

August 19, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2012-2013 educational progress for the Kalkaska 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 Staci Short for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.kpschools.com or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

The key challenge for Kalkaska Middle School has been in the subject areas of Mathematics. To address this issue, and accelerate student achievement in this subject, several key initiatives have been undertaken. All staff members teaching Mathematics are highly qualified to teach the subject. Additionally, all staff members have attended multiple sessions of professional development to align their teaching with Common Core State Standards, both horizontally and vertically within the district. Furthermore, all 8th grade students will receive two hours of math instruction throughout the school year; the first hour of instruction will focus on fundamental skills, and the second on application skills. Finally, students falling below the 30th percentile will be participating in an "Essentials in Algebra" class, and benefit from the instruction of two highly qualified staff members.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. All 6th – 8th grade students attending Kalkaska Public Schools will attend Kalkaska Middle School.
2. Kalkaska Middle School is beginning year two of our five year school improvement plan.
3. There are no specialized middle schools at KPS, all students attend the Kalkaska Middle School.
4. The District's Core Curriculum can be found on the Kalkaska Public Schools Website. As the state is transitioning from the Michigan Merit Curriculum to the Common Core State Standards Curriculum (CCSSC), we continue to work at being in alignment with the CCSSC in all subject areas.
5. On the MEAP tests, the following percentages of students scored a 1 or a 2 in 2011 and 2012: 6th Grade, 19%, 7th Grade, 21%, and 8th Grade 18%. On NWEA Tests, the following percentages of students scored above the 50th percentile over the same two year period: 6th Grade, 25%, 7th Grade, 18%, 8th Grade, 30%. Finally, on the 8th Grade Explore Test, 19.5% of students were at or above college readiness benchmarks in 2012 and 2013.

75% of our students (270/360) were represented at Parent Teacher Conferences in 2012.

Kalkaska Middle School continues to see improvement in student achievement. In spite of the many demographic challenges our district faces, we continue to move students in the direction of college readiness, and proficiency, according to the state standards. In all subject areas, except for math, our students outperformed the Nation's average on the Explore test, which specifically measures college readiness. As our dedicated, caring staff continues to grow and develop new ways of reaching students in the toughest of circumstances, we will continue to improve.

Sincerely,

Staci L. Short
Kalkaska Middle School Principal