



## School Annual Education Report (AER)

May 25, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for the Orchard Primary. 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 Jennifer Szlachta, Orchard Primary Principal, for assistance at (810)798-7019.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/yxNjvs> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 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. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Orchard Primary was not identified with any of the labels listed above for the 2016-2017 school year.

Every year Orchard Primary staff review M-Step data in Reading/ELA and Mathematics to look for areas of strength, trends over time, and areas of need. In reviewing the data from the 2016-2017 school year we found that 67% of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were proficient on the math portion of the M-STEP and 72% were proficient on the ELA portion of the assessment. Looking deeper at the data we found that 62% of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders were proficient on the math portion of the M-STEP assessment and 61% were proficient on the ELA portion of the M-STEP assessment. These scores declined slightly from the 2015-2016 M-Step data. One factor we considered as we took a deeper look at the data was this was the first year Orchard Primary students took the test electronically. In the past all M-Step tests at Orchard Primary were given in the paper/pencil format. The addition of technology may have played a factor in our scores as students had to understand how to navigate and utilize the technology before they could show proficiency with the content assessed. As we look forward we are working to provide students with

instruction and practice with how to navigate the test electronically so they are familiar with how the format and tools can be used to successfully navigate the test.

In addition, we also found that 24% of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders were proficient on the Science M-STEP, which is up from 3% the previous year. This lets us know that our deeper look into our science curriculum and materials, along with training on science related strategies, were successful. We will continue to keep science as a focus area as we will continue to purchase materials, resources, and supports that link to the new science standards for each grade level. It is also imperative that we continue to provide our staff with the training they need to be able to teach the new science standards with fidelity. Grade level representatives will continue to attend science training professional development sessions at the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD), bringing back what they learn. We will continue to work to review our data to continually review all content areas so that we can tighten the connection between our curriculum, materials, resources, state standards, and the needs of our students; aiming at success for all!

Orchard Primary also has a strong Title I program for any student below grade level benchmarks. Our Title I paraeducators work closely with our classroom teachers to provide additional intervention and instruction to those students not yet at grade level. We continually monitor our students to ensure they are getting the instruction they need to grow and excel. We will continue to utilize an intervention team model to monitor student needs, provide support to our classroom teachers, and work in a teamwork approach to determine the best possible strategies to ensure every child finds success. Lastly we have started Data Review Days three times per year to look at all data we collect in order to provide the very best instruction for our students. Sources of data include M-Step, NWEA assessments three times per year (Reading and Math K-4 and Language 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>), Developmental Reading Assessments, Reading Fluency Assessments, and classroom common assessments and informal data. Utilizing a broad range of assessments, we can pinpoint student strengths, areas of concern, and curriculum needs in order to provide a high quality education in a positive and safe learning environment for each and every student at Orchard Primary.

State law requires that we also report additional information. Please see below:

## **1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides, unless enrolling under the District's school of choice policy or enrolling and paying tuition. New students under the age of eighteen must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- a birth certificate or similar document,
- court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate),
- proof of residence,
- proof of immunizations—under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

**Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the direction of the District Liaison for Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.**

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Michigan may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

## **2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Members of the Orchard Primary staff are firmly committed to the process of continual renewal and self-evaluation. This ongoing school improvement process is a hallmark of our efforts to provide Almont's young people with a fulfilling and enjoyable educational experience. Our efforts are guided by building goals to improve student achievement in multiple areas including: Reading, Writing, Math, Science, STEAM, and Positive Behavior Support (PBS). In addition, Orchard Primary has recently gone one to one with technology, providing iPads to every K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade student and Chromebooks to every 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade student in order to enhance opportunities for student learning and success.

Additionally, teachers work to develop a number of specific instructional activities that focus on programs and instructional techniques that are measurable based on research and best practice to attain our school improvement goals. A copy of Orchard Primary's school improvement plan can be attained by visiting:

[http://www.almontschools.org/schools/orchard\\_primary](http://www.almontschools.org/schools/orchard_primary)

Orchard Primary is accredited through *AdvancED*. *AdvancED* is the largest community of education professionals in the world. They are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of PreK-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential. Their commitment is to help schools improve. During the last external review, in May 2017, Almont Community Schools received high marks in all five standards.

Other efforts that have been made in the area of school improvement:

- Participation in the Facilitators of School Improvement Series (Macomb ISD)
- Participation in District Curriculum Council (Almont Community Schools)
- Participation in District Leadership Team Meetings (Almont Community Schools)

### **3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL**

#### **Special Services**

In addition to the regular classroom curriculum, students at the Orchard Primary are also provided a variety of special services related to their educational programs. For example, students with special needs are provided with a number of support services. Students receive assistance in speech and language therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and/or are enrolled in Learning Disabled (LD), Cognitively Impaired (CI), and Emotionally Impaired (EI) classrooms. Services and programs are also provided for students with hearing and/or visual impairments. In addition to special education services directly related to the individual students' disabilities, a team comprised of a psychologist, social workers, and a nurse (upon request) are available to assist our students throughout the school year. Some of these services are provided through the Consortium for Exceptional Children (a special education program sponsored jointly by the Almont, Dryden, and Imlay City school districts), while others are provided through the Lapeer Intermediate School District. Almont Community Schools houses the Cognitively Impaired (CI) classroom for Almont, Dryden, and Imlay City students through the Consortium for Exceptional Children.

#### **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

The purpose of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program is to educate non-English speaking students and integrate them into the educational setting. In order to do this, each student's educational needs are assessed in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension. Furthermore, the ESL instructor serves as a translator for parents and teachers so that they have a better understanding of the school's activities, parent-teacher conferences, field trips, illnesses, IEP's, etc. The ESL instructor also helps students and their parents to secure food, clothing, and housing services within the community.

#### **Other Programs Beyond the Classroom**

Orchard Primary students have numerous opportunities beyond the general curriculum by participating in the following activities:

- Raider Reps (OP Student Council)
- Maker Faire
- STEAM Education
- Access to OP Outdoor Classroom
- Talent Show
- OP Winter Carnival

- Recycling
- Lego Robotics Club (1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Math Club (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- March is Reading Month Activities and Celebration

#### 4. CORE CURRICULUM

Orchard Primary staff continue to review our core curriculum in the areas of language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science with an emphasis on the Common Core State Standards for language arts and mathematics. We are also working to align our science curriculum with the updated Michigan standards for science. As mentioned previously Orchard Primary is working to update science materials, resources, and supports to connect to new Michigan science standards. Extensive work with pacing guides has allowed staff to plan out curriculum by unit and month to ensure students receive appropriate instruction for each core content area. Copies of these elementary pacing guides are available at the Almont Community Schools website at [http://www.almontschools.org/schools/orchard\\_primary/pacing\\_guides/](http://www.almontschools.org/schools/orchard_primary/pacing_guides/)

#### 5. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Orchard Primary uses multiple measures of student achievement to measure student progress. These measures include M-STEP, Northwest Evaluation Association - NWEA (Reading and Math = K-4 and Language 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and classroom assessments. All of these assessments guide Orchard Primary in its decision making process, as we ensure all students have access to appropriate and guided instruction. The assessments listed above give us the data we need in order to ensure every child receives the instruction they require to reach grade level benchmarks. Three times per year we hold data review days, giving us time to dig into data as grade level teams to look for student growth, need, and trends over time. Students that fall below grade level benchmarks will receive additional support and instruction from Title I Paraeducators. This support, for those students below benchmark, is in addition to the instruction they receive from their classroom teacher thus ensuring students reach grade level benchmarks and find success.

Orchard Primary M-STEP scores continuously rank among the highest in Lapeer County in reading and mathematics. Additional specific results can be found at <https://goo.gl/yxNjvs> Please see below for detailed M-STEP results:

**2016-2017 M-STEP Data**  
**% of Students at Advanced or Proficient**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>County Rank</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>County Rank</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>County Rank</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	72%	1 <sup>st</sup> place	67%	1 <sup>st</sup> place	NA	NA
4 <sup>th</sup>	61%	1 <sup>st</sup> place	62%	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	24%	1 <sup>st</sup> place

## **6. PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

- Attendance rate for Parent-Teacher Conferences in 2016-2017 = 95%
- Attendance rate for Parent-Teacher Conferences in 2016-2017 = 96%
- Attendance rate for Parent-Teacher Conferences in 2015-2016 = 95%

### **THANK YOU TO ALL ORCHARD PRIMARY SUPPORTERS**

We are very proud of the education offered to the students of Orchard Primary and are very appreciative for the support we receive from our community. The staff is truly committed to providing the best education possible for every Orchard Primary student, working as a team to ensure each child grows academically, socially, and emotionally. We have an amazing Parent Teacher Association (PTA) group that provides support and funds to enhance each child's school experience. In addition, the Four County Community Foundation, the Lapeer County Community Foundation, Mobil Exxon, and L & L Products are recognized for supporting various school initiatives and programs for our students. We will continually seek to grow, learn, and improve our ability to provide the very best for our students, teamwork is key! Parents interested in more information about what our school has to offer may contact the Orchard Primary office at (810) 798-7019.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Szlachta, Ed. S.  
Principal