March 22, 2019

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the 2018-19 Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2017-18 educational progress for Commerce Elementary 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 Principal Christina Carlin for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website, https://goo.gl/Qmb7Nz 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 new 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. Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Collectively, we are committed to continuous improvement through an ongoing process that includes data analysis, progress monitoring, professional development, and program evaluation. Our school improvement goals are developed based on triangulated data that targets specific areas. Although our achievement data is relatively strong compared to schools throughout the state, we are not satisfied and are focused on the following initiatives in order to accelerate student growth and decrease achievement gaps:

- Promoting depth of understanding across the content areas as part of our cultures of thinking initiative;
- Strengthening student writing across the content areas with an emphasis on making a claim and supporting it with evidence and reasoning;
• Improving proficiency in math problem-solving through the use of Everyday Math open response and re-engagement lessons and promoting the Standards for Mathematical Practices;
• Refining our Response to Intervention (RtI/SIPP) process to effectively address student needs, specifically in subgroups with identified achievement gaps.

Additional strategies are further detailed in our School Improvement Plan which is available on our website (see link below).

State law requires that we also report additional information.

**Student Enrollment | School Assignment**
Walled Lake Schools enrolls and assigns schools to students based on the attendance areas in which they reside. Maps and information on the District enrollment process is available on the District website at: [http://wlcsd.org/parents/enrollment/](http://wlcsd.org/parents/enrollment/).

**School Improvement Plan**
Commerce Elementary is accredited by AdvancED (formerly the North Central Association) and is continuing to maintain and enhance our five year School Improvement Plan. [Commerce Elementary School Improvement Plan](#)

**Specialized School Report**
In addition to the regular K-12 program, our School District provides educational alternatives and opportunities for students as well as meeting special education needs. The “Specialized Schools Report” is available in our school office or on the District website at [www.wlcsd.org](http://wlcsd.org).

**Core Curriculum**
The Walled Lake Consolidated Schools’ Board of Education has officially adopted Michigan Academic Standards in all Core content areas. Please visit the following websites for a listing of academic standards.

Michigan Department of Education | Michigan Academic Standards
[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_65510---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_65510---,00.html)

Walled Lake Schools’ | Understanding the Common Core Standard
Achievement Testing
At the elementary level, the Walled Lake Schools has a balanced assessment program to gauge students' progress and provide valuable information to teachers, parents, and students. Kindergarten through third grade students take the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) several times per year to determine students’ progress in reading. For grades K-5 in writing, we utilize rubrics that are aligned with our writing curriculum which assess student growth with narrative, informational, and opinion writing. Lastly, the i-Ready mathematics diagnostic is given to students in grades K-5, and the i-Ready reading diagnostic is given to students in grades 2-5. This balanced assessment plan provides teachers and schools with valuable information about each child’s growth and allows our professional educators to individualize instruction to meet every child’s needs.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Commerce Elementary students represented by parents at parent-teacher conferences.</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Commerce Elementary students represented by parents at parent-teacher conferences.</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to our targeted school improvement initiatives, we also have a school-wide focus on character education. We model and emphasize the importance of kindness, respect, and leadership throughout our school, homes, and community. We believe that we must provide opportunities for children to develop empathy and leadership dispositions in order to create a kinder, more inclusive world. Our parents and guardians are engaged and involved partners in our children’s academic and social-emotional growth. Together, our school community is committed to creating a nurturing, yet rigorous learning environment for our children.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 248-956-3932 or via email at ChristinaCarlin@wlcsd.org.

Sincerely,

Christina Carlin
Principal Christina Carlin