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Bemis Junior High School

January 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2019-2020 education progress for Bemis junior High 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 the building principal for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <https://bit.ly/3aULPZ8> or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

State of Michigan Rankings

For the 2019-2020 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the 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 three or more underperforming student subgroups. 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.

School Improvement Plan

Bemis Junior High School Objectives:

- 85% of Eighth grade students will demonstrate student proficiency (pass rate) score in Science by 06/14/2020 as measured by the spring state assessment.
- 60% of All Students will demonstrate a proficiency across all domains in Reading by 06/14/2020 as measured by the spring state assessment.
- 48% of All Students will demonstrate a proficiency across all domains in Mathematics by 06/14/2020 as measured by the spring state assessment.
- 60% of All Students will demonstrate a proficiency across all domains in Writing by 06/14/2020 as measured by the spring state assessment.
- 85% of Eighth grade students will demonstrate student proficiency (pass rate) score in Social Studies by 06/14/2020 as measured by the spring state assessment.

Based upon the limited student achievement data collected throughout the 2019-2020 school year, Bemis Junior High School had a successful 2019-2020 school year. Students showed measurable growth in meeting the rigorous goals that staff set for student achievement, based on the School Improvement Plan and our school's objectives.

Bemis Junior High School data teams utilized a variety of assessments to analyze data including state and classroom assessments. Teachers meet on a regular basis with the principal to analyze data and collaborate in planning classroom lessons and intervention strategies.

Key Challenges

At Bemis Junior High School, staff will continue to address the academic areas previously identified as areas of student weakness referencing student achievement levels as measured by the State of Michigan's summative assessments. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic that started in March 2020 significantly impacted our ability to collect our annual end of the year data and finish the annual SIP. Strategies designed to address student proficiency achievement gaps in the areas of ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies will continue to be utilized as identified in our School Improvement Plan. Strategies used include but are not limited to the following: the use of Close and Critical Reading strategies to increase the frequency of higher-level thinking in classroom discussions. Direct explicit reading instruction was implemented. Spiraling Instruction and utilizing error analysis as a component to daily instruction and increasing cooperative learning activities in the mathematics classrooms.

English Language Arts interventions will include the use of Close and Critical Reading strategies to increase the frequency of higher-level thinking into classroom discussions. Small group reading instruction in addition to continuing to utilize Reading Apprenticeship Strategies in all content areas such as Guided Highlighting. Additionally, a Literacy class is offered in the 7th grade.

We will continue with our building-wide writing plan for both grades through the Allied Arts classes. We used grade specific, authentic, writing prompts and a common SAT Writing Rubric to score the writing samples. Our plan remains to continue the integration of the regular education curriculums and pacing guides to direct daily instruction for all students and to continue to provide co-taught class support for our students with disabilities.

We will continue to provide academic support for our students through our after-school enrichment program. STRIVE is an hour-long teacher led support class that meets twice weekly.

Student Enrollment

Students attend Bemis Junior High School based on the attendance area serviced within our school boundary. A number of Utica Community Schools' students in other attendance areas enroll in our school based on the district's open enrollment process and nonresident students may attend through the Schools of Choice program.

Specialty Programs

All students have the opportunity to have equitable access to Specialty Programs through an open and accessible process. Please see Polity 6275 posted on www.uticak12.org under the Board of Education tab for further information.

Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies

Gene L. Klida Utica Academy for International Studies is a four-year, full-immersion specialty program designed for all students to have the opportunity to earn the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma in addition to their state of Michigan high school diploma. Classes in 9th and 10th grade prepare students for the rigors of the IB classes that begin at the start of junior year, where all students are required to register for seven IB courses, complete the 4,000-word Extended Essay on a topic of their choice, and complete at least 150 hours of creativity, activity and service hours. This rigorous and internationally minded curriculum encourages students to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who value intercultural understanding and respect for others.

Utica Center for Math, Science and Technology

The Utica Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology is designed to bring advanced students with special talents and interests together with leading-edge technology. The Center utilizes an advanced curriculum for grades 9-12 which serves to inspire, challenge, and prepare students to pursue careers in mathematics and science. The Center follows the Utica tradition of providing the finest instruction and innovation.

Utica Center for Science and Industry

The Center for Science and Industry is a half day shared time program that provides 9th through 12th grade students with a variety of cutting-edge Career and Technology Education taught in an integrated manner. Along with core math and English classes, students select from electives, which will support one of three career strands: 1) Engineering and Technology, 2) Mechatronics, or 3) Multi-Media Technology. The CSI is project based and provides students with a wide array of experiences with professionals from business and industrial partners.

Stevenson Manufacturing, Automation, and Design Engineering Academy

The Stevenson Manufacturing, Automation, and Design Engineering (MADE) Academy blends rigorous academic content with relevant, real world applications by making use of strong business relationships and post-secondary partners in the field of Advanced Manufacturing. All course work has project-based learning with design thinking and problem solving at the core. This four-year program is open to Davis, Heritage, and Jeannette junior high school students scheduled to attend Stevenson High School.

Core Curriculum

All the schools in Utica Community Schools offer students a comprehensive and rigorous academic program that meets and exceeds all state and federal standards. Our schools follow the Michigan Academic Standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. These standards can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/mde under the Career and College Ready tab – Graduation Requirements and Standards – Standards. The district’s vision and mission statements can be accessed at www.uticak12.org.

Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance 2018-2019

Number: 1682

Percentage: 48%

Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance 2019-2020

Number: 1158

Percentage: 32%

Points of Pride

Our school continues to celebrate success in a number of keyways. Below are some of our Points of Pride:

At Bemis Junior High School our school earned honors as a Green School by the State of Michigan. Extra-curricular clubs include Student Council, STATIC, Builders, Forensics, Ecology, Wrestling and Wood Shop clubs, in addition to our athletics program. Bemis Junior High School has a long tradition of students and staff donating time and money to various charitable entities such as The Kiwanis Club food drive, Toys for Tots, St. Baldrick’s Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, the Lioness Club collection for disadvantaged families and the making of blankets, which are given to children confined to local hospitals. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school closing, our students were not able to participate in all of the community projects as in the past. Also, all students attend OK2SAY presentations to inform and prepare them for online activities and to promote competent Digital Citizenry.

We are pleased to provide this annual education report to our school community. The information that is contained in this report demonstrates our continued efforts to ensure every student achieves in our school. This report, however, only tells a small part of our success story. Every day our staff is continually finding new ways to enhance teaching and learning and engage our students in their education. We invite you to continue to be active participants in your child’s education by volunteering in the classrooms, serving on our parent groups, and working closely at home with your students on their assignments.

Bemis Junior High School is fortunate to be serviced by a community that cares so deeply about education. Thank you again for your continued support of our students and the Utica Community Schools.

Sincerely,

Thomas Yaw, Bemis Junior High School Principal