of content area. However, if we take this comparison a step further and look at high performing schools with similar demographics in the west Michigan area, we have the potential to improve in 8th grade social studies and English Language Arts, along with 7th grade science.

Our plan is to make this comparison longitudinal in nature and see if this is a trend that continues over the course of two or three years. If so, our school improvement plan will be adjusted accordingly to target any curricular deficiencies that we identify.

Student Assignment - As Spring Lake Middle School is the only public school that accepts 7th and 8th grade students within the district, there is no process established for assigning students to this building. All residents in the previously mentioned grade levels attend SLMS. Furthermore, it should be noted that we currently have a number of students who attend as non-residents.

School Improvement / Core Curriculum - We are currently in year five of our 3-5 year School Improvement Plan. The first primary core academic goal includes improving student proficiency in math. The entire SLMS core curriculum (math, science, English, and social studies) follows the Michigan Core Curriculum model and/or the Common Core State Standards where applicable. Copies of core curriculums can be obtained from specific content teachers. Goal two includes improving achievement results in reading. Teachers have evaluated data from the spring of 2015 M-Step reading test, as well as data from the Discovery Education battery of assessments, which is taken by all students at SLMS. Staff have used this information to "inform their instruction" and developed a set of strategies and activities. Goal three addresses improved accuracy in the area of science. As mentioned

previously, science teachers also reviewed student test scores from the M-Step. Based on that review, they have developed a set of strategies that will be implemented.

Specialized Schools - Some Spring Lake Public Schools students who are identified as having one or more disabilities are able to receive educational services at specialized schools and centers. The programs are operated by the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and/or Spring Lake Public Schools. The decision to place a student in any special education program is made by an Individualized Education Plan Committee (IEPC) which includes at least one of the student’s parents, a teacher, diagnostic personnel, and a school administrator. The goal of all specialized programs is to facilitate a student’s educational growth to the maximum extent possible. Many of these programs are available from infancy through early adulthood. These programs include: Autism, Severely Emotionally Impaired, Cognitively Impaired, Severely Multiply Impaired, Infant, and Total Communication Program.

Student Achievement - The results of the spring 2015 M-Step assessments, which were completed by the members of the student body, are listed below showing the percentage of proficient students:

8th Grade Content Area	Spring Lake MS	Ottawa County	State of Michigan
Reading	66.7%	60.0%	47.6%
Math	71.1%	44.7%	32.2%
Social Studies	40.6%	37%	29.7%
7th Grade Content Area	Spring Lake MS	Ottawa County	State of Michigan
Reading	77.3%	62.6%	49.1%
Math	66.1%	44.2%	33.3%
Science	45.1%	34.6%	22.7%

Parent-Teacher Conferences - Parents and community members have always been strong supporters and active participants at Spring Lake Middle School. The majority of our students were represented by a parent during Parent-Teacher Conferences in the fall. Winter conferences also had more than fifty percent of students represented. Our Open House in September is always well attended. Ninety-five percent (95%) of parents either access our website for day-to-day student progress and announcements or receive automated e-mail progress reports on a daily or weekly basis.

As one can see from the student achievement results listed throughout this letter, we have every right to be proud of our students at our school. We would also like to reiterate that we truly appreciate the commitment and dedication of our parents and staff. The strong bonds that have been created between students, employees, and community members has allowed for a model of success to be firmly established in our building.

Sincerely,


Aaron West, Principal