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

2/14/23

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 22-23 educational progress for 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 website <https://bit.ly/3XAjiNl> or you may review a copy in the main office at the school.

For the 2022-23 school year, schools were identified based on previous years’ performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2018-19. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2017-18. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2016-17. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Three Lakes Academy has not been given a label.

Some key challenges faced this year were discovering just how severe the pandemic has impacted students both academically and mentally. Recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers has continued to be a problem for us. Specials teachers and substitute teachers moved into the classroom positions, meaning the administrator frequently had to sub. Instructional leadership is difficult due to time constraints for everyone. Internet access has been a major issue this year. Mental health needs of students continue to be greater than the resources available in our community, but we did increase our school social work time to help in that area. Three Lakes Academy staff has worked very diligently to meet each child where he or she is and bridge the gap between grade level standards and content missed from the past few years.

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. We have continued our work around instruction and parent involvement, and plan to send home learning activities that are easy for our families to access.
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 21-22 school year, the MSTEP Proficiency Index was 61.57 and the growth index was 88.37. On the NWEA test, 57% of students met their projected growth in reading and math.
5. Parent/Teacher conference attendance is a strong point of ours. Our most recent conferences had 88% of parents in attendance.

Our mission at Three Lakes Academy is to prepare students to be successful no matter where they go when they leave here. Schooling during a pandemic has proven to be our greatest challenge yet, but we are confident that meeting each child where he or she is and continuing to work as a team will help us reach our destination.

Sincerely,

Rachel Bommarito

