



2016-17 Annual Report Athens High School



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 Athens 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 Principal Dr. Lara Dixon for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the website <https://goo.gl/9pxDC3>, 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.

The 2015-16 school year marked a testing shift for all Michigan high schools. For several years, the state required all junior students to take the ACT. Athens students have performed strongly on the ACT, averaging a score of 23.8 in 2015. Starting in 2016, the state replaced the mandated ACT with the SAT. Though both tests are widely accepted college entrance exams, the SAT is simply a different test than the ACT. With any change comes some trepidation toward the unknown. Fortunately, we were and are confident that we have the right academic measures in place to prepare our students to achieve. Our students' average score for the SAT School Day 2016 was 1136, which is on par with our students' previous performance on the ACT. We have several ongoing classroom initiatives to support the holistic student learning necessary for consistent achievement, including the following:

- Focus on claim-evidence-reasoning strategies in all subject areas, augmenting students' ability to both write a coherent, fact-based argument and recognize the nuances of rhetoric in nonfiction texts.
- Increased time for daily sustained silent reading in English classes.
- Shift toward analysis and evaluation of primary documents in history classes.

- Continued implementation of Dr. Ron Ritchhart’s Cultures of Thinking models and strategies.
- Increased collaboration with building- and district-level colleagues, especially through the Troy School District’s Content Area Teams initiative.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

- Students are assigned to Athens High School, as well as every other school in the Troy School District, by grade level according to the district attendance boundaries. Students residing in the district may request open enrollment in a school other than the one to which they are assigned during the open enrollment period. Open enrollment is approved on the basis of staffing and capacity in the building.
- Athens High School’s School Improvement Plan is up to date and can be found in the school office.
- Athens, along with the other schools in the district, follows the Common Core curriculum, an overview of which and description of its implementation can be found at the following link:
http://www.troy.k12.mi.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=358138&type=d&pREC_ID=774499.
- The 2015-16 Athens High School student enrollment was 1,565. In 2015-16, approximately 40% of the parents of those students attended parent-teacher conferences (626). The 2014-15 Athens High School student enrollment was 1,532. In 2014-15, 44% of the parents of those students attended parent-teacher conferences (674).
- Twenty-one Athens High School students (1.3%) were enrolled in postsecondary enrollment in 2015-16. Sixteen Athens High School students (1%) were enrolled in postsecondary enrollment in 2014-15.
- Athens High School offered 26 AP courses in 2015-16 and 23 in 2014-15. 591 students (37.8%) took AP courses in 2015-16; 561 students (36.6%) took AP courses in 2014-15. Approximately 75% received a score leading to college credit in 2015-16. Approximately 75% received a score leading to college credit in both 2015-16 and 2014-15.

We have much to be proud of at Athens High School, where we are recognized nationwide for excellence in academics and fine arts education. Our students regularly compete in—and win—prestigious contests in math, science, English language arts, music, First Robotics, and problem-solving. Athens’s rigorous curriculum, along with our top-notch professional teachers and staff, offers every Athens High student the opportunity to excel. As part of our mission of ongoing review and improvement, we will continue to work to ensure that any gaps in student achievement are eliminated. We are very proud of our students’ achievements and believe that the support and involvement of our Athens families is critical to their success.

Thank you to all those who make Athens such a wonderful place to live and learn. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me at 248.823.2905, or by email at ldixon@troy.k12.mi.us.

Sincerely,
Lara Dixon, Ed.D.
Principal
Athens High School