January 27, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-19 educational progress for Hemlock 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 Terry Keyser, middle school principal for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site http://bit.ly/2Ekk3UB, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child’s school.

For the 2018-19 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. 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.

KEY CHALLENGES:

5th grade:  We were above state average in 5th grade ELA for past two years, but declined last year versus the previous year. We were above state average in 5th grade math in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 and improved from one year to the next.

We were above state average in 6th grade ELA the past two years and improved one year to the next. We were below state average in 6th grade math in 2017-2018 and above state average in 2018-2019 and improved by 14.4% year to year.
We were above state average in 7th grade ELA in 2017-2018, but below state average in 2018-2019 and declined from one year to the next. We were above state average in 7th grade math in 2017-2018 and below state average in math in 2018-2019 and our performance decreased across those two years.

We were below state average in 8th grade ELA in 2017-2018 but well above state average on the PSAT in 2018-2019. We were above state average in math in 2017-2018 and in 2018-2019 on the PSAT.

KEY INITIATIVES TO ACCELERATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
To improve MSTEP scores in math and ELA, we have undertaken the following initiatives:

1. We have implemented MTSS for students in math across the grades.
2. We have continued to work with a curriculum consultant for math and ELA, identifying areas for improvement and ways to improve instruction.
3. We have begun a grades 6-8 Spanish program which will underscore language skills.
4. We have moved to an accelerated curriculum for math in grades 6-8 which culminates in all students having the opportunity to pass Algebra for HS credit in 8th grade.
5. We are in year two of the StudySync curriculum for 7th and 8th grade ELA, which is a College Board curriculum product designed to maximize reading and language scores on the SAT and PSAT.

State law requires that we also report additional information:
1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL--Students within our district matriculate from 4th grade at Ling Elementary to 5th grade Hemlock Middle School.
2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN--Our School Improvement Plan is aligned with the District Improvement Plan and is implemented--we are in year 3 of a 5 year plan.
3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL--none
4. A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE’S MODEL--Our core curriculum is available on our district website. It is implemented per Course Scope and Sequence documents that are also available on the district website for all core courses in our building. There are no known variances from the state model.
5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FROM OUR TWICE YEARLY NWEA SCORES (A NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TEST) show “expected” to “beyond expected” growth for 7th and 8th graders in math and “less than expected growth” for 5th and 6th graders in math. In reading,
NWEA testing shows “beyond expected” growth for 5th and 7th graders and “below expected” growth for 6th and 8th graders.

6. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES in 2019 are:

7. Fifth grade 50/86=58%
8. Sixth grade 32/75=43%
9. Seventh grade 25/82=30%
10. Eighth grade 38/89=43%

We have a very good school and school district—excellent certified staff and support staff, terrific school board and superintendent, and a very supportive community. We offer an excellent program, especially for a district our size. Our 1:1 Chromebook program is a huge advantage to our students—they are on the forefront of technology implementation and learning.

Sincerely,

Terry Keyser
Principal