



Thorne Elementary School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 18, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for Thorne 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 Vickie Patterson, Intermediate Principal, or Steve Chartier, Primary Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://westwood.tis.schooldesk.net/> or you may review a copy in our main office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. Thorne Elementary has not been given one of these labels.

At Thorne, we are constantly working to improve. We appreciate the unending support of parents, staff and our community in this effort. As we continue to integrate the Common Core State Standards into our units of study within mathematics, literacy and social studies, as well as the Next Generation Science Standards into our science units, we are committed to ensuring that all students are provided with the support and enrichment needed for them to learn and grow. We are pleased to be utilizing Rubicon Atlas as a platform for curriculum development, which will afford us opportunities to further implement the Workshop Model in all content areas. In an effort to increase student academics and close achievement gaps amongst our subgroups, we will continue to monitor student progress through the use of NWEA Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. Additionally, we are in our second year of implementing Response To Intervention (RTI)-- a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs in grades K-6th. During the 2014-15 school year, we will continue the implementation of the Everyday Math program, use of leveled readers in order to promote individualized instruction, teacher conferring techniques, student goal setting, inquiry-based learning, uninterrupted instructional blocks, and use of data in order to drive day-to-day and long-term planning. We are committed to working collaboratively to meet the diverse needs of all of our learners.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Thorne Elementary School is a part of the Westwood Community School District which is a school of choice district. Students from across Wayne County may register to attend Thorne Elementary School.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Thorne Elementary School continues to strive for improvement. Our staff is focused on providing academic excellence through a proactive learning environment that both challenges and inspires all students. Throughout the course of the 2013-14 school year, the School Improvement Team (SIT) met frequently in order to analyze student achievement data from multiple sources, and to establish improvement goals within all content areas. Moving forward, we will focus whole staff professional development in each core subject area, implement best practices strategies building wide, deepen our understanding and use of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and utilize common assessments in order to monitor our continuous progress in our goal areas. A link to the plan is located at <http://westwood.des.schooldesk.net>. You may also get at copy within our Main Offices of the school.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THORNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thorne Elementary School is a comprehensive elementary school that serves students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. We also serve Pre-Kindergarten students through a Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). Students receive instruction in all of the core curriculum areas as well as instruction in physical and health education, art and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Additionally, students receive core curriculum instruction via on and off-campus field trips.

4. HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

The core curriculum at Thorne Elementary School has been aligned with the Grade Level Content Expectations developed by the State of Michigan for Kindergarten through 6th grade, and is aligned to the Common Core State Standards adopted by the State of Michigan. If you would like to access a copy, please contact Vickie Pattern, Intermediate Principal, or Steve Chartier, Primary Principal.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

In the fall of 2014, Thorne Elementary School will be utilizing data from locally developed unit assessments as well as nationally normed achievement assessment data from the NWEA MAP Assessments. Our students saw improvements in reading and math as compared from the winter to the spring of 2014.

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

During the 2013-14 school year, 70 percent of parents attended a conference. This compares to 68 percent for the 2012-13 school year.

This Annual Education Report gives us insight into what our students need to be successful. The staff members at Thorne Elementary School work hard to enhance the educational programs provided to the students. Parents and community members can become involved in making Thorne Elementary School a better place by signing up to be a part of the School Improvement Team, joining our PTO (PATHS), attending parenting and student learning workshops, and volunteering in the school on a regular basis. Please contact the building principal(s) for more information.

Sincerely,

Vickie Patterson
Principal, Thorne Intermediate

Steve Chartier
Principal, Thorne Primary