**School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

4/2/19

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2017-18 educational progress for the Three Lakes Academy. 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 Rachel Bommarito for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site http://bit.ly/2uECD4O, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child’s school.

For the 2017-18 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

\* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.

ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school.

Our school did not receive a label from the state this year.

Key challenges for Three Lakes Academy include living in a rural area with a lack of resources. Children spend a lot of time on the bus since the distance between homes and school is far. Being a small charter school, our budget is no as large as neighboring districts. Many children are raised by family other than their parents. Three Lakes Academy is a MI Excel Blueprint school. We work hard to create a solid student support network that includes free breakfast, lunch, and snacks for all students. We utilize PBIS to ensure behavior expectations are consistent schoolwide. Staff is trained in Whole Child to help meet all needs of our students, not just academic.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Students are assigned to Three Lakes Academy through Open Enrollment, which is held during the first two weeks of April. At the conclusion of this open enrollment period, if requests exceed the number of spaces available for students, a lottery will be held at the William Gowan Library located at Three Lakes Academy. At the time of the lottery the number of vacancies available at each grade level will be announced. Siblings of students already enrolled in classes not needing a lottery are given preference and automatically admitted. After siblings are admitted, students will be admitted as their names are drawn. The maximum class size for grades 3-7 will be twenty-five (25) students. Grades K, 1 & 2 will be limited to twenty (20) students. Names will continue to be drawn after all spaces are filled in order to establish a waiting list. Students will be placed on that list in the order in which their names are drawn.

The Academy shall accept applications all year. If openings occur during the academic year, students shall be enrolled according to the waiting list. If openings do not exist, applicants shall be placed on the official waiting list. If there is no waiting list, students shall be admitted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

1. Three Lakes Academy’s School Improvement Plan has a focus on increasing student achievement in all core subjects and engaging families in school activities. Some strategies we are using to achieve these goals are the Joyce Epstein Model for Parent Involvement and extensive work around creating a framework for curriculum and instruction that all staff follows.
2. Three Lakes Academy is a public charter in the rural Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The school is nestled between lakes and built next to an orchard, and staff believes in utilizing the environment to bring learning to life.
3. Core curriculum can be accessed on our school website [www.threelakesacademy.com](http://www.threelakesacademy.com). Research-based instructional programs include Reading and Writing Workshop, Battle Creek Science, C3 Framework for Social Studies, and Everyday Mathematics. Teachers use these programs in conjunction with guidance documents containing teacher and student indicators of high-quality instruction.
4. In all subjects on state tests during the 2017-18 school year, 27% of students were proficient. On the NWEA test, 50% of students met their projected growth in reading and math.
5. Parent/Teacher conference attendance is a strong point of ours. Of the 116 students, 101 parents attended the last conferences. This represents 87% of our population.

Our mission at Three Lakes Academy is to prepare students to be successful no matter where they go when they leave here. By building

Sincerely,

Rachel Bommarito