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School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2017-18 educational progress for Watervliet North Elementary. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Joe Allen, Principal of North Elementary for assistance.

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

For the 2017-18 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 and 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.

* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.

ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

At North Elementary, we work hard to prepare our students for the next level and becoming a well-rounded citizen. Part of that process is becoming a good test taker. Our state assessment is the M-Step. You can see the complete breakdown of scores from this assessment by clicking the hyperlink in the 2nd paragraph above. In summary, our students are scoring slightly behind the state average in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade ELA. In our county, we were right in the middle of all the schools. In Math, we were higher than the state average for proficiency in all grades. These math scores put us solidly in the top half in our county. We continue to work on attendance and keeping students in school. We also increased our number of computers in the school by almost 100 laptops. We now have a student:computer ratio of about 2:1. We continue to implement our Multi-Tiered System of Support by utilizing small group work and pull out/push in whenever possible. Our interventionists are always working with students on instruction of the key objectives in the various grade levels. Sometimes they pull kids out of classes and other times they are in the classroom with the teacher working side by side. We have also implemented state mandated Individual Reading Instruction Plans (IRIP) for struggling 3rd grade readers. These IRIP plans help us communicate with parents on student ability and work to get parents involved as well. We have really worked hard to give students the best test-taking environment possible. We are utilizing small group testing more and using accommodations provided by the state for struggling readers. During test days, we have the mentality of using all possible staff members to ensure students have a good testing experience. Our lead interventionist works hard with our teachers to find the most effective interventions to help our students achieve success and close the gap between our top and bottom learners.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. North School is specifically staffed for 3rd -5th grade students.
2. Goal 1: Reading-All students will meet college/career readiness standards in READING as evidenced by M-Step achievement and NWEA results.
Goal 2: Writing-All students will meet college/career readiness standards in WRITING as evidenced by M-Step achievement and NWEA results.
- Goal 3: Mathematics-All students will meet college/career readiness standards in MATHEMATICS as evidenced by M-Step achievement and NWEA results.
- Goal 4: Data Culture-The culture of WPS will be one of continuous learning and improvement founded in data-based decision making.

3. Specialized schools and programs that we utilize.

Special Education-North School has served approximately 18 students in Special Education, in addition to 24 speech students over the past two school years. To meet individual needs, some of our students need educational programs that our district cannot provide. In cooperation with Berrien Regional Educational Service Agency (Berrien RESA) and certain neighboring districts, these students attend appropriate Special Education programs in other locations. The programs available to Watervliet students were:

- Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed Program

 - Located at Coloma Elementary

 - Facilitated by Coloma Community Schools

- Hearing Impaired Program

 - Located at Berrien Springs Public Schools

 - Facilitated by Berrien RESA

- Cognitively Impaired Program

 - Located at Berrien Springs Middle School

 - Facilitated by Berrien Springs Public Schools

- Moderately to Severely Mentally Impaired Program

 - Located at Blossomland Learning Center, Berrien Springs

 - Facilitated by Berrien RESA

- Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed and Autistic Impaired Program

 - Located at Stewart Elementary

 - Facilitated by Lakeshore Public Schools

- Severely Emotionally Impaired and Autistic Impaired Program

 - Located at Lighthouse Learning Center, St. Joseph

 - Facilitated by Berrien RESA

- Severely Emotionally Impaired Program

 - Located at Niles Southside

 - Facilitated by Niles Community Schools

Migrant and Bilingual Education - Located and facilitated by Watervliet Public Schools. There are approximately 30 students in grades 3rd-5th that were eligible for support services during each of the previous 2 school years.

4. North School's program of academic instruction incorporates the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations(GLCE) and Michigan Core State Standards(MCSS). Information on our core curriculum can be obtained by contacting the school office. The materials we use are Scott Foresman's Reading Streets for language arts instruction, Everyday Math for mathematics instruction,

McGraw Hill for science instruction, and Hillsdale's Meet Michigan for 3rd grade social studies, Houghton Mifflin's States and Regions for 4th grade social studies and TCI's America's Past for 5th grade social studies instruction. More detailed information is available on the North School tab on the district website. We are not aware of any variations from the state curriculum framework.

5. At North School we administered the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress(M-Step) during the 2016-17 SY and the 2017-18 SY. The M-Step assesses all students in reading and math. In addition, 5th grade students are assessed on Social Studies and participate in a "field test" for Science. The past year's results can be found on the Michigan Department of Education website or by clicking on the link in the second paragraph. We also administer an assessment from the Northwest Evaluation Association, commonly referred to as NWEA. This test specifically measures students' content knowledge in reading and math. Please keep in mind that we look at a Normative Data Reference guide to help evaluate where your child's progress is compared to other students in the country. North School students take this assessment 3 times each year. Students will then be provided a score and a percentile ranking so that students and families can monitor growth.

6. This past school year, we had a fall enrollment of 308 students. Of those 308, North School teachers met with 97% of those students' parents during the fall parent/teacher conferences. We believe the increase of parent participation in the Parent/Teacher conferences was due to conducting these conferences in October rather than November.

North School will continue to focus on student achievement as we move forward. Your child is our number one priority. We will work to help your child be successful at North Elementary. Thank you in advance for the support you provide at home. Thanks as well to our devoted teachers, support staff, parents, students and Board of Education for their consistent hard work throughout the year. I look forward to continued growth and achievement for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Joe Allen
Principal
North Elementary

"Making a difference, one kid at a time."