

Central Montcalm Elementary School

289 St. Clair Street, Sheridan MI 48884

989-831-2500

January 15, 2023

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 Central Montcalm 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 the elementary school principal, Amy Frias, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://central-montcalm.org> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. The website to view school data on student achievement, teacher quality, and accountability can be found at https://central-montcalm.org/downloads/district/aer_cme_combined_report.pdf.

State law requires that we also report additional information specific to Central Montcalm Elementary (CME). Generally, students enrolled at CME are residents of our local district. However, some students are choosing to enroll from other districts through the schools of choice process. The State of Michigan instituted a new school improvement process in the spring of 2021. CMPS determined through the District Continuous Improvement process to focus on the Tier 1 level of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (M.T.S.S.) for behavior, reading, and math to determine how to close the gaps created during the COVID-19 pandemic and also why scores are not increasing over time. Over the last 5 years CMPS has spent many hours working on curriculum, providing professional development, implemented reading screeners three times per year, and provided a Multi-Tiered System of Supports for students not meeting peer expected levels. CMPS purchased a new math curriculum in the summer of 2022 and is currently implementing it with fidelity. A new reading curriculum will be chosen by June of 2023 with an implementation date of fall of 2023.

At CME, a reading screener called Acadience is given to all students three times a year (fall, winter, spring). The Acadience assessment helps our team to identify students that are at risk for reading difficulties by looking at foundational skills. Our results, since seeing a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, look promising. The number of students in Kindergarten that came into school in September without the beginning school skills was significantly higher than in years past. Teachers have been focusing on foundational skills and the number of students not at risk for reading difficulties is declining and closing the gap to pre pandemic numbers. Our 1st grade scores were the second highest they have been, and our 2nd graders showed a slight decline. As a team we are problem solving and consistently looking at data to provide more focused instruction at the Tier 1 instructional level and opportunities for intensive instruction for those individuals considered "Below or Well Below Benchmark." These are the mid-year composite scores for students at or above benchmark:

Grade Level	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
K	57%	69%	67%	53%	54%	60%
1st	41%	37%	54%	36%	30%	47%
2nd	2nd grade students did not attend Central Montcalm Elementary until 2021-2022				53%	49%

Starting in the 2018-19 School Year, Central Montcalm Elementary School started to give all Kindergarten and 1st grade students a standardized math assessment, NWEA-Map, that measures growth and proficiency three times per academic year (fall, winter, spring). This screener provides staff with more information to be more intentional with math instruction and intervention. The mid-year RIT score is an estimation of a student's instructional level and shows progress, or academic growth, over time. This year's January Mean RIT scores were:

Grade Level	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
K	152	144.1	151.9	151.5	145.5
1st	168	169.6	163.7	165.8	167.3
2nd	2nd grade students did not attend Central Montcalm Elementary until 2021-2022			179.9	182.5

Starting in the fall of 2020-21 School Year, NWEA-Reading also began to be given to students three times a year (fall, winter, spring). NWEA-Reading is a computer adaptive assessment that assesses a larger percentage of the Michigan Standards. This assessment gives staff more information to be more intentional with whole and small group reading instruction. These are the mid-year Mean RIT scores of CME students:

Grade Level	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Kindergarten	148.9	151.5	140.5
First Grade	158.3	158.2	162.5
2nd Grade	No 2nd Grade at CME	177.8	174.1

(CME is a feeder school for Central Montcalm Upper Elementary. More school data can be found on CMUE Annual Report.)

Central Montcalm Elementary School reports participation for fall Parent/Teacher conferences as indicated in the chart below. Conferences are done in person, Zoom, or over the phone depending on parental preference.

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21*	2021-22	2022-23
93%	92%	94%	95%*	93%	96%

* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic conferences were done over the phone, Zoom, or in written form. No conferences were held in-person.

Central Montcalm Elementary is committed to excellence in preparing today's child for tomorrow's world. We are proud of all our students and staff for the unwavering

determination to teach and learn through the last two years of the pandemic. Due to the students we serve, not one student who attends CME has had a “traditional” school experience, and grew up wearing a mask and/or quarantining at a young age. We applaud staff success with providing in-person instruction with limited closures and continuing to strive to support student social emotional needs and academic growth. Over the next two years CMPS is focused on selecting, purchasing, and implementing a new research validated math and reading curriculum. These new curriculums, along with teacher professional development, will strengthen our Tier 1 instruction reducing the amount of students that will require Tier 2 and Tier 3 reading and math supports.

Central Montcalm Public Schools continues to practice Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This school year with so many students returning to in-person instruction we have noticed an increased need for behavior and mental health support within our school. Central Montcalm Elementary and Middle/High School are currently working alongside MIMTSS and Montcalm Care Network to integrate a social emotional and mental health framework into our PBIS System so students and families can get the help they may require while at school. We still continue to provide school based interventions in a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS).

We continually strive for improvement. Our school continues to review our Tier 1 instruction and Tier 2-3 needs through continued collaboration with MAISD building our MTSS model for reading. This process began with teacher training in the fall of 2016. The staff continues to focus on phonemic awareness and over the past year have made our blending routines more explicit and rigorous. Many staff members are completing the LETRS program through the Michigan Department of Education to continue to learn and grow as educators in the area of reading.

All students who are having difficulty with reading and are not performing at a peer expected level are being provided an IRP (Individual Reading Plan), which is in compliance with the Read by Grade Three Law. All students this year are participating in a reading WIN (What I Need) time 4 days a week for 30 minutes and will be utilizing a new computer adaptive program called Exact Path to help close individual student gaps starting in January of 2023.

With the ongoing support of our community, we will continue to have success at Central Montcalm Elementary School. We continue to strive for academic excellence and growth even during the most challenging of times.

Go CM Hornets!

Mrs. Amy L. Frias

Amy Frias, Principal
Central Montcalm Elementary School