



2016-17 School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter Wexford Montessori

March 13, 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 Wexford Montessori 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 Wexford's principal, Dr. Nancy Lubeski, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <https://goo.gl/Vijj4d>, or you may review a copy in the main office at Wexford Montessori Academy.

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, 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 identified as a Focus School.

Wexford Montessori Academy represents students from a variety of ethnicities as well as a range of socio-economic levels. We are currently working to accelerate student achievement and close persistent gaps between our subgroups. Our School Improvement Team and staff members have been examining data very closely to maximize achievement for all students. Our school improvement goals focus on increasing mathematical, reading and writing competencies. We are also working to improve attendance and create a more positive school culture.

Wexford Montessori Academy is currently a theme-based school of choice, which means that no children are "assigned" to attend. Parents must fill out an application

through the district pupil enrollment office to indicate interest and children are accepted based on "fit" with the program. While we prefer to have children begin at the pre-Kindergarten level and work their way through the program, many students have been successful starting at later grades.

Throughout the year, parents, teachers, and other staff members work together with the principal to revise our School Improvement Plan. We have been building school culture while improving student achievement in all academic areas. Specific goals address increasing reading comprehension, writing skills and mathematical abilities for all learners. Our 2015/2016 School Improvement Plan was submitted and approved. It is posted on our school website at:

<http://www.lansingschools.net/schools/academies/wexford-montessori/> and available for your review in Wexford's main office. Our 2016/2017 School Improvement Plan is currently in progress and will be posted on the above website when approved.

Wexford Montessori Academy is one of the theme-based academies in the Lansing School District. It is the only pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade school that is a Montessori school. Our teachers are highly qualified and the majority are Montessori certified. Enrollment has been steadily increasing at Wexford. We are at full capacity with over 392 students in attendance. We have been successful in attracting families from the greater Lansing area as well as neighboring districts.

Although Wexford does not follow the philosophies and materials of Dr. Maria Montessori, the instructional program focuses on the state curriculum and benchmarks. We have transitioned to the Common Core State Standards (http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_64848--,00.html). Our students are frequently assessed using classroom-based assessments as well as more standardized district and state assessments. These include the M-STEP, AIMSweb, WIDA and other norm-referenced assessments based on specific grade levels and age. The results of these tests provide valuable information so that we can continue to improve student instruction in purposeful ways. It is through these standardized assessments, formal/informal observations and collaboration with community organizations/ partners that we continue to strive to increase student achievement.

Last year, over 93% of parents attended fall and spring parent teacher conferences. This would not have been possible without the dedication of parents and teachers who scheduled make-up conferences before and after school to make sure that these important meetings were held, and the support of the principal and office staff who relieved teachers when necessary so that conferences could be held during the school day. We have a strong commitment to ensuring effective parent-teacher communication for the success of each student at Wexford, and expect this strong trend to continue.

All members of the Wexford Montessori Academy staff feel privileged and honored that you have chosen Wexford as the school for your child. We look forward to

working together to continue to provide the best education possible in a safe and nurturing environment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Lubeski, Principal