

February 14, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for Northern Hills 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 me for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following [link](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2024-25 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 2023-24. 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 2021-22. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state, had a graduation rate at or below 67%, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Northern Hills Middle School continues to tackle the challenges of addressing achievement gaps, particularly among economically disadvantaged students and students of color. Key data points from the 2023-24 PSAT and MAP assessments highlight the following:

1. **PSAT Mathematics:**
  - **72.1%** of 8th-grade students were proficient or advanced, with **35.3% advanced** and **36.8% proficient**.
  - While strong overall, **27.9% of students were partially or not proficient**, emphasizing the need for additional support to ensure all students achieve at higher levels.
2. **PSAT Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing:**
  - An impressive **91.4%** of students scored proficient or advanced, with **69.1% advanced** and **22.3% proficient**.
  - The small percentage of students (**8.6%**) who are not proficient remains a focal point for targeted interventions.
3. **MAP Growth Data:**
  - **Math:** 7th and 8th-grade students demonstrated observed growth surpassing projected growth, with **65% and 66% meeting their growth projections**, respectively.
  - **Reading:** Growth percentages (57% for 7th grade, 56% for 8th grade) indicate a need to strengthen literacy instruction.

To address these challenges, Northern Hills Middle School has implemented:

- **Data-Driven Interventions:** Personalized instructional strategies based on PSAT and MAP data.
- **Expanded Tier 2 Support:** Additional tutoring and targeted assistance for students not meeting benchmarks.

- **Professional Development for Teachers:** Focused training on differentiated instruction and literacy strategies.
- **PBIS and MTSS Frameworks:** Ensuring a supportive, inclusive environment for all students.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

### PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL:

Students are assigned to the school in their attendance area where they live. As part of state law, the district participates in the Schools of Choice (SOC) program for non-resident families. Students admitted to the district through SOC are assigned to various schools on a space-available basis.

### THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Our school has made substantial progress over the past two years:

- **Reading Gains:** Increased proficiency in MAP reading scores, particularly for students of color, as a result of targeted literacy interventions.
- **PBIS Success:** Enhanced school culture and behavior management have supported academic performance.

**Math Proficiency:** PSAT math results reflect steady progress, with a 6% increase in the percentage of advanced students compared to 2022-23. Challenges remain in fully closing achievement gaps related to economic disparities. Continued efforts will focus on expanding access to advanced coursework and strengthening teacher collaboration.

### A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL:

Forest Hills Public Schools offers K-4; K-6; 5-6; 6-8; 7-8; and 9-12 buildings. We have three specialized schools:

**Ada Vista Spanish Immersion School (K-4)** Ada Vista is a Spanish immersion school in which all students are taught the Forest Hills curriculum using Spanish as the medium for instruction. It is amazing the way the students learn to read, write, and speak in both Spanish and English. In kindergarten and first grade, children are spoken to only in Spanish and are taught to read and write in Spanish, too. In January of the first grade year, the students begin to speak only in Spanish during class time. In second grade students begin English language arts for 30 minutes; each subsequent year that time is increased by 15 minutes. Students continue their immersion language learning at Northern Trails 5/6, Northern Hills Middle School, and Northern High School.

**Meadow Brook Mandarin Chinese Immersion School (K-4)** Meadow Brook Elementary hosts a 50/50 model Mandarin Chinese immersion program where students learn half the core content (math, science and Mandarin literacy) in Mandarin with English language arts and social studies taught in English. From the vast amount of research available, we know students can acquire any language faster and more easily if we begin as early as possible. Students in the Mandarin Chinese immersion learn to speak, read, and write at scaffold levels in each subsequent grade. Teachers in all grades begin the school year with no English and encourage students to only use the target language in class. Students continue their immersion language learning at Northern Trails 5/6, Northern Hills Middle School, and Northern High School.

**Goodwillie Environmental 5/6 School** Since 2001, Goodwillie Environmental School has offered fifth and sixth grade students a model educational program based primarily on learning in the “living classroom,” the great outdoors. While this sounds easy on the surface, it is extremely difficult to adapt a challenging state mandated curriculum to meaningful and engaging lessons in nature. The awareness, dependency, and flexibility upon the weather are critical for weekly/daily planning. Phonology, Magic Spots, journaling, sketching,

observing, writing, understanding, and of course, just enjoying nature is a special gift that these teachers are happy to share with their students.

**STEM Academy (9-12)** STEM is a four-year specialized program for high school students who are interested in pursuing post-secondary studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics. Students in the STEM academy undertake a capstone design project in their senior year. The academy is based in Northern High School and utilizes an interdisciplinary curriculum grounded in community-based partnerships.

#### IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL:

The Forest Hills Public Schools Core Curriculum is aligned with academic standards adopted by the Michigan Department of Education. Curriculum committees comprised of teachers and administrators, work to align and update content at the district level. Further information related to the FHPS curriculum, its development, and implementation, may be obtained by contacting the Forest Hills Public Schools Instruction Office.

#### THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS:

NWEA MAP Growth 2022-23 School Year

Grade	Test Window	Average Reading Scale Score	Students Tested (Reading)	Average Math Scale Score	Students Tested (Math)
7	Fall	222.4	263	229.2	260
7	Winter	224.2	264	232.3	262
7	Spring	226.1	266	234.9	264
8	Fall	224.4	268	231.0	226
8	Winter	225.7	264	233.6	220
8	Spring	228.3	264	236.0	219

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in Algebra 1 take NWEA Algebra 1 Growth

Test Window	Average Algebra Scale Score	Students Tested (Algebra)
Fall	258.3	44
Winter	263.7	44
Spring	268.0	43

NWEA MAP Growth 2023-24 School Year

Grade	Test Window	Average Reading Scale Score	Students Tested (Reading)	Average Math Scale Score	Students Tested (Math)
7	Fall	222.0	249	227.7	242
7	Winter	224.8	249	233.7	241
7	Spring	225.9	241	236.5	238

8	Fall	223.9	269	230.0	208
8	Winter	225.9	269	235.8	209
8	Spring	228.3	265	239.8	206

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in Algebra 1 take NWEA Algebra 1 Growth

Test Window	Average Algebra Scale Score	Students Tested (Algebra)
Fall	257.1	64
Winter	264.7	60
Spring	265.8	65

## IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Semester	Number of Students	Percentage of Students
Fall 2022	511	93%
Spring 2023	301	55%
Fall 2023	252	49%
Spring 2024	205	40%

I am incredibly proud of the dedication and commitment of our students, staff, and families. Together, we have made significant strides in improving academic outcomes, fostering a supportive school culture, and ensuring every student feels known and valued. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide equitable and high-quality education for all students. Thank you for your unwavering support and collaboration in making Northern Hills Middle School a place where every student can thrive.

Sincerely,

David Simpson., Ph.D.  
Principal