



February 1, 2017

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 the Vista Meadows Academy. 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 Darrlyn Harrison for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/tj4CuG> 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 has not been given one of these labels.

VMA was founded on the belief that all children can learn if provided a nurturing and challenging environment where expectations are high and support is bountiful. VMA is a highly specialized environment catering specifically to the needs of students, whom for any reasons have already disengaged from learning within a traditional school setting. To that end, we commit ourselves to the following core values:

- *Respect* – the dignity of all individuals including yourself.
- *Equality* – Provide a quality educational opportunity that is appropriate for each student regardless of capacity or background.
- *Teamwork* – Value our interdependent collaboration to best educate our students.
- *Ingenuity* – Foster creativity, imagination, and fresh ideas.
- *Cooperation* – Enable our students to learn social and life skills to be successful.
- *Integrity* – Promote ethical development through: life skills, positive community behavior and decision making and ethical judgments.

The following paragraphs will provide a summary of school process and/or programs important for academy stakeholder to be familiar with.

Enrollment

Academy enrollment is open to all individuals who reside in Michigan. Except for a foreign exchange student who is not a United States citizen, a public school academy shall not enroll a pupil who is not a Michigan resident. Open enrollment is from the beginning of April to the end of May. If applicable, the lottery selection process occurs at the end of the open enrollment period.

School Improvement Plan

A copy of the school improvement plan is available on the school's website or a hardcopy can be obtained in the Principal's office. Some of the initiatives that we are continuing to implement are:

- *Close Critical Reading*
- *Visual Thinking Strategies*
- *Summer Credit Recovery program*
- *After-school Tutoring Program*
- *Thinking Maps*

For more information on school improvement, please contact the School Leader. School Improvement meetings are held monthly. All are invited.

Specialized School

At this time, Vista Meadows Academy does not offer any specialized schools.

Curriculum

The school adopted Curriculum Crafter as its curriculum. In spring 2013-14, teachers modified their course syllabi to increase alignment with state standards and college-readiness benchmarks. All students will receive a copy of the syllabus for every course taken. Course syllabi will also be available on the school website. Every fall, parents are invited to Curriculum Night where the curriculum and course syllabi are shared and discussed. The Curriculum is available in the main office.

Conferences

VMA holds parent-teacher conferences 4 times per year, in between each quarterly card marking. In 2014-15 57% (62) of students were represented by parents at conferences. In 2015-16 58% (66) of students were represented at parent teacher conferences.

Student Achievement

To measure student achievement, VMA administers several assessments. Students are assessed using the following test(s):

- *NWEA MAP Testing* for monitoring.
- *M-STEP* for state norm referencing and accountability.
- *PSAT and SAT* for college-readiness. (New in the 2015-16 school year)

On average our 9th graders taking the PSAT scored a 343 in reading and a 345 in math. On average our 10th graders taking the PSAT scored a 360 in reading and a 350 in math. On average our 9th graders received a 688 composite score and our 10th graders a 710.

Additional Academic Opportunities

- Number/percent of student in dual enrollment:
0 for 2014-15 and 0 (0%) for 2015-16
- Number/percent of students in Advance Placement:
0 for 2014-15 and 0 (0%) for 2015-16
- Number/percent of students enrolled in college equivalent course:
0 for 2014-15 and 0 (0%) for 2015-16

The goal of the educational program at our school provides students with a solid foundation of skills, knowledge, and understanding that is necessary for their continued growth and success as students and contributing members of society.

Vista Meadows Academy will remain steadfast in its mission to “provide youth a highly quality educational environment.” We are excited about our partnership with the community and our students look forward to increased student achievement and future success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harrison
School Leader