

# FERNDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT (AER) COVER LETTER

August 23, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

I am pleased to present the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for Ferndale Middle School. This Annual Education Report addresses the reporting requirements identified by the United States Office of Education and the Michigan Department of Education.

Included in the report are Ferndale Middle School's points of pride, school improvement plan, parent involvement data, student assessment results, Adequate Yearly Progress data and status information, and teacher qualification data. The format of the report was provided by the Michigan Department of Education. For your convenience, the report may be viewed in its entirety or by selecting individual chapters. To review the report by chapter, click on the chapter heading you wish to review.

For 2010-2011, Ferndale Middle School made Adequate Yearly progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

The report is available for review electronically at [www.ferndaleschools.org/publicationsreports.html](http://www.ferndaleschools.org/publicationsreports.html) or you may contact, Jessica Stilger at (248) 586-8677 to obtain a printed copy.

If you have questions regarding this report contact me at (248) 541-1783.

Sincerely,

Dawn Warren, Principal



# FERNDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2011

DAWN WARREN, PRINCIPAL

FERNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Introduction

Ferndale Middle School serves all seventh and eighth grade students in the Ferndale Public Schools. We offer a sound state-supported curriculum taught by highly qualified instructors in each of their respective fields. In addition, we offer many extracurricular sporting and academic club activities. Our philosophy is that all students need to belong and be a contributing part of a bigger family or community. We strive to develop in our students a respect for themselves, their learning, their classmates, staff, school and community. Our socioeconomic and racial diversity helps to strengthen our students' experiences developing in them a deeper acceptance of all. Our staff works hard to nurture these relationships and provide learning activities to promote success in all of our students. Our building leadership recognizes that middle school age children need to develop the skills necessary to be autonomous decision makers. This learning often occurs through our behavior modification process that instructs as well as provides a foundation of personal skills that lead to stronger character development. Our goal is to produce life-long learners who become successful adults.

## Mission Statement

The mission of Ferndale Middle School is to challenge its school community to attain its highest levels of achievement while providing an environment that is safe, orderly and respectful of individual and cultural differences.

## Vision Statement

The vision of FMS is to be recognized as an academically excellent, socially equitable and artistically enriched middle school community.

## Points of Pride Academics

Ferndale Middle School has maintained an overall grade of "B" on our Annual State of Michigan Education Yes! Report Card and continues to make Adequate Yearly Progress annually.

Trimester scheduling continues to be successful at FMS, offering students additional opportunities to try extracurricular classes.

The Laurence Sophiea chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) has stringent standards. Students must achieve and maintain a 3.5 grade point average to be a NJHS member.

More than 50 students were inducted into the Laurence Sophiea chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. More than 91 students are members of NJHS; that means approximately 25 percent of FMS students are in NJHS.

NJHS members raised more than \$800 for charity and split the money between a local charity and a national charity. NJHS members also painted a local church as part of its community service commitment.

FMS has an advanced math program which reaches down to 6th grade. Eight of FMS 8th grade students enrolled in Honors Geometry at the high school. ALL 8 students main-

tained an "A" average for the entire school year.

40 students made the 4.0 honor roll and more than 250 students made the 3.0 or better honor roll at least once this year.

More than 200 seventh and eighth grade students were selected to be Student of the Trimester for their positive contributions as model or improved students.

Power Hour tutoring, an after-school teacher-directed free tutoring program, was offered three days per week.

Saturday school was a new offering during the school year; students were able to receive extra help for a six-week period.

New software, Success Maker, was installed and reading labs were created to aid FMS students in improving their reading comprehension skills.

Almost every FMS classroom is now equipped with a smart board.

Character Education and reading initiatives continue to be incorporated into homeroom.

## Fine & Performing Arts

FMS, as part of the district, was listed as one of the Best Community for Music Education in the country.

FMS students participated in the FHS Fall Play *Peter Pan* and in the FHS Spring Musical *Oklahoma!* directed by FMS/FHS Drama teacher Melissa Smith.

The FMS Middle School Dance class performed both semesters with more than 50 students under the direction of dance instructor, Jan Whinham.

During the All-City dance recital, a special dance was choreographed by FMS students.

The FMS choir, band and orchestra held concerts in both fall and spring. The FMS band, under the direction of Tim Burke, also performed during Memorial Day services for the city of Pleasant Ridge.

## **Athletics**

The boys' 8th grade basketball team posted a successful record.

The girls' softball team achieved unprecedented success during their season.

The girls' 7th grade basketball team posted a winning record.

The girls' 8th grade basketball team had an excellent record.

Both 7th and 8th grade boys' football teams were stellar in their field performances this year.

## **Trips**

FMS 7th graders continue to attend Hero's Camp at Camp Copneconic. More than 140 students attended the three-day, overnight camp which is based on the character education traits of the hero within us all. This was the largest number of students attending since FMS began offering the camp.

FMS 8th graders attended a field trip to Chicago where they visited the Chicago Institute of Arts, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Museum of Natural History, Navy Pier and Medieval Times. Students participated in fundraising activities to defer costs.

## **Staff**

Rick Piornack was selected FMS Teacher of the Year, for the 2nd time, and Wanda Riches was selected FMS Employee of the Year. Each of these employees showed outstanding dedication to our students and school.

The school store, under the direction of Anton Gjonaj, hired new employees and donated money so that all students would be able to attend the spring play.

100% of FMS staff became members of the PTSA. The PTSA also gave teacher grants to each staff member and celebrated staff at the end of the year with a lovely luncheon.

## **Clubs / Activities**

Ferndale Youth Assistance and the FMS STAND club sponsored two SAFE NIGHT events with a total combined participation of more than 600 students.

To celebrate their transition to high school, 8th grade students attended a special breakfast and an Evening Under the Stars event. Parents were invited to join in the fun by attending both events.

Ferndale Youth Assistance continues to offer our students opportunities for mentoring, counseling, attendance, tutoring and many other services.

## **Fundraisers**

More than \$3,000 was raised during the annual FMS jog-a-thon. The money raised was used to off-set the cost of 7th grade camp, the 8th grade Chicago trip and 8th grade transition activities. Monies collected also were used to help FMS students in need of scholarships for field trips or those needing help during the holidays.

## **Parent Involvement**

We have a supportive PTSA which endeavors to help FMS in all areas. They are a wonderful liaison between the school and parent community.

Parents may be part of our Open Classroom reading program where they read and lead student discussion groups on a variety of books.

All parents are welcome to attend after-school extracurricular, sports, and music activities.

Parents are welcome to become part of our School Improvement Steering Committee.

Middle School parents are encouraged to help with the high school plays.

Parents are encouraged to share information about their careers or other appropriate subject area with our students.

Parents are encouraged to chaperone field trips.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend Student of the Month breakfast celebrations.

Parents are welcome to visit classrooms.

Parents are able to maintain contact and view student progress through Zangle Connect.

## **Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance**

FMS held two parent-teacher conferences to coincide with the trimester schedule. Attendance was very heavy during the first conference and well-attended for the second conference. In lieu of a third conference, FMS conducted a Spring open house and ice-cream social which was attended by more than 200 people.

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## **Daily Attendance Rate**

Ferndale Middle School has a daily attendance rate of 98%.

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## School Improvement Plan

The following data was used to lead the School Improvement Team (SIP) to select our building's improvement objectives in the core academic curriculum: content standards and GLCEs from Oakland Schools, FMS subject area curriculum documents, MEAP released items, IOWA reading scores and the CMP Mathematics plan.

The SIP team represents a variety of stakeholders. Under the leadership of Derek Adams, department heads, teachers, parents and school administrators meet to discuss curriculum and assessment. At the end of the year, the team meets for two days to assess the year. At the beginning of the 2011-12 school year, the team will meet again for two days to plan the upcoming year.

Based on the MEAP data, three goals continue to be our focus. They are:

1. Improve reading proficiency
2. Increase student achievement in mathematics
3. Improve writing proficiency

To achieve the goals, lab classes continued on the FMS schedule for math and language arts. These classes offered support for selected students.

Teachers met monthly in cross-curricular and vertical alignment teams to increase student achievement and scheduled department meetings provided an opportunity for discussion and decision making regarding curriculum and instruction.

Discussion of common assessment results, common vocabulary, questioning techniques and common rubrics at department meetings ensured that FMS student goals were being met.

FMS continues its designation as a school wide Title One location. We have received State of Michigan approval as a school wide Title One building.

Teams are using MEAP, quarterly exams and ACT-Plan results to develop common assessments, tests and classroom lesson plans. This evaluation and re-evaluation process greatly assists in supporting our student goals in meeting state standards in the areas of math and language arts.

FMS has developed an accelerated mathematics program. Using placement tests, 6th grade students may participate in 7th grade math classes and 7th grade math students may take Algebra I.

## Teacher Quality Data

One hundred percent of the staff is highly qualified according to the No Child Left Behind Act for the subjects they teach. Professional development is emphasized for all our staff.

## Achievement Data

We were very pleased to note gains in mathematics after a slight drop last year. The school experienced a drop in reading across both grade levels (as well as across state levels). As a result, the staff has developed a plan to address content standards not met this year. FMS made AYP according to the Michigan Department of Education and achieved a composite grade of "B."

To view the Ferndale Middle School achievement data for 2010-2011, visit [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org) and search Ferndale Ferndale Middle School in the Dashboard, or [click here](#) for the complete report.