



GREAT LAKES
ACADEMY

Authorized by Eastern Michigan University

46312 Woodward Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342
248.334.6434 (Phone)
248.334.6457 (Fax)
www.greatlakesacademy.org

Annual Education

Report

August 2014

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August 18, 2014

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 the Great Lakes Academy. 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 Principal, Michelle Y. Parham for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.greatlakesacademy.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 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." While we have not been given a label by the state board of education, we are consistently looking for opportunities to help us meet our goals of improving the academic achievement level of all of our students. When examining data from the 2013-2014 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), we realize that our 3rd graders, 4th graders, 6th graders, and 8th made great gains in reading achievement. We also noticed that now we have a great opportunity to examine our curriculum and make some adjustments that will significantly impact our daily teaching and learning.

One of the most significant changes we are making to our curriculum for the 2014-2015 school year is the implementation of a more robust math program. We will be utilizing Edmentum's Plato Courseware to help us determine and meet the specific needs of our students. We will also be utilizing the services of full-time, high-qualified academic interventionist for math and reading to ensure all students get the individualized support required to meet their individualized learning goals.

Great Lakes Academy is a public charter school authorized by Eastern Michigan University. Great Lakes Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin in its admissions or school policies. We publicize our annual re-enrollment and open-enrollment dates in an effort to provide parents opportunities to enroll their child in our academy.

The 3 - 5 year School Improvement Plan is a living document that is monitored and adjusted annually. The School Improvement Plan outlines the academic goals of the academy and details the strategies in place to achieve these annual goals. Our School



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Improvement Plan was most recently updated and submitted to the Michigan Department of Education in June of 2014.

Great Lakes Academy uses the Michigan Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as well as the Grade Level Content Expectation (GLCE) Benchmarks to guide instruction. Our curriculum is custom designed to meet the needs of our students. We differentiate instruction to ensure mastery and relevancy to real-world experiences. We set high expectations for all students and provide the instruction, tools, resources, and guidance necessary to assist students in meeting their academic goals. Technology is used to support instruction and boost student achievement. A copy of the core curriculum for grades K-8 can be viewed in the principal's office or on the Eastern Michigan University Charter School's website.

Great Lakes Academy staff understands that reading is the foundation of a good education. The staff believes that if students are secure readers, they have a better chance of academic success in all subject areas. With this in mind, we use the Fountas & Pinnell (F & P) Reading Inventory to assess our students' reading levels. Using the F & P reading inventory and a balanced reading curriculum, we have seen growth in our student's reading abilities. The table below details, by grade level, the percentage of students who made at least one year's worth of growth in their reading proficiency as determined by the F&P Reading inventory. (see table below):

Comparison table: Percentage of students making at least one year's worth of growth in reading proficiency:

Grade Level	K	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Total making 1 year growth (2013-14)	71%	100%	82%	70%	80%	94%	54%	69%	79%
Total % making 1 year growth (2012-13)	67%	81%	52%	69%	100%	79%	88%	95%	94%
Total % making 1 year growth (2011-12)	49%	68%	67%	44%	68%	62%	80%	50%	38%

Great Lakes Academy holds two parent-teacher conferences a year. For the 2013-2014 school year we had 95% of our students represented at our fall conference and 40% represented at the spring conference.

Sincerest thanks to the students, staff, parents, and administration of Great Lakes Academy for your hard work and dedication during the 2013-2014 school year. Again, we are looking at the 2014-2015 school year as an opportunity to adjust our curriculum and significantly impact the daily teaching and learning at the academy. Our goal is to help each child set individual goals for academic achievement and implement a plan to reach each and every goal through individualized instruction. We understand the importance of dedication and commitment and intent to work as a team (student, parent, staff, and community) to make improvements in order that our students will be able to compete in a global society. We are looking forward to the 2014-2015 school year and will remain focused on student achievement and academic growth. We are continuously striving to



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become a top achieving school modeling the 90-90-90 Achievement Model cited in research.

Thanks to the Pontiac community and Eastern Michigan University for supporting Great Lakes Academy in our mission of teaching the academic and character skills necessary to be lifelong learners in a competitive world.

Sincerely,

Michelle Y. Parham

Michelle Y Parham, Ed. S.
Principal/Chief Administrative Officer

