



SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY

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August 2013

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-2013

Sycamore Elementary
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Amy Mielke, Principal

Mission Statement

**Sycamore Elementary is
an "A" Team:
Always Respectful
Always Responsible
Always Safe
Always Excited About Learning**

Learning Locally, Competing Globally

August 19, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2012-2013 educational progress for Sycamore Elementary 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 Amy Mielke for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.hpsvikings.org or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Sycamore Elementary became part of the MiBLSi project several years ago. MiBLSi stands for "Michigan's Behavior and Literacy Support Initiative." The purpose is to provide positive behavior support for teachers and students while focusing on improving literacy skills. Literacy encompasses fluency, comprehension, writing, and speaking. During the 2012-2013 school year, the literacy focus was to improve comprehension, fluency, and writing skills.

All grade levels developed grade specific writing plans that included scoring rubrics, writing prompts, and student portfolios. All teachers use the 6 + 1 writer's framework to direct instruction.

All teachers also use a framework called "Daily 5" for Language Arts instruction. The students work on 5 specific skills every day to improve their literacy. Students rotate through activities while the teacher meets with individuals and small groups. We are seeing very positive results with this program through DIBELS Next, SRI, and Discovery Assessments.

Read to self (silent reading)

Read to someone (oral reading)

Word work (spelling and other related activities)

Writing

Listening

In the areas of math and Language Arts, we began using a program called Discovery Education for assessment and skill reinforcement. We now use this along with DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) to track student progress 3 times a year and plan instruction based on these assessments.

State law requires that we also report the following information about Sycamore Elementary:

- The process the district uses for assigning pupils to elementary schools is based, primarily, on their primary residence and, secondarily, on their child care location.
- We are presently in our first year of our school improvement process. Goals for comprehension, problem solving, and writing have been developed based on student data.
- Sycamore Elementary is currently in the process of analyzing and implementing the National Common Core Standards in all curricular areas. Copies of the Core Curriculum is available on line at <http://www.corestandards.org/>
- Parent Teacher Conferences are held during the first and third trimesters. Additional conferences or ICT meetings are held whenever a student is not making adequate progress. Approximately 97% of Sycamore Elementary parents attend these conferences on a consistent basis.

We are proud of our programs at Sycamore Elementary and are committed to continuous improvement based on research based professional decisions, data analysis, and increased rigor. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff, and our community in this effort. Thank you for your interest in Sycamore Elementary.

Sincerely,

Amy Mielke, Principal
Sycamore Elementary
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Points of Pride

- Sycamore Elementary was completely renovated in 2009. This included the addition of four new classrooms, a new Art room, Music room, and a full size gym with bleacher seating. New offices and new technology was also created.
- Every classroom has state of the art technology: SMART boards, overhead mounted projectors connected to the internet, voice enhancement systems, and document cameras. The entire building is wireless. There are 130 netbooks throughout the building for students use.
- Sycamore Elementary offers a full day/every day Young Fives and Kindergarten.
- Sycamore focuses on a positive behavior support system (The "A" Team) and "A" Team tickets are given out to students. Weekly drawings take place to recognize outstanding behavior and citizenship. During the 2012-2013 school year, every student was recognized at least once!
- Our students demonstrate caring and compassion about the needs of others by participating in Jump Rope for Heart and contributing to Hats Off to Cancer. A penny war was also held to raise money for two families in our district that are experiencing devastating situations.
- Our school partners with a local church to foster a very active mentoring program called Kids H.O.P.E.
- Sycamore Elementary uses the RTI (Response to Intervention) model to focus on meeting the needs of every child and has created a push-in program with our resource room to meet the needs of our at-risk students.
- Sycamore Elementary consistently boasts of MEAP scores above the state and county averages.
- Sycamore Elementary made AYP for the 2012-13 school year and consistently does each year.
- Sycamore Elementary was identified as a "Reward School" for the second year in a row. Reward schools are in the top 5% of the State of Michigan Top-to-Bottom ranking. Based on the Top-to-Bottom ranking methodology, which includes data from achievement, improvement, and achievement gap standardized scores.

School Improvement/Strategic Planning Goals

Our building's GOALS (1 yr.) (WHAT)	Our building's ACTIONS (HOW)
Improve comprehension, fluency, and writing skills at all grade levels.	Teach effective mini-lessons and conference with individuals to meet their needs. Increase writer's workshop, incorporate MAISA writing units, plan collaboratively, and use data to drive instruction.
Increase math skills for all students on state and district assessments.	Align CCSS with our Everyday Math curriculum, pilot Discovery Education assessments in grades K—5, and provide math resources to parents for additional support.
Improve science MEAP scores at 5th grade.	Work with AAESA to assess instructional fidelity and alignment to CCSS and use Discovery Education as a supplement to instruction.

School Improvement Plan Summary—AYP Report

At Sycamore Elementary School, focus has been on the areas of math, Language Arts, and Science. This year, there was a heavy concentration on implementing Discovery Education assessments. In the content area of reading, Sycamore elementary staff has fully implemented a Daily Five literacy framework. Teachers continued to use the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing and began using the Oakland County MAISA writing units. Next year, Sycamore Elementary will target problem solving, comprehension, and writing across the curriculum.

This year, there was a heavy concentration on increasing basic math facts across the grade levels. Teachers focused on implementing the curriculum with fidelity and used intervention assistance to close learning gaps for struggling students.

In the area of reading, Sycamore Elementary staff has implemented a Daily Five literacy framework. All teachers use the framework to secure students individual growth goals in fluency and comprehension. Staff use a SRI program three times a year to track student progress in comprehension.

Writing rubrics have been established at each grade level to assist in determining growth for students.

Resources have been purchased to supplement our science curriculum. These resources included additional informational texts for students to read at multiple reading levels.

Based on the accomplishments and data collected during the 2012-2013 school year, Sycamore Elementary will focus on being more intentional in the areas of problem solving, comprehension, and writing. The math Common Core state standards are being implemented and imbedded within our current curriculum. Our Daily 5 language arts frameworks continues to allow teachers to work with individuals on each goal specifically to their needs. Finally, there will be a continued focus on implementing the Oakland County MAISA writing units that closely align with the new CCSS.

Parent Involvement

- HOPE (Hopkins Organization of Parents and Educators) meets monthly. They hold fundraisers to support school programs and organize many activities such as the walk-a-thon, Christmas shopping opportunities, assemblies, and assist with field day. A Sycamore H.O.P.E. facebook page has been designed to reach parents and share information with them.
- Parents volunteer as tutors, classroom aides, and chaperone field trips.
- Parents and teachers communicate regularly through newsletters, phone calls, emails, and the school website.
- All parents can access their child's grades and progress reports through the Parent Portal, available through the district website.
- All parents sign a "Parent Compact" agreeing to be part of a 3-way team with their child and his/her teacher, and to be an active participant in the education of their child.

Parent Teacher Conferences

	# Attending	
	Fall	Spring
2012-13	99%	96%
2011-12	99%	93%
2010-11	98%	92%

DIBELS Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

DIBELS 2012-2013			
	Low Risk	Some Risk	At Risk
Kindergarten	52%	20%	28%
First grade	50%	18%	32%
Second grade	59%	23%	18%
Third grade	67%	10%	23%
Fourth grade	80%	14%	6%
Fifth grade	74%	22%	4%

SRI (Comprehension)	% of students at benchmark		% of increase
	Fall	Spring	
Second grade	34%	63%	29%
Third grade	47%	67%	20%
Fourth grade	53%	72%	19%
Fifth grade	84%	90%	6%

MEAP Scores (percent of students reaching at least 80% proficient)

MEAP	Reading					Math				
	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	increase	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	increase
3rd	42%	66%	63%	30%	No	39%	51%	26%	30%	No
4th	42%	43%	55%	32%	No	24%	19%	20%	45%	Yes
5th	43%	32%	43%	51%	Yes	41%	36%	48%	59%	Yes