

KALEVA NORMAN DICKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Small School – Big Family

Marlen Cordes, Superintendent
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School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

December 12, 2016

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 Brethren 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 Jake Veith for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/6fJJbb>, 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. In the past, Brethren Middle School has not been identified with one of these label.

Brethren Middle School is a small school servicing the communities of Brethren, Wellston, Kaleva, and Irons, along with other small communities. It is a district covering over 350 square miles with a free and reduced lunch rate near 70%. When looking at challenges that the Middle School faces, math has been identified as a subject that needs more of a focus. In the 2015-16 school year, 19% (an increase from 12.5% from 2014-15) of Brethren's 7th graders scored at or above the proficiency mark on the MSTEP, and 25% (an increase from 18% from 2014-15) of 8th graders. To continue to improve the low scores, Brethren Middle School hired a new math teacher in 2015, adopted a new math series that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards, has purchased the math intervention and extension program, IXL, and has added an additional math credit for 7th and 8th grade students to provide intervention and support for their traditional math class.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL: Brethren MS follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum and places students into grade levels based on age and grade level performance.
2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Brethren MS completes all of the requirements of the School Improvement process, and has a vision for progress that extends 3-5 years.
3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL: Brethren MS does not have any specialized schools. The middle school consists of all students in 7th and 8th grade.
4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL: Brethren Middle School follows the requirements governed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and the Common Core State Curriculum. Those interested in viewing the requirements established by MDE and the Common Core can get more information by going to http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_65510---,00.html. Also, information can be found at <http://knd.manistee.org/>, or by visiting the main office.
5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS:

Percent Proficient M-STEP: 2014-15 and 2015-16 Data

2014-15	Math/ELA	Brethren	ISD	State
7th grade	Math	12.5	n/a	33.2
7th grade	ELA	43.7	n/a	49
8th grade	Math	18	n/a	32
8th grade	ELA	40.4	n/a	47.6

2015-16	Math/ELA	Brethren	ISD	State
7th grade	Math	19	21.6	35.2
7th grade	ELA	27	36.4	47
8th grade	Math	25	17.8	33
8th grade	ELA	50	35.5	48.9

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

In the Fall of 2015, Brethren Middle School had 77 students in 7th and 8th grade. 30% of families, which equals to be 23 students, had at least one parent or guardian attend parent-teacher conferences.

In the Fall of 2016, Brethren Middle School had 65 students in 7th and 8th grade. 31% of families, which equals to be 20 students, had at least one parent or guardian attend the Fall parent-teacher conferences.

Thank you to the teachers, staff, parents, and most importantly, the students for making Brethren Middle School a great place to learn and explore. When we all work together, our students can be very successful and we are truly a “Small School-Big Family.”

Sincerely,

Jake Veith
K-12 Principal
KND Schools