

## Birch Street Elementary School

### Annual Education Report

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 Birch Street Elementary. 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 Rik Ponstein, Principal, for assistance.

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

The state has not identified Birch Street Elementary School 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. Therefore, we still need to improve our achievement scores and school as we move forward.

While our scores have shown some improvement a key challenge is low achieving students within the area of mathematics. Birch Street Elementary staff is addressing this issue through ongoing progress monitoring, analysis of common assessments and daily math interventions. Another challenge for Birch Street is the achievement gap between high achieving students and low achieving students in the area of reading. We have implemented advanced programming to reach our accelerated students which has shown tremendous growth. The programs implemented for the low achieving students was not as productive, thus new intervention programs will be researched and implemented during the 2013-2014 school year.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

#### ASSIGNING PUPILS TO SCHOOL

Birch Street Elementary provides education to just over 400 students in grades K - 3 for Kalkaska Public Schools. Our district in northwestern Lower Michigan covers 440 square miles in Kalkaska County. Birch Street's attendance area is primarily within the city boundaries of Kalkaska and surrounding areas.

#### STATUS OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Birch Street Elementary is accredited by AdvancEd and the North Central Association. Each year our District School Improvement Committee reviews student achievement, goals, and strategies. The Building School Improvement Committee reviews the AdvancEd Self Assessment, School Data Profile, and School Improvement Plan along with student achievement data, goals and strategies. District Accreditation documents are located on the district website.

Birch Street Elementary continues to update the School Improvement Plan yearly. In March of 2012 Birch Street Elementary and the entire district went through an AdvancEd Quality Assurance Review. All 7 AdvancEd Standards received an “Operational” or “Highly Functional” rating.

## **CURRICULUM**

Birch Street Elementary follows the Common Core State Standards. Curriculum maps for courses are located on the district website under the heading of, “*Curriculum.*”

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

MEAP test results and Mi-ACCESS results are included in the Annual Report. A summary of results are located on the district website.

## **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

2012 – 2013 Fall – 88% Spring – 89%  
2011 - 2012 Fall – 80% Spring – 84 %

The staff at Birch Street Elementary is proud of the educational opportunities we provide Kalkaska Public School residents. We will continue our school improvement efforts to increase student achievement in Kalkaska Public Schools. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

Sincerely,

*Rik Ponstein*

Rik Ponstein,  
Principal