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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 Port Huron Northern High 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 Mr. Charles Mossett, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/Obx70E> 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 these labels.

Port Huron Northern High School has continued to work to better meet the needs of our struggling learners while still offering an extensive Advanced Placement program. Our focus over the last eight years has been improving the quality of the instruction provided by Northern teachers. We have focused extensively on tier one interventions. During this time, we have implemented a 9th grade program focused on helping our 9th grade students' transition from middle school to high school successfully. This program has been very successful at reducing the failure rate for 9th grade students. The ultimate goal of the program is to have every 9th grade student pass all six classes.

Northern High School has been focused on professional staff development to ensure that high quality instruction is provided to all our students in all our classrooms. Our professional development has been focused on improving the use of high yield instructional strategies in the classroom. We have also focused on integrating SAT prep into our daily instruction across the curriculum.

A key challenge for Northern is to improve the math performance of our students on standardized tests. Last year we implemented new Algebra and Geometry classes to better meet the needs of our struggling math students, this year we have focused our efforts on improving SAT prep for students.

State law requires that we also report the following 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.

We will **advocate** for our students and families in partnership with our community to assure their success inside and outside of school; continuously **innovate** our practices and programs to improve student achievement; and **educate** in ways that are relevant, relationship driven, and rigorous.

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)

Northern continued this year focusing on improving instruction in the classroom. Over the last three years we have implemented building wide learning targets, trained staff to use formative assessments, and this year we have improved the use of high yield instructional strategies along with increased focus on SAT prep. Improvement at Northern is a continuous process.

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

Port Huron Area Schools uses the NorthWest Evaluation (NWEA) Measures of Progress (MAP) to assess student growth in Reading, Language, and Math. MAP is an online, adaptive assessment which provides nationally normed data about

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student performance and growth. Results for this assessment may be viewed using the links provided below.

[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	68%
2015-16	67%
2016-17	65%

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment extends learning options to 9th - 12th grade students. Qualified students may take classes at a postsecondary institution while attending high school. During the 2014-15 school year, 180 students were enrolled in one or more post-secondary courses. In addition, approximately 120 students attended the Blue Water Middle College. During the 2015-16 school year, 116 students were enrolled in one or more post-secondary courses. In addition, approximately 138 students attended the Blue Water Middle College.

Advanced Placement

Twelve Advanced Placement (AP) courses were available to high school students for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years. During the 2014-15 school year, 438 students (36.5%) enrolled in these courses with 120 students receiving college credit out of the 233 students that took an exam. For the 2015-16 school year, 498 (36.5%) students were enrolled in an AP course with 139 students receiving college credit out of the 272 students that took an exam

During the 2016-2017 school year, Northern experienced multiple events and accomplishments by individual students, groups of students, and the entire building that added to our points of pride. Some specific points of pride for Northern during the 2016-2017 school year were the continued recognition of our art students at the Annual Scholastic Regional Awards. Once again the all three Northern Bands earned Division I ratings at the Regional MSBOA Festival. The graduating class of 2016 had 40 students earn recognition as AP Scholars recognized by the College Board.

Sincerely,

Charles Mossett
Principal, Port Huron Northern High School

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