January 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2018-2019 educational progress of Linden 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 Linden Elementary principal, Vicki Makaravage for assistance.

The Linden Elementary AER is available for you to review by visiting our school web site, electronically at https://www.mischooldata.org/AER2019/CombinedReport2.aspx, or you may review a copy in our main office.

For the 2018-19 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Linden Elementary School has not been given one of these labels required in ESSA based on the Spring 2019 MSTEP and AER Combined Report.

Linden Elementary School is in its fourth year configured as a Young Fives/Kindergarten-Third Grade building. According to the AER Combined Report, Linden Elementary School indicated 58.4% of our third grade students were proficient on the English Language Arts (ELA) M-STEP and 53.3% of our third grade students were proficient on the Mathematics M-STEP for the 2018 spring assessment. Linden Elementary ranked above state and county averages for both ELA & Mathematics.

New students enroll at our administrative building. Students are placed into the building appropriate for their grade level. There are two Young Fives/Kindergarten – Third Grade buildings. Student placement depends on geographic and demographic basis. Considerations are made based on classroom numbers, or if there are older siblings already attending the school as well as School of Choice students. Linden Community Schools participates in the State of Michigan Schools of Choice (SOC) Program. For information on SOC, please review the SOC Application information found on the LCS website.

Linden Elementary is in its fourth year of our School Improvement Plan (SIP). Much focus has been on our AER Combined Report as well as our local student achievement data. Our SIP will focus more on the areas of ELA & Mathematics this upcoming year. This is based on the Read by Third Grade legislature as well as what third grade is
assessed on for state testing. In addition, Linden Elementary continues with Promoting Positive School Climate as another goal for our SIP. During the 2018-19 school year, LCS was in the third year of its current district improvement plan. Our district focus has been in the areas of math, ELA, science and social studies as well as culture.

LCS offers two special education consortium programs currently offered at Hyatt Elementary. These programs consists of a Cognitively Impaired K-3 Elementary and an Emotionally Impaired K-3 Elementary consortium program. These programs support our neighboring districts. LCS also runs an alternative academy, where students are taking online courses to progress their academic achievement in a non-traditional way. This allows an alternative option for students to get their high school diploma in a self-paced manner.

Units of instruction for LCS core courses are aligned with the Michigan High School Content Expectations (HSCE’s) and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In certain non-core content areas in which state content expectations are not defined, units of instruction are aligned with national curriculum guidelines. Please visit the LCS web page at https://www.lindenschools.org/ for more information regarding our curricular opportunities and resources in Linden Community Schools.

As mentioned earlier, LCS students are achieving either at or above state averages for the standardized testing that we administer in the state of Michigan. Aggregate M-STEP Proficiency Scores are as follows: M-STEP ELA 3rd Grade – 62.6%, 4th Grade – 60%, 5th Grade -60.5%, 6th Grade – 50.7%, 7th Grade – 61.8%, M-STEP MATH 3rd Grade – 64.5%, 4th Grade – 62.1%, 5th Grade – 55.8%, 6th Grade – 53.7%, 7th Grade – 54.9%, MSTEP SOCIAL STUDIES 5th Grade – 60%, 8th Grade – 34.7%, 11th Grade – 57.3%.

Linden Elementary also utilized STAR Reading and STAR Math Criterion Referenced Assessments to monitor all first – third grade students. Spring 2018 scores show an average of 85% of 1st -3rd grade students at or above benchmark for reading based on the STAR Reading Assessment and an average of 89% of 1st -3rd grade students at or above benchmark for math based on the STAR Math Assessment.

LCS has regular attendance at Parent Teacher Conferences. Participation at the secondary level ranges between 45- 55% depending on building, and at the elementary level between 90-100% participation. We are pleased to report that over the last several years, parents and students regularly and often review students’ academic progress and attendance online through the use of our student information software, Synergy. Linden Elementary has outstanding parent involvement showing 98% of parents attending our fall 2018 conferences.

As a district, we continue to strive to make student achievement a top priority. As a school, we pride ourselves on fostering a climate and culture that is positive, progressive, and cutting edge. Linden Elementary is proud of our outstanding students, parents and staff! We would like to express our sincere thanks to all LCS and Linden community members for your continued support of our academic and extra-curricular programs. We are confident that with your help, we will continue to be successful in the 2019-20 school year, and we will again demonstrate progress toward achieving our academic goals.

Sincerely,

Vicki Makaravage