



School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

Monday, February 7, 2022

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2021-22 educational progress for Max Larsen Elementary 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 Principal Julie Farmer at 517-279-5960 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/38gWdJd>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2021-22 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2018-19. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2017-18. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2016-17. 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.

Max Larsen is a Young Fives to First Grade building, which does not directly receive scores from M-STEP or other uniform state assessments. However, the school does determine needs based on assessments from NWEA, Literacy Footprints, & locally developed assessments.

Due to the COVID pandemic, 2020-2021 was an unprecedented school year. Our students began the school year on a hybrid schedule, attending face to face two days per week and virtually the other 3 days per week. In addition to this very non-traditional schedule, we did experience several weeks of being fully remote. It wasn't until mid-February that students were able to return to school face to face four days per week. We also had some students who only attended school virtually. Throughout the year, we focused on student safety, wellness, technology and instruction.

Terry Ann Whelan
Superintendent/CFO

Julie Farmer
Max Larsen Principal

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In the area of mathematics, NWEA scores for the 2020-2021 school year reflect that 29% of Kindergarten students met projected growth from fall 2020 to winter 2021. During this same time, 40% of First Grade students met projected growth. In the area of reading, NWEA scores for the 2020-2021 school year reflect that 30% of Kindergarten students met projected growth from fall 2020 to winter 2021. During the same time, 39% of First Grade students met projected growth. We do believe that these numbers are lower than what would be expected if students had attended school face to face five days per week for the entire school year.

It is also important for us to pay specific attention to the needs of our English Language Learners. In the 2020-2021 school year, approximately 31% of Larsen students are EL students. These students have to navigate not only learning another language, but also the curriculum at the same time. We work hard to support students so that they can do both.

We are actively working to address school issues by thoroughly analyzing our data to determine which learning targets need immediate attention, ensuring that teachers have research-based strategies and teaching tools for instruction, and continue to use data to drive instruction. We are committed to providing the best individualized instruction for all students. Key initiatives in our school improvement plan to address our challenges are: providing structured time weekly for our professional learning communities, supporting job embedded professional development, developing best practices in teaching, and analyzing student data.

State law requires that we also report additional information. The following components meet this requirement:

Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

During the 2013-2014 school year, Coldwater Community Schools reconfigured two elementary buildings within the district. Since this time, Max Larsen Elementary has served all of the Young Fives, Kindergarten and First Grade students in the district. During the 2020-2021 school year, Larsen served 436 students.

School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan for Max Larsen Elementary is updated annually and is available for review in the main office or on the district's website at www.coldwaterschools.org. We continue to implement the Professional Learning Communities at Work framework to improve curriculum, instruction and assessment for all students through our core instruction, intervention and enrichments. We utilize district developed units to assist in our Tier 1 instruction. As a

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building initiative, we continue to unpack common core standards and have identified Cardinal Standards, which continues to drive our curriculum units. We provide students with a solid core curriculum as well as both Tier II and Tier III interventions for students who need additional support. Larsen teachers continue to utilize Advantage Math Recovery strategies for students below grade level while implementing District developed math units within the math block. In science, we use the Phenomenal Science curriculum in Kindergarten and First Grade, utilizing the Next Generation Science Standards. We continue to develop district Social Studies units that integrate non-fiction text and content area vocabulary to enhance learning about history and the world around us. Additionally, we continue to seek ways to improve behavior by supporting students and families.

Specialized Schools

Max Larsen Elementary School does not include any specialized schools, as defined by the Michigan Department of Education.

Core Curriculum

Larsen staff members continue to align and realign the curriculum, instructional strategies, and assessments with the Michigan state standards. At this time, curriculum in all core areas has been fully aligned to Michigan standards and all teachers are held accountable for teaching this curriculum. Curriculum information is available on our website at www.coldwaterschools.org.

Student Achievement Results on Nationally Normed Achievement Tests

Grade/Test	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2020-21
Kindergarten Reading	152.5	154.5	155.7	154.6	152.5
Kindergarten Reading Norm	158.1	158.1	158.1	158.1	158.1
Kindergarten Math	154.8	155.9	156.1	156.5	156.5
Kindergarten Math Norm	159.1	159.1	159.1	159.1	159.1
1st Reading	174.5	171.7	174.7	173.3	171
1st Reading Norm	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.5	177.5
1st Math	178.7	175	176.5	181.9	175.9
1st Math Norm	180.8	180.8	180.8	180.8	180.8

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In the spring of 2020, our country experienced a pandemic and we do not have NWEA data for the end of the 2019-20 school year. We use current NWEA data to provide core instruction and interventions and to identify areas of focus instructionally.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

For the 2017-18 school year, eighty-seven (87) percent of students were represented at fall parent-teacher conferences. In the 2018-19 school year, eighty (80) percent of students were represented at fall parent-teacher conferences. For the 2019-20 school year, eighty-six (86) percent of students were represented at fall parent-teacher conferences. This past year, seventy-six (76) percent of our students were represented at fall parent-teacher conferences.

Some Final Thoughts:

Max Larsen Elementary will continuously strive to ensure that student learning remains paramount in what we do as a building. We continue to learn and grow as we continue professional development and PLC discussions geared towards meeting that end. Max Larsen Elementary is invested in engaging our students academically, socially, and emotionally so we can support students in meeting their goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Julie A. Farmer'.

Julie Farmer, Principal
Max Larsen Elementary School

Terry Ann Whelan
Superintendent/CFO

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Max Larsen Principal

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