

# Harper Creek Middle School

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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 2015-16 educational progress for Harper Creek 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 Kim Thayer for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://harpercreekms.ss7.sharpschool.com/>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given. Our school was has not been given one of these labels.

Harper Creek Middle School has implemented two new initiatives this year that will address achievement gaps. There is currently a difference in standardized test proficiency scores between the top 30% and bottom 30% of students. Each grade level was restructured into four-core teaching teams to create to smaller learning communities at each grade level. These teaching teams have meeting time built into their schedule to work together to ensure student success. We have also increased our system of supports by creating an intervention/extension class in each middle school student's schedule. W.I.N. Time gives students that are

struggling extra time in tiered levels of support and applied learning time to students that are meeting benchmark expectations.

Students are assigned to schools in one of two ways. The first is by the student's geographic attendance area. We also participate in a Section 105 School of Choice program and assign students to the school they choose, based on availability.

Harper Creek Middle School's School Improvement Plan is a continuous work in progress. The plan addresses goal areas related to reading and writing, as well as math, science and social studies. Each goal area and its strategies align to the district's goals and state guidelines. The plan is revisited and revised on a yearly basis.

Harper Creek Middle School staff is continuing to implement an aligned curriculum. In addition, curriculum maps in core areas are used by teachers to determine content and lessons. For copies of core curriculum, please contact Kim Thayer or refer to the Curriculum resources on the district webpage.

Student achievement on local tests shows student growth through each grade level and each school year. Reading proficiency scores for the 2015-2016 school year averaged 83%. Writing scores for the 2014-2015 school year averaged 77% and the writing scores for the 2015-2016 school year averaged 82%. Teachers, administrators, and support staff are in the process of being trained to look at this data to find trends and to implement intervention strategies for students that do not show average to above average growth.

Harper Creek Middle School has had positive parent-teacher conference attendance for the previous two years during the fall with attendance at 86% and 84%. In the spring, our average attendance declines with 79% and 77% respectively. As a part of our school improvement process, Harper Creek Middle School Staff continues to develop strategies to try and address this issue, which have include phone conferences, email communications, and flexible conference times with parents.

The staff at Harper Creek Middle School consistently works to improve our practices and to implement strategies that will help our students grow emotionally, socially, and academically. We are committed to continuous improvement and do our best to provide opportunities to work in collaboration with our community, parents, and students.

Sincerely,

Kim Thayer  
Harper Creek Middle School Principal