



VALLEY CENTER SCHOOL – KALAMAZOO RESA

3122 Lake Street, Kalamazoo MI 49048

February 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Service Center

1819 E. Millham Ave.
Portage, MI
49002

Early Childhood Education

Kalamazoo RESA West Campus
4606 Croyden Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI
49006

Head Start

422 E. South St.
Kalamazoo, MI
49007

Juvenile Home School

1424 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI
49048

Valley Center School

3122 Lake St.
Kalamazoo, MI
49048

WoodsEdge Learning Center

1501 E. Millham Ave.
Portage, MI
49002

Young Adult Program

Kalamazoo RESA West Campus
4606 Croyden Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI
49006

Youth Opportunities Unlimited

422 E. South St.
Kalamazoo, MI
49007

1601 S. Burdick St.
Kalamazoo, MI
49001

16587 Enterprise Drive
Three Rivers, MI
49093

210 Vista Drive
Coldwater, MI
49036

269.250.9200
www.kresa.org

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for Valley Center 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 Mary Pickett, principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <https://goo.gl/B4GIOE> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. 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.

Valley Center School serves students who are identified as special education students and they all have individualized educational plans, IEPs. The largest percentage of our student population have an educational diagnosis/label of emotional impairment. We also serve students' with educational labels of ASD, cognitive impairment, learning disabled and otherwise health impaired. In all cases students who attend Valley Center have been referred and the IEP team has determined the placement of Valley Center to be appropriate to support the significant emotional and behavioral needs of the student.

The key challenge that we face is the percentage of students who score below proficiency levels on state testing. Given the severity of the emotional and

behavioral needs of the student, many have large gaps in their learning, often due to absence from the instructional environment from behavioral/emotional crisis. Our key initiative is to target specific needs in reading and mathematics. We have targeted interventions and programs in place to increase achievement in these areas. Additionally, we are challenged because our student population is so small, the data found in these required state reports does not inform our practice well. In order for data to be reported, a subgroup must have at least 10 students. An example would be, we would need at least 10 5th graders to take the same test for there to be a reportable data point. Therefore we must rely on individual analysis of performance on state tests, as well as other assessments given at the school level.

State law requires that we also report additional information. <TO HAVE THIS LETTER MEET THE STATE REQUIREMENTS, EACH SCHOOL SHOULD PROVIDE A REPORT FOR THE **TWO MOST RECENT YEARS ON THE FOLLOWING:**

1. **PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL:** Students are referred from local school districts and through a referral process and IEP team placement decision students may or may not be enrolled at Valley Center. Valley Center School does not enroll students independent of local, resident school district involvement. If an individual family is interested in the programming at Valley Center School, their first contact should be with the local resident district special education director or supervisor.
2. **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** The professional staff consisting of teachers, social worker, psychologist, teacher consultant and administrator, along with support staff consisting of paraprofessionals work collaboratively to identify and target areas for improvement. Staff members are broken into the five target areas of the Teaching for Learning, Personal and Professional Learning, Leadership, Data and School and Community Involvement. Each year goals are written and steps are taken to improve in each area. The new plan will soon be completed and we will start work towards them in the coming year. These goals will include areas such as reading, mathematics, school community involvement and positive behavioral supports and interventions, and they will be aligned to the curriculum and support our Mission, Vision and Beliefs.
3. **SPECIALIZED SCHOOL:** Valley Center is the specialized/center-based program for Kalamazoo RESA which serves students in Kalamazoo county with emotional impairments or unique behavioral needs as identified by their IEPs. Students who attend Valley Center School currently range in age from 9 – 18.

Valley Center Vision Statement:

Valley Center's goal is to deliver special education services to students with emotional impairments or unique behavioral needs enabling students to return to their local districts and/or function better in their communities. To do this we will ensure:

- A small, organized, consistent environment
- Positive behavior supports

- Affective education and social skill training
- Instruction in core academic areas
- Sensory Integration Therapy
- Assistive Technology
- Staff trained in crisis intervention that focuses on the care, welfare, safety and security of everyone
- Cooperative services with Kalamazoo Community Mental Health
- Strong support for public school transition
- Extensive behavioral interventions

Valley Center School Mission:

Valley Center School is committed to maximizing the individual achievement of students referred by local districts, enabling them to function successfully in the community. We accomplish this by providing a small, specialized environment and working with parents and the community.

We Believe...

- Every individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.
 - Every individual can learn.
 - Learning enhances self-worth and self-worth enhances learning.
 - Everyone is unique.
 - Educational expectations need to be considered on an individual basis
 - In the value of individuality and diversity.
 - Learning is a lifelong challenge.
 - Students learn best when the home, school and community work together
4. **CORE CURRICULUM:** Valley Center School's curriculum was created in cooperation with multiple center-based programs throughout Michigan. The curriculum includes a focus on personal management and the core academic areas of English language arts, math, science, social studies and technology. The Valley Center School curriculum is aligned to the Michigan Curriculum Framework and the Common Core. Independent Educational Planning Meetings determine a customized focus for each student.

Common Core Standards for English Language Arts can be found here:

http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_ELA%20Standards.pdf.

Common Core Standards for Mathematics can be found here:

http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Math%20Standards.pdf.

These standards improved upon Michigan's current standards (the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) and the High School Content Expectations (HSCEs), by establishing clear and consistent goals for learning, and allowing Michigan to work collaboratively with other states to provide curricular support to schools and educators.

Extended Grade Level Content Expectations (EGLCEs) for students at Valley Center School can be found on the Michigan Department of Education website at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_28463-194379--,00.html

5. **ACHIEVEMENT TESTS:** Since the 2010-2011 school year Valley Center School has had too few students in each grade level for all of the MEAP, MEAP Access or MI-Access assessments for English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. With less than 10 students per grade level, a sub-group of defining those students is not created, so the results cannot be disaggregated and are not included in this report.

6. **STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:** Valley Center Schools hosted parent-teacher conferences twice during the 2015-2016 school year. More than 85% of the students were represented in person by parents and/or guardians, via phone conference or by the attendance of a community mental health worker. In addition, parents, guardians and community members are encouraged to be involved at Valley Center School by volunteering and attending school events and programs.

7. **POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT/COURSES:** Since the 2009-2010 school year, Valley Center has not had students taking part in dual enrollment, AP classes, college equivalent courses or course resulting in college credit.

On behalf of the staff and Valley Center School, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to serve your child and look forward to continued educational opportunities that lead to personal growth and academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Mary Pickett, Valley Center School Principal