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Milan Middle School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

December 13, 2019

Dear Families and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-19 educational progress for Milan Middle 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 Dr. Shanna Spickard for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/2LMNp1W>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2018-19 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 a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. 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.

Our school HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ONE OF THESE LABELS.

Milan Middle School has been using data to drive instruction and for the last five years, we have been working to close the gap with many of our subgroups. We are making gains with this goal with our gender group and continuing to work on our socioeconomic, special education, and minority subgroups. We work on these gaps through regular progress monitoring of local data and identifying targeted students with both local and normative data. Each month teachers are given time and support to make these comparisons and use the data to drive their instruction.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Students in grades 6-8 are assigned to Milan Middle School. Milan Area Schools is a School of Choice district. MMS has approximately 453 students this year 477 students last year. We have 30 certified staff and 21 support staff members.
2. While school improvement is a continuous process, MMS uses Cognia and ASSIST to measure and guide that process. We review stakeholder perception feedback, classroom observations, and internal reviews. Our focus this year is on the POWER 5, which are five powerful instructional practices: Powerful Reading, Thinking, Writing, Conversations, and Goal Setting. In addition, students are taught the POWER 7, which are seven pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Responsibility, Respect, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship, and Safety.
3. Milan Middle School contains three grades and each grade has core, required classes. In 6th grade students take ELA, History, Science, Math, Health, and a music experience (such as band, choir, or general music); in 7th grade, they take same five classes plus Spanish; and in 8th grade, students are required to take ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish. Elective classes are PE, Art, Journalism, Drama, CTIM, STEAM, and Choir or Band. All classes are graded using Standards-Based Grading.
4. Core curriculum can be accessed through teacher websites and their standards-based grading rubrics. Teachers share weekly and bimonthly newsletters as well as online planners with links to resources and information. These are also posted on teacher and grade-level websites. Teachers also have curriculum mapping outlining pacing and standards being taught. We use CCSS and other state and national standards.
5. In addition to state reporting, MMS uses NWEA to assess reading, math, science, and language usage. All map scores and reports are shared with parents 2 to 3 times a year. All state testing and reports are located at <https://www.mischooldata.org/> through the parent dashboard.
6. Our fall parent-teacher conferences are open and first come basis and done arena style. In 2018, we had 55% of our parents in attendance (6th, 64%; 7th, 58%, and 8th, 43%). This year, our conferences were held the week of Thanksgiving, and were down about 10% with 45% in attendance (6th, 60%, 7th, 39%, and 8th, 38%).

Milan Middle School supports character education through the Power 7 and student leadership through student government, peer mediation and mentors, and NJHS. We share our efforts through a #PowerUpMMS theme which encompassed Power Standards, Power Teaching Math, EmPOWER writing, the Power 5 instructional practices, and student emPOWERment. We also incorporate CHAMPS classroom management protocols, technology integration, and developed handbooks for staff, student code of conduct, and standards-based grading. MMS had many successes and continues to be a great place to learn and work.

Sincerely,
Shanna Spickard
Principal – Milan Middle School