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## **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

March 13, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the Fort Gratiot 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 Alycia Shagena, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/YsajVE>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. 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 those labels.

Fort Gratiot Middle School consistently outperforms the state and district averages in proficiency on most state tests. The key challenges we face, based on state assessments, are science proficiency and 8th grade math proficiency. Gaps in proficiency also exist in our students that are economically disadvantaged and our students with disabilities. The district is aligning curriculum in science and evaluating instruction to ensure rigor. In math, the underperforming students are enrolled in math remediation and intervention programs. Students that require additional instructional time in math are also assigned to math teachers during an intervention period. Again, offering intervention for math and reading during the school day is addressing the gaps with the economically disadvantaged students. Gaps related to students with disabilities are being addressed with IEP evaluations and accommodation tracking.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

### **Pupil Assignment Process**

Students in the Port Huron Area School District are assigned and enrolled as follows:

Students are assigned to schools based on outlined attendance areas. Kindergarten through 5th grades are assigned to one of our 10 elementary schools - Cleveland, Crull, Edison, Garfield, Indian Woods, Keewahdin, Kimball, Michigamme, Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are similarly divided among Central Middle School, Fort Gratiot Middle School and Holland Woods Middle school. Port Huron High School and Port Huron Northern High School serve students in grades 9 through 12.

Port Huron Area School District has a Michigan Great Start School Readiness Program grant funded pre-school instruction for early childhood students in several elementary buildings. The district also supports an Early Childhood Special Education program for qualified 3-5 year olds. Students in pre-Kindergarten programs are assigned based on enrollment in each program based classroom.

The Port Huron Area School District has a policy and process in place for both in-district and county/contiguous Schools of Choice requests. Copies of the policy and procedures are available on the district website (<http://www.phasd.us/district/enrollment>), at each school, and at the administration building.

### **Specialized Schools and Alternative Education**

- Harrison Center offers an alternative high school program, credit recovery, adult education, and an Education Continuity Program for expelled students.
- St. Clair TEC offers countywide career and technical training to high school students.
- Woodland Developmental Center serves students with severe learning disabilities to age 26.

## **Status of Our School Improvement Plan (3-5 Year Plan)**

Fort Gratiot Middle School has been making progress towards the school improvement goals. We have been implementing the strategies to meet proficiency targets. Multi-tiered systems of support, data analysis, and other strategies as listed in the school improvement plan and being implemented and monitored.

## **Core Curriculum**

The core academic curriculum is the foundation of the Port Huron Area School District's instructional program. It defines the outcomes to be achieved by all students and is based on the District's educational mission and goals. The District's purpose is to enable students to meet or exceed state requirements for achievement, with an ongoing emphasis that encourages academic excellence for all students.

Our curriculum is based on the [Michigan Academic Standards](#) approved by the State Board of Education. As part of the core instruction, curriculum is aligned and written to support the implementation of the state expectations. It has been developed and

written by Port Huron Area School District teachers, administrators and consultants who specialize in curriculum development. Curriculum for the core courses is reviewed annually. Revisions and adjustments are made as needed in order to ensure appropriate alignment and pacing. You may contact your child's school or the Instructional Services Department to review a copy of the core curriculum for a particular grade.

A balanced assessment system is also a core part of the curriculum. Assessments are given in the core curriculum to monitor student progress toward grade level expectations. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing from NWEA provides a measure of student growth in reading, grammar, and math as well as tools with which to support classrooms and individual students.

## **Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Assessment: NWEA MAP-NorthWest Evaluation Association Measures of Progress**

[District Fall 2015 - Spring 2016](#)

[District Fall 2014 - Spring 2015](#)

[District Fall 2013 - Spring 2014](#)

[School Fall 2015 - Spring 2016](#)

[School Fall 2014 - Spring 2015](#)

[School Fall 2013 - Spring 2014](#)

**Parent-teacher conference rate**

2014-15	72%
2015-16	71%
2016-17	56%

Fort Gratiot staff will continue to analyze data and assess our programs to ensure that we are offering each student personalized instruction based on their needs. We are proud of our academic achievements at Fort Gratiot Middle School and will continue to raise the expectations in the classroom and rigor of our instruction.

Sincerely,

Alycia Shagena  
Principal, Fort Gratiot Middle School