

August 19, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for the Washington Middle School. 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 Michael Steber, WMS Principal or Mary Niebuhr, our state and federal programs specialist for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.clkschools.org or you may review a copy at the WMS office.

For 2010-2011, WMS 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.

New students enrolling at WMS are asked to register immediately. Those arriving in the summer should register as soon as possible to assure appropriate placement. Parents must present a state-certified birth certificate, immunization verification and proof of residency upon enrollment.

In order to attend school the following doses are required:

- 4 doses of DTP (the 4th dose must be given after 4th birthday)
- 3 doses of OPV or IPV (if dose 3 is given after 4th birthday; otherwise 4 doses)
- 2 doses of MMR
- 2 doses of Varicella
- 3 doses of HepB
- 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine for children 11-18 years of age
- 1 dose of Tdap if 5 years have passed since last dose of DTaP, Td or DT.

The school district is required to exclude students who do not comply with the state's immunization laws. Parents objecting to mandatory immunizations must sign an Immunization Waiver. This statement will be kept by the school as part of the child's immunization record.

Custodial parents are encouraged to inform school officials of any concerns or situations related to their child. Release of a child to a non-custodial parent can be prohibited only when an official court document is on file in the WMS office stating the child may not be released to the non-custodial parent. Unless otherwise stated in official documents, non-custodial parents have the right to attend IEP's and parent-teacher conferences and to receive report cards, newsletters, etc. Please be sure to request such information at the beginning of the school year and verify your mailing addresses.

The district **School Improvement** Plan is developed by school and community members and is reviewed and communicated to the public annually. This plan serves as an overview and a compilation of our specific building plans. Based on our district strategic plan and on-going analysis of individual school and district data, the district plan expresses the philosophy and fundamental goals of our entire organization. The district School Improvement Plan is submitted to the Michigan Department of Education each year by June 30th. Copies of this district plan are available at the CLK District Office. Building goals and improvement efforts are fully aligned with the district plan and are submitted to the Michigan Department of Education each year by September 1st. Copies of the Washington Middle School Improvement Plan are available through the WMS office.

Curriculum is at the heart of every school district and CLK is no exception. Students in our district receive a rich and diverse academic program. We promote a balanced education that meets our students' intellectual, social and personal needs and we strive to prepare our students to be thoughtful, active citizens who can function productively in a multi-cultural, rapidly changing, interdependent world. Creating and modifying curriculum is a challenge due to the ever-changing expectations for student learning. We continue to strive for "complete" curriculum alignment: external alignment with our Michigan state standards and benchmarks and internal alignment by subject and grade level and by matching instructional activities and assessments accurately to learner objectives. Our goal is to assist in creating an environment where all students experience and receive powerful teaching and learning every single day.

Curriculum guides for the core subject areas are available for review at any time through the appropriate classroom teacher, the WMS office or the district curriculum director.

Parent Involvement is a priority here at CLK. Research shows that academic achievement improves significantly when parents are involved in school and at home. Families are invited to be involved in the following ways:

- Attend parent/teacher/child conferences
- Assist your child with schoolwork and learning activities at home
- Participate in school and district Title 1 parent events
- Join your school's Title 1 program planning team
- Volunteer in your child's school or during school events
- Engage your child in conversations about what he/she is learning
- Communicate with your child's teacher and school staff when you have questions

In the 2010-11 school year 71% of WMS families were represented at our parent-teacher conferences. We strive to make that number 100% in the coming year!

The process that is used for assigning students at WMS is strictly by grade level. All middle school children are in grades 6, 7 and 8.

The Comprehensive Needs Assessments were completed in the 2010-2011 school year by the entire staff and our goals and objectives are outlined for the 2011-2012 school year are set. This process is reviewed every year by our building and then by our district. Committees are developed to include all stake holders.

Our District operates an alternative high school developed for grades 9 – 12 who are at risk of not graduating.

The CLK Curriculum is available at www.clkschools.org on our home page. The curriculum director, along with the principal have worked with each discipline to make sure we are aligned with the Michigan Benchmark and standards. We are able to ensure that we are teaching the standards approved through classroom observations.

Currently, we do not use any national achievement tests. All assessments are classroom based and we currently use the Scholastic Reading Inventory for reading comprehension.

The Washington Middle School is a "true" middle school that utilized middle school best practices to meet the needs of ALL our students. Through inclusion, Team planning, an advisory program and a wide variety of enrichment classes we believe that we off the best education possible at a critical age of development.

Over the past few years we have received an "A" on the Education Yes report card which rates our school and how well we are achieving academically. Although we have traditionally done well, we continuously strive to improve our offerings every year. Our staff is committed to our students and we look forward to an exciting school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Steber", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael A. Steber

Principal