

Homer Middle School

403 S. Hillsdale Street
Homer, Michigan
49245-1247

Ms. Sallie Wilson, Principal
Mrs. Tamra Bagwell, Administrative Assistant

Phone 517-568-4456

Fax 517-568-7125

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT (AER) COVER LETTER

February 7, 2022

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2021-22 educational progress for Homer 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 Homer Middle School Principal Ms. Sallie Wilson or Homer Community Schools Superintendent Michael Leskowich for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/2Ot9x5x> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2021-22 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2018-19. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2017-18. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2016-17. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Homer Middle School has not been given one of these labels.

While analyzing the data, the School Improvement Team found that additional support was needed to help close the learning gap of our economically disadvantaged students compared to our non-economically disadvantaged students, as well as our students who have been identified as at risk. Key initiatives that were put in place were the addition of Academic Paraprofessionals, one in each grade level to help strengthen tier II instruction, and the full implementation of IXL

as an online intervention program, also used face to face in small groups, available in all core content areas. Written curriculum mapping was also a key focus prior to the pandemic, and remains an area for work and improvement.

When the pandemic began in March of 2020, much of the forward momentum came to a quick halt. As a building, we had to rethink not only what to teach, but how to teach in a way that was accessible to our students. We also realized that for the last year, the focus on meeting social, emotional, and even physical needs was as important to prioritize as academics. Even with these hurdles, we made some positive gains during that time. Free access to a variety of resources helped our team to identify that district-wide, we wanted to commit to an online intervention program through IXL. This has been implemented in all grades throughout the building, in all subject areas. This school year has continued to be challenging for all educators, as they continue to try to meet the educational needs of our students, while still maintaining all appropriate safety protocols and measures, and navigating ever-changing learning modes, from in person, to remote, to a little of both as individual students are placed on extended quarantine periods.

There are also new initiatives that have begun this year, including the implementation of a new behavior rubric, regular SEL programming during seminar time, and the beginning implementation and planning for School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (SWPBIS).

State law requires that we also report additional information:

Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Students assigned to Homer Middle School either live within the boundaries of the school district or attend under school of choice. This process has remained consistent for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years.

Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

In the last five years, the HMS School Improvement Team has focused on its continued work to align and update the middle school curriculum using a Google Doc template to document curriculum. Curriculum maps and unit/lesson plans were updated so that they are in line with the Common Core State Standards. This has also led to some updated curricular resources, including new text adoptions in ELA, science and social studies. A major focus of the School Improvement Team for the 2021-22 school year has been behavior, with work on a new classroom managed Minor Behavior Rubric and implementation of SEL videos during seminar time.

Brief Description of Each Specialized School

Homer Middle School covers grades 5-8, with students receiving content from highly qualified teachers in the core content areas of ELA, math, science, and social studies. All students receive instruction in physical education, health, and computers, with additional offerings in instrumental music, visual arts, and agriscience education. All students also participate in a rotating selection of enrichment courses that allow for core curriculum extension activities, high interest elective content, and focused intervention support. Specialized help is also provided to all students with IEPs, 504 Plans, and those additional students identified as at risk.

How to Access Core Curriculum, Description of Implementation, and Explanation of Variances from the State's Model

Our core curriculum can be found on the district website at www.homerschools.net or by contacting the Director of Instructional Services, JoEllen O'Keefe, at (517) 568-4464. All core curriculum is aligned with Michigan K-12 Standards. Curriculum maps are in the process of being updated by the various departments.

Aggregate Student Achievement Results for National Normed Achievement Tests

Homer Middle School teachers use a variety of ways within their classrooms to collect data on student achievement. Pre- and post-tests to show growth, consistent writing rubrics in ELA, and classroom grades are all local ways in which teachers monitor student achievement. Homer Middle School has also administered the nationally normed assessment of NWEA three times a year in reading, math, and science to measure student achievement results for the 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 school years and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year. The following charts shows the percent of students that met or exceeded the national NWEA norms for winter of 2019-20 and winter of 2020-21.

% At or Above National Norms

Grade Assessed	<u>Reading</u>		<u>Math</u>		<u>Science</u>	
	Winter 2019-20	Winter 2020-21	Winter 2019-20	Winter 2020-21	Winter 2019-20	Winter 2020-21
5th Grade	23%	27%	15%	16%	25%	29%
6th Grade	51%	28%	40%	19%	40%	28%
7th Grade	31%	43%	26%	31%	48%	41%
8th Grade	30%	24%	31%	12%	55%	35%

Number and Percent of Students Represented by Parents at Conferences

Parent teacher conferences are an excellent opportunity for parents to have dialogue with their child's teachers. Conferences are held twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring. In the 2019-20 school year, we had 55% participation in parent teacher conferences. In 2020-21, we had 36% overall participation. Although this was a significant decrease from the previous year, we expected this as all parent-teacher conferences were held remotely in the 2020-21 school year, either via Google Meet, email, or phone call.

In conclusion, Homer Middle School continues to strive to be the "Destination for Excellence" within our area. The last two years have provided many opportunities for learning and growth, by both our students and our staff. The pandemic has challenged us all as educators to think outside the box about not just our content, but how we present and assess this content. We have experienced challenges, but we have also experienced success. Outstanding educational and extra-curricular opportunities continue to await our students at Homer Middle School. We have great kids and a great staff...this equals a great school!

Sincerely,

Ms. Sallie Wilson
Principal