



August 11, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for the Nolan Elementary/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 the school's principal, Angela Underwood, or vice principal, Michael Bagley, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <http://www.michigan.gov/ea> and click on Annual Education Reports, or you may review a copy in our main office.

Each school in Michigan is required to test students every year using the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests. The results of these tests, as well as participation on the test is used to determine whether our school is meeting Michigan Proficiency Targets and where it rank in a "Top to Bottom" list of schools and their performance. As a result of this ranking in a "Top to Bottom" list of schools and their performance, a low achieving school may be identified as a Priority or Focus school. This year, Nolan Elementary/Middle School is a Priority school in the 2014 cohort because it is among the bottom 5% of the Top to Bottom list. A school identified as Priority for the 2014 cohort remains in that cohort of schools supervised by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) until Spring 2017.

Parental Involvement: We want our parents to be actively involved in the education their children. Our parental involvement participation is as follows:

School Year Percent of Participating Parents in a Parent-Teacher Conference or Some other Activity

2013-2014

457 students with 234 parents (51%) in attendance

We will continue to address parental involvement primarily in the following areas:

- home visits and parent conferences.
- our School Reinvention Team to engage parents in innovative workshops and sessions that are practical and will result in improved student achievement.

There are a variety of school-wide strategies that are being carried out at Nolan to continue to improve student academic achievement. Below is a list of changes that have taken place since the 2013-14 school year which will be ongoing throughout the 2014-15 school year:

- All teachers at Nolan must be “Highly Qualified” and hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate
- School-wide implementation of student-centered learning that personalizes learning to meet the individualized needs of each student
- Students access to 1:1 technology for all students
- Anytime, anywhere access to online learning resources
- Full-time Parent/Community Partner Specialist to promote and support increased community and parent involvement
- Collaboration with the Michigan Reading Corps Program to further individualize reading instruction for students
- An extended school day and school year for students and staff
- After-school tutoring for students
- Individualized and research-based professional learning for all staff members
- Weekly collaboration time for teachers so they may monitor student data and progress
- A School Reinvention Team has been formed and is comprised of key school stakeholders to closely monitor the goals of the school improvement plan and overall school progress
- Monthly School Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings are hosted at the building and comprised of parents
- A variety of wrap around services are available at the school to address the social, emotional, and physical needs of families such as a Department of Human Services Caseworker, Juvenile Assessment Center, and St. Johns Health Systems
- A Behavior Specialist has been hired to closely monitor and address student discipline issues
- An additional Instructional Coach has been hired to provide teachers additional support with implementation of instructional strategies
- School level, District level, and State level monitoring of the School Improvement Plan
- Partnerships with 65 community organizations that offer mentoring, tutoring, and sponsor clubs for students

Nolan Elementary/Middle School has received communication from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) about a recently approved Flexibility Waiver of the requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). School districts with Priority schools in the 2013-14 cohorts, and Focus schools, are no longer required to offer Choice/Transfer and transportation for students. Schools and districts are no longer required to continue transportation for students whose parents had in past years elected to transfer students under the Choice/Transfer option.

As a parent of a Title I School and Priority School, you are invited to participate in monthly SAC and School Reinvention Team meetings in order to have a voice and be informed about the changes that are taking place at Nolan. You are also entitled to participate in the annual Title I meeting which will be scheduled later this fall to understand your rights and responsibilities as a parent.

If you have any questions or concerns about what it means for your child to attend a Title I and Priority School, please contact me at 313-866-7730, and I will be happy to speak with you about this in further detail. As always, thank you for being an important part of Nolan's professional learning community.

Sincerely,

Angela Underwood, Principal

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