

# HOUGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for Houghton 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 Julie Filpus for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/wTH7bq> , or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 school year, schools were identified using new 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. 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.

The staff at Houghton Middle School are in their 5<sup>th</sup> year of implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) to help address the achievement, achievement gaps and to improve overall school culture. We have successfully rolled out Tier I behavior and reading expectations and are using data to drive our decisions. We have added courses to help students who struggle with reading, math computation, and organization. Over the course of the school year, we conduct three celebrations with our students for showing GRIT.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. **Pupil Assignment:** At Houghton Middle School, pupils are assigned to various classes electronically by "PowerSchool". This system randomly places students in

**JULIE FILPUS**  
*Principal*

available classes. If special needs arise, individuals may be placed manually depending on the circumstances.

2. **3-5 Year School Improvement Plan** – The Mission of Houghton Middle School is to assist students in reaching their full potential through the teaching of Goals, Respect, Integrity, and Teamwork. Houghton Middle school maintains accreditation through AdvancEd. A school improvement team meets at least six times per year to assess the vision and direction of the district. The team also annually completes the School Improvement Plan. A copy of the plan is available in the middle school office. The staff at HMS is currently in its fourth year of implementing and operating with a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). The system is built on Goals, Respect, Integrity and Teamwork (GRIT).
3. **Specialized Schools** - There are no specialized schools.
4. **Core Curriculum** –When the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as the new standards for K-12 in Mathematics and English Language Arts, our District began a transition to implementing these standards into the curriculum. These standards can be found at <http://www.corestandards.org>. We are currently using the Grade Level Content expectations for Social Studies, [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSGLCE\\_218368\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSGLCE_218368_7.pdf) The Science and Social Standards are still in the development stages.
5. **Student Achievement Results** – Student achievement results can be found at <https://www.mischooldata.org/DistrictSchoolProfiles/AssessmentResults/AssessmentResultsNew/AssessmentGradesMstep.aspx>
6. **Parent Teacher Conferences** – In the spring of 2018, at the time of parent teacher conferences, 33% of 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents, 28% of 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents and 33% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents attended conferences.

In closing, I feel the need to remark on the incredible amount of changes taking place in the public school systems. One thing I never want to see change is how much our teacher and staff cares about the education of our youth. The tools and methods may change, but a smile and encouragement go a long way no matter what the tools may be.

Sincerely,

Julie Filpus

**JULIE FILPUS**  
*Principal*