

**VALLEY CENTER SCHOOL – KALAMAZOO RESA
3122 LAKE STREET, KALAMAZOO, MI 49048**

August 15, 2014

Service Center

1819 E. Milham Ave.
Portage, MI
49002

Early Childhood Education

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

Juvenile Home School

1424 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI
49048

Lakeside School

3921 Oakland Drive
Kalamazoo, MI
49008

Valley Center School

3122 Lake St.
Kalamazoo, MI
49048

WoodsEdge Learning Center

1501 E. Milham 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

Kalamazoo
Regional Educational
Service Agency

269.250.9200
www.kresa.org

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2013-2014 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 Guthrie for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site

www.kresa.org, following this link directly:

https://www.mischooldata.org/NewAer/CombinedReport.aspx?Common_Locations=1-S,11790,1722,89&Common_SchoolYear=13&Common_Grade=Grade04&Common_Subject=Math&Common_LocationIncludeComparison=False&Common_Subgroup_DisabilityType=AllStudents&Common_DisabilityType=AllDisabilities&Common_ScaledScoreProficiencyCut=20&Common_SecondSchoolYear=12&Common_AssessmentType=FunctionalIndependence&Portal_InquiryDisplayType=None 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 student 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.

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.

State law requires that we also report additional information that reflects practice for the two most recent years. In the following areas:

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

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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

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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 2013-2014 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 Guthrie, M Ed, Principal
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