

Vulcan Middle School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

March 10, 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 Vulcan 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 Brad Grayvold, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site (<https://goo.gl/AGJIm6>) 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 identified as a Reward School.

For 2015-2016, Vulcan Middle School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English Language Arts and Mathematics. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

All students in the Norway-Vulcan School District attend Vulcan Middle School. Vulcan Middle School has a Title I Schoolwide program. The School Improvement Plan is in the fourth year of the 3-5 year plan. The aggregate student achievement results for the M-STEP test can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117_40135---,00.html. Vulcan Middle School's core curriculum can be accessed from the school's website and is aligned with the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE's) and the Common Core Standards. Vulcan Middle School had two Parent-Teacher Conferences during the 2015-2016 school year. The first conference had a 78% attendance rate and the second conference had a 52% attendance rate. These figures were consistent with the previous year.

Vulcan Middle School's students receive a strong foundation in academics through programs that have been proven to be successful and methods that allow students to explore and be creative. The school atmosphere is conducive to the nurturing and building of students' self-esteem, reinforcing appropriate behavior and manners, teaching life skills, and showing acceptance for diversity. We are proud of our students, staff, parents, and administrators in continuing the tradition of educational excellence at Norway-Vulcan Area Schools.

Sincerely,

Brad Grayvold
Principal