

Merritt Academy Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 15, 2010,

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2009-2010 educational progress for Merritt Academy. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Nate Seiferlein for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.merritt-academy.org or you may review a copy from the principal's office at your child's school.

For 2009-2010, Merritt Academy 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.

State law requires that we also report additional information, which is reported below.

Admission into Merritt Academy

Parents interested in enrolling their child at Merritt Academy first complete an application during the two-week open enrollment period. If there are enough openings at the grade levels, students are then accepted at the end of the open enrollment period. If there are not enough openings students that have a sibling currently attending the school are given preference. All other applicants are placed into a lottery. Those students not selected during the lottery process are placed at the beginning of the waiting list. Any application after the two week open enrollment is either accepted, if there are openings, or placed on a waiting list. Parents are notified as soon as there is an opening.

THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The School Improvement team has developed goals for all four core subject areas which are listed below. Measurement will be based on MEAP results for students in grades 3-9, Michigan Merit Exam (MME) for Grade 11, Scantron results for students in grades 2-8 and Terra Nova results for students in first grade.

Goal: Mathematics: All students will be proficient in mathematics.

Measurable Objective Statement: The number of at-risk students scoring proficiently on the MEAP math test will increase by 5% by June, 2011.

Goal: Reading: All students will be proficient in reading.

Measurable Objective Statement: The number of at-risk students scoring proficiently on the Reading MEAP will increase by 5% by June.

Goal: Science: All students will be proficient in Science.

Measurable Objective Statement: The percentage of at-risk students scoring proficiently on the MEAP will increase by 5% by June 2011.

Goal: Social Studies: All students will be proficient in Social Studies.

Measurable Objective Statement: The percentage of at-risk students scoring proficiently on the MEAP will increase by 5% by June 2011.

Characteristics of Merritt Academy

The administration, faculty, and staff endeavor to apply the following principles in carrying out their responsibilities of leading students to develop positive character in each of these areas:

To Maintain A High Academic Standard

- Through a thorough mastery of the skills of communication and other academic disciplines so that the students will be prepared to acquire further knowledge.
- Through the desire to work and to acquire knowledge at maximum ability.
- Through the ability to discern fact from fiction.

To Instill Morals

- Through the development of an appreciation for the values accrued from our past cultural heritage.
- Through encouragement of the desire to choose right over wrong and to hold to one's convictions under pressure.

To Generate Patriotism

- Through the teaching of loyalty to our country and a recognition of the actions which undermine our country's foundation.
- Through development of a desire to become involved citizens of this nation.

- Through the teaching of Core Democratic Values.

To Live A Disciplined Life

- Through the exercising of self-restraint and consideration of others.
- Through cooperation and consideration for administrators, staff, parents, and peers.

This is the foundation and model of Merritt Academy, which makes the school stand out from others in the surrounding area.

Core Curriculum

Merritt Academy utilizes the following process to develop and align its curriculum to ensure that all Michigan Standards and Benchmarks are met.

- Research appropriate development levels for academic skills
- Research Michigan standards and benchmarks
- Research other state and school curriculum frameworks
- Consideration of MEAP and other performance indicators including MLPP
- Consider modes of instruction, i.e. Montessori, Experiential, Multiple Intelligences, Small group and large group
- Consider assessments
- Work in reverse (12th grade to kindergarten) to set exit skill criteria for each grade level based on research finding
- Integration of Career Pathways into core curriculum
- Review forward K to 12th grade and backward for ease transition
- Realign exit skills to Michigan standards and benchmarks
- Receive approval from authorizer, Saginaw Valley State University
- Choose necessary materials

Merritt uses multiple modes of instruction to ensure all students have the same opportunity to learn the core curriculum, including a strong focus on Multiple Intelligences, individual developmental readiness, and small group instruction.

During the 2004-05 school year, a Health program was added for the seventh grade. All units were developed based on the Michigan Model for Health Education.

Parents can access a copy of the core curriculum in the high school school office.

Achievement Tests

Merritt Academy conducted Terra Nova assessments in first grade in the spring of 2010. This assessment is designed to estimate a student's achievement level relative to grade level of their peers. Results by subject are presented in this report and compare scores of students from the spring of 2009 to the spring of 2010.

First Grade Terra Nova

2008-09	Math	Lang. Arts	Science	Soc. Stud.
All Students	64%	61%	79%	64%
At Risk Students	44%	44%	56%	67%
2009-10				
All Students	70%	83%	70%	57%
At Risk Students	<10	<10	<10	<10

Merritt Academy conducted Performance Series assessments in second through eighth grades. This assessment is designed to estimate a student's achievement level and growth relative to grade level of their peers. Results by subject and grade are presented in this report and compare scores of students from the spring of 2009 to the spring of 2010.

Performance Series Assessment

	Reading	Math
Second Grade 2009	86%	70%
Second Grade 2010	89%	89%
Third Grade 2009	88%	76%
Third Grade 2010	95%	95%
Fourth Grade 2009	77%	81%
Fourth Grade 2010	85%	79%
Fifth Grade 2009	78%	89%
Fifth Grade 2010	87%	97%
Sixth Grade 2009	81%	89%
Sixth Grade 2010	89%	89%
Seventh Grade 2009	67%	90%

Seventh Grade 2010	97%	84%
Eighth Grade 2009	46%	83%
Eighth Grade 2010	90%	83%

Students Represented by Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences

In 2009-10 Merritt school administration again saw a high rate of attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences, with 98% (386) parents attending at least one conference. This compares to 99% of parents attending conferences during the 2008-09 school year.

The Administrators and staff of Merritt Academy encourage all parents and community members to review the information provided in this cover letter and the attached data report. Administrators, staff and students are encouraged by the positive results contained within and look forward to continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Nate Seiferlein
Principal