



August 13, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your child is a student at Nolan Elementary/Middle School. You know that your child is important to us and that we want to provide every opportunity for success. Each school in Michigan is required to test students every year using the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test. The results of this test, as well as participation on the test is used to determine whether our school is meeting Michigan Proficiency Targets and where it ranks 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 2013 cohort because it is among the bottom 5% of the Top to Bottom list. A school identified as Priority for the 2013 cohort remains in that cohort of schools supervised by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) until Spring 2017.

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.

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 2012-13 school year and that will be ongoing throughout the 2013-14 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
- Paraprofessionals have been hired to tutor students within the school day
- 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

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- 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
- An Attendance Agent has been hired to closely monitor daily student attendance and address those students who do not attend school regularly
- 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 2012-13 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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