



EAST JACKSON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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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 2013-2014 educational progress for the Memorial Elementary. 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 Dale Bannister for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [eastjacksonschools.org](http://eastjacksonschools.org) or you may review a copy in our main office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. Our school has not been given one of these labels

Memorial Elementary has several challenges for our building to address. Our standardized test scores reflect that we need a steady increase in the number of students considered to be proficient. Another is to get more parent and community involvement at our school to help support our efforts to meet student needs. We would like to increase involvement at events such as Open House and Parent Conferences. Also, our current scheduled classes have about 28 - 30 students enrolled which may impact our ability to individualized instruction as we desire. We also have some initiatives in place to help accelerate student achievement and to close the gaps in learning. We are now a Title I Schoolwide building which will enable us to have some opportunities that we did not have as a Target-Assistance building. Now all students will have access to all tutoring opportunities and extend learning times to close gaps in achievement. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) testing in reading and math, allows us to collect information that allows us to adapt our instruction to better meet student needs and prepare them for future online testing. In 2013-2014 we continued to use the new evaluation process for teachers and administrators. This process allows us to individualized goals related to student growth, data collection and development of professional goals/skills. With more classroom observations being completed along with the collection and

use of data. There are more opportunities for meaningful professional dialog and we are becoming educators even more focused.

We are planning to implement the Nurtured Heart Approach during the 2014-2015 school years K-6 with the goal being to further improve the building climate and assist students in being able to focus more on the development of their skills. We are also renovating our former middle school building to become a K-6 building beginning the fall of 2015.

## MISSION STATEMENT

### **MEMORIAL SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission at East Jackson Memorial Elementary is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where students are encouraged to be responsible, motivated and develop their skills as critical thinkers and independent learners.

## ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS

Students (K-3) are assigned classrooms for the upcoming school year based upon student needs, teacher recommendations, and parent requests when we can accommodate the request. In the spring, the teachers meet to discuss their students with the next grade level instructors to recommend to the principal the best academic and social match. We take the student's placement very seriously and also feel strongly about having a diverse mix of students in every class. The staff considers the previous year's academic progress, socialization skills, areas of strength and areas needing improvement of each child. This year we will also have a Young 5's program. This will allow us the opportunity to help prepare incoming struggling kindergartener's for success in kindergarten next year.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

During the 2012-2013 and the 2013-14 school year, the staff addressed three goals of prime that will always remain a priority at our elementary building, reading and math and building climate. We have implemented many strategies in math and reading that supported our school improvement action plan. We have recently made major revisions to our school improvement plan and expect even more progress will become evident in 2014-2015.

Goal 1. All students will increase proficiency in Reading.

Goal 2. All students will increase proficiency in Math.

Goal 3. Create a positive school climate using the Nurtured Heart Approach.

Our improvement plan has undergone major revisions to reflect the current needs of Memorial students and parents.

To address the reading and comprehension goal, we utilized one full-time reading instructor, 3 full time Title I para-professionals, 4 part-time and 2 Instructional Assistants (certified Teachers) to help with literacy instruction and parent volunteers. We have a literacy bookroom in which teachers check out and utilize auxiliary materials from in addition to having extensive classroom libraries and textbooks. We have a staffed S.M.A.R.T. Room, a computer lab, and classroom computers that are all have wireless internet access to provide for student testing and the Accelerated Reading Program. Classroom teachers are trained in the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLLP) and spend time daily to concentrate on student reading. We will also be using Café/Dalily 5 to improve stamina. The NWEA assessment is used as an ongoing check for student growth to identify gap areas.

With math we also used, the NWEA assessment as an ongoing check for student growth to identify gap areas. Title1 para-professionals are used for push-in and pull-out support for students.

As always, we will continue to utilize best practices, use collectable data to make informed decisions and implement strategies which are developmentally appropriate for our students.

During 2013 – 2014 we held regular improvements meetings to conduct needs assessments of students and develop goals to meet these needs. We will continue to develop and implement strategies which are developmentally appropriate to teach our students. Also, staff will utilize consistent assessments to determine areas of growth and for remediation purposes. These assessments also have assisted us in determining our Title I students as well as students who are "At Risk".

Over the past many years, Memorial Elementary was a "Targeted Assistance" School for Title I purposes. However, with many hours of collecting data, studying this data, planning for improvement along with the diligent work of many staff members, we have been able to successfully become a "Schoolwide" Title I School beginning the 2013-2014 school years. This transition has allowed us to service **all** students and families with Title I support services.

## CORE CURRICULUM

The core curriculum at Memorial is based on and aligned to the Michigan State Standards (GLCEs). The State Standards (GLCEs) can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) . Also, we are developing strategies based upon the "Common Core Standards" during the past school year in English Language Arts and Math, which are expected to be implemented and assessed in the near future. The Common Core Standards are available at:  
[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753\\_64839\\_64848---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_64848---,00.html) .

Our math curriculum was successfully aligned to the Common Core in 2011. During 2012, the ELA curriculum was also aligned to the Common Core. Our science and social studies curriculum will continue to be a district-wide focus during 2014-2015.

#### ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:** The language skills of speaking, listening, writing, reading, and spelling are taught through the three subject areas of English, reading, and spelling. Basal readers are one method utilized for reading instruction. Also, guided reading is used in the first and second grade classrooms. English and spelling are taught primarily through traditional means. Teachers are using the Six +1 Traits of Writing to assess and instruct student writing. Expanding Expression Tool Kits are used in most K-3 classrooms. Café is also used to support students. The language curriculum is aligned with the state's GLCEs.

**MLPP:** Many teachers in grades K-3 have received training in the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP) to learn how to assess student needs in reading skills by using a variety of approaches. MLPP helps teachers define educational levels students are currently achieving.

**READING:** The Accelerated Reader Program is very popular with students from every grade level. As a result, the circulation of these books often occurs. Teachers are using Café/Daily 5's to increase stamina. Title 1 support is used for all students in need.

**MATH:** Math instruction places emphasis on basic skills with the goal to provide relevancy to the students. The use of manipulatives, especially in grades K-2 is becoming increasingly important with the Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) Program. Beginning in third grade, a major emphasis is placed on multiplication, division, and problem solving. SMART boards were installed and used for math instruction in all classrooms in 2013 - 2014. The math curriculum was rewritten to align with the Common Core Standards.

**SCIENCE:** Instruction occurs at all grade levels. Kindergarten and first grade emphasize hands-on activities. Second through third grade instruction combines hands-on activities along with a greater use of textbooks. The science curriculum is aligned with the state's GLCEs.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** History, economics, civics, and geography are the basis of Memorial's social studies curriculum. Teachers readily use people from the community to share their knowledge or provide living history lessons. Yearly field trips to Rural Days and the state Capitol for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders provide excellent learning opportunities and memorable experiences. The social studies curriculum was aligned to meet the state's GLCEs.

**TECHNOLOGY:** The updated computer lab is used by classrooms. Students were able to use the Internet. Amplification systems purchased with grant and PTCO money have been installed in classrooms. In 2013 the computer lab was upgraded with 30 new computers, 2 computer carts with 30 computers each were available to

be used in classrooms, wireless internet access building wide and Smartboards in all classrooms. Students received weekly technology instruction with their teachers. 2014 we will have 4 classrooms with IPAD sets for student use. Our goal is to have all classrooms with IPAD's.

ART: Offered twice time per week for at least 30 minutes each session, a certified art teacher instructs students in the use of color, composition, pattern, use of a variety of materials, and the integration of writing, history, social studies, math, and science with art. Student work was displayed at the Eastern Branch of the Jackson District Library.

MUSIC: A music teacher provided one 30-minute session per week to kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Music objectives are based on the Michigan Essential Goals and Objectives for Arts Education. Lessons stress rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and expression. Body movement activities are used to teach the basics of music understanding. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades perform at concerts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: The physical education program goals are to have students develop awareness, attitudes, and skills that will lead to improved body control and a safe and healthy life style. All grades have two 30-minute physical education periods per week. Teacher stressed coordination, muscle strength, flexibility, aerobic activities gross and fine motor skills, basic body awareness, team skills, and good sportsmanship. All students participate in a Field Day at the end of the school year.

#### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Social Work: By us utilizing At-Risk funds, we were able to have social work services full-time for the 2012-2013 school years. The certified social worker was subcontracted through Allegiance Health. As a result, more of our student and family needs were met, this will continue for 2014-2015.

REMEDIAL HELP: The Memorial Elementary Staff offered remedial help for those who qualify. There was one full time Title I teachers, as well as, three full time paraprofessionals, 4 part time and 2 Instructional Assistants that provided assistance for selected students. These staff members supported the efforts of the classroom teachers to teach basic skills. As a result of the coordinated efforts, the involved students showed significant progress, gained self-esteem, and became positive learners.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: The Jackson County Intermediate School District provides personnel and support services in the areas of special education. Speech therapy, hearing and vision screening, teacher consultant services, and psychological evaluations were provided at Memorial this year. Also, we had 2 certified special education teachers for students who qualified for learning disabled, emotionally impaired or cognitive impairment services. These services have been in place for both 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents play an important part in their student's education. Many opportunities are provided throughout the school year, which include parent participation. We had many approved volunteers who helped in classrooms, chaperone field trips, and assisted in numerous activities and events during the school year. We also held events such as our Grandparents'/VIP Day visit, spelling bee, and field day which were all well-attended events.

The Parent Teacher Community Organization (PTCO) helps to provide that important connection between school and community. All parents are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to work closely with the building principal and faculty in understanding the educational needs of our school community. Dates of the monthly meetings are listed well in advance on the school calendar and in monthly newsletters.

PTCO projects include:

- Assemblies
- Extra Field Trips
- Family Fun Fair
- Last Day Picnic
- Popcorn Fridays
- Reading Month Activities
- Staff Appreciation Lunches
- Book Give-Aways
- Accelerated Reader Program Support

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Our parent/teacher conferences occur in the fall and again in the spring. The following is a summary of conference attendance for the last two school years:

School Year		Number of Participates	Number of Students	Percent in Attendance
2012-2013	Fall	364	386	95%
	Spring	368	386	96%
2013-2014	Fall	317	344	93%
	Spring	328	352	94%

## NORTHWEST EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (NWEA) TESTING

We began utilizing on-line NWEA testing for both reading and math during the 2012-2013 school years. The tests were administered in the fall, winter and in the spring. However being a new process, the 2012 fall test was given late fall (November) and results don't show the growth totals as, if they would have been administered early fall. Below are the local results expressed in RIT (overall scale) scores to show growth demonstrated for the year. These scores enable us to monitor growth as well as student achievement. Also, we can better identify the areas where further interventions are needed individually and collectively to assist

instruction. We will continue to administer the NWEA tests during 2014-2015. We will administer them during three test cycles.

<b>MATH</b>	<b>FALL AVG.</b>		<b>SPRING AVG.</b>		<b>RIT CHANGE</b>	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Kindergarten	144.5	136.7	148	153.2	+4.5	+16.5
1st	164.1	158.4	169.7	178.4	+5.6	+20
2ndGrade	180	177.4	184.5	191.6	+4.5	+14.2
3rd Grade	193.2	188.8	197.4	201.0	+4.2	+12.2

<b>Reading</b>	<b>FALL AVG.</b>		<b>SPRING AVG.</b>		<b>RIT CHANGE</b>	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Kindergarten	144.2	138.5	148	150.6	+3.8	+12.1
1 <sup>st</sup>	159.3	157.9	164	173.4	+4.7	+15.5
2ndGrade	175.5	170.7	179.6	183.3	+4.1	+12.6
3rd Grade	187.3	181.9	188.8	194.5	+1.5	+12.6

The preceding information demonstrates that the staff at Memorial Elementary, in cooperation with the students, parents and our community members, are working together to provide positive educational experiences for our students. Congratulations on the accomplishments achieved during the 2013-2014 school year. We look forward to working collaboratively as we continue our efforts to further improve the opportunities for all of our students for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year

Respectfully,



Dale Bannister  
Principal