



Homer High School

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Homer, Michigan 49245
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Cohen Sangster, Principal

Amanda Richards, Secretary

ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT (AER) COVER LETTER

February 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the educational progress for Homer High 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 Homer High School Principal Cohen Sangster or Homer Community Schools Superintendent Michael Leskowich for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/3rUXi00> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the current 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 the previous year. 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 the previous school year. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in the previous school year. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Homer High School has not been given one of these labels.

Homer High School continues to work to maintain our high levels of achievement within our building. Some of the key challenges that we continue to address are the low performance rates for economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. Key initiatives in the past two school years to accelerate student achievement and close persistent gaps include the implementation of a college/career readiness course, after-school tutoring and academic support programs, and the addition of more Advanced Placement courses and Dual Enrollment opportunities for all students. Focused work on written curriculum mapping, identification of essential standards, and K-12 alignment was also in progress.

As we are getting farther away from the height to the COVID-pandemic, we are moving forward to gain a sense of normality while maintaining some of the ideas that have been working to make up for learning loss. Teachers are using Google Classroom to allow students to have constant access to materials while math and English teachers are using IXL to fill in knowledge gaps. There is still a need for an increased focus on social-emotional learning. To address this, we have been working on focusing building our Tier I and Tier II resources. As a school district we have been implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system. This will help with maintaining behaviors and works with the behavior rubrics that had been created in the prior school year.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Students assigned to Homer High School either live within the boundaries of the school district or attend under school of choice. Students are assigned to their respective grades within the school based on total credits earned. Students will typically earn up to 7 credits within a school year. Students need to complete a total of 26 credits in accordance with the Michigan Merit Curriculum in order to graduate. This process has remained consistent for current and past school years.

2. Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

Homer High School's School Improvement (SIP) has worked to create a 3-5 year plan that aligns our building school improvement goals with the district improvement goals. In the last five years, SIP goals closely mirrored those for the district, including all students becoming proficient in science, social studies, ELA, and math. This plan included focused professional development, curriculum mapping initiatives, and targeted intervention strategies. The school improvement plan is revisited each year by building and district level teams. Copies of this plan are available in each individual school office. Our goals have remained consistent with previous years.

3. Brief Description of Each Specialized School

Homer High School offers students all of the required core content classes, with ELA, math, and science offering honors-level courses, as well as a variety of electives in choral and instrumental music, visual arts, applied arts, and agricultural sciences. Homer is also a participating district with the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center, allowing for qualifying students to attend this accelerated STEM program for half of the school day. Junior and senior students may also attend the Calhoun Area Career Center (CACC) for college and career vocational training. Transportation is provided to students that are interested in these programs that best align with their Educational Development Plan. Specialized programs such as Law Enforcement, Culinary Arts, Robotics, and Health Occupations are a few of the programs offered at the CACC. Homer also offers the Homer Early College Program, which is a Michigan Early Middle College Association/MDE endorsed early/middle college, offering a 13th year of HS and access to free college courses to students that apply and participate.

4. How to Access a Copy of the Core Curriculum & Description of Implementation

Our core curriculum can be found on the district website at www.homerschools.net or by contacting the Director of Instructional Services, Shannon Shepherd, at (517) 568-4464. All core curriculum is aligned with Michigan K-12 Standards. Curriculum maps are in the process of being updated by the various departments.

5. Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Tests or Nationally Normed Tests

At the local level, student achievement is assessed by semester and end-of-year course exams. Students are also assessed using the national normed achievement tests of PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, PSAT/NMSQT, and the SAT.

PSAT 9 - 9th Grade	2021-2022	2022-2023
District Mean	776	857
% of Students meeting EBRW Benchmark	35%	59%
% of Students meeting Math Benchmark	17%	38%
% of Students Meeting BOTH EBRW and Math Benchmarks	16%	33%

PSAT 10 - 10th Grade	2021-22	2022-2023
District Mean	880	843
% of Students meeting EBRW Benchmark	56%	40%
% of Students meeting Math Benchmark	18%	17%
% of Students Meeting BOTH EBRW and Math Benchmarks	18%	15%

PSAT NMSQT - 11th Grade Fall	2021-22	2022-2023
District Mean	887	914
% of Students meeting EBRW Benchmark	33%	54%
% of Students meeting Math Benchmark	27%	22%
% of Students Meeting BOTH EBRW and Math Benchmarks	24%	20%

SAT - 11th Grade Spring	2021-22	2022-2023
District Mean	930	942
% of Students meeting EBRW Benchmark	37%	49%
% of Students meeting Math Benchmark	33%	22%
% of Students Meeting BOTH EBRW and Math Benchmarks	27%	22%

6. Students Represented by Parents at Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are an excellent opportunity for parents to have dialogue with their child's teachers. Conferences are held twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring. For 2021-22, we once again held fall and spring conferences in person and had 23% participation from our families. In the 2022-2023 school year, we held in-person conferences and had 25% participation from our families.

7. Other High School Info – Advanced Opportunities

In the second semester of the 2022-23 school year, we had 11 students taking dual enrollment courses at Kellogg Community College (KCC). 9 different classes were taken by these students, with all students passing their course. Students who passed were able to earn college and high school credit. Those credits have the ability to be transferred to an accepted college or university. For the 2023-24 school year, Homer had 17 students taking dual enrollment classes in the first semester. All but one student took their classes at KCC; the other student took classes at Jackson College. In addition to the opportunities available at universities, Homer High School students also have the ability to attend the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center (BCAMSC) or the Calhoun Area Career Center (CACC). For the 2023-2024 school year, we had 4 students attend BCAMSC and 33 students attend CACC.

Homer High School offered various Advanced Placement (AP) classes over the last five years. Those classes are AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Computer Science, AP Physics, AP English Literature and Composition, and AP English Language and Composition. The 2023-24 school year had a similar number of students taking AP class compared to the previous school year (29 students compared to 28 students). The classes that are were offered this school year were AP Calculus AB (3), AP Calculus BC (1), AP Computer Science (11), and AP English Literature (26). In addition to the Advanced Placement classes, we offered Honors English 10 and Honors Algebra II during the 2023-24 school year.

In conclusion, Homer High School continues to strive to be the "Destination for Excellence" within our area. The past two school years have provided many opportunities for learning and growth, by both our students and our staff. The pandemic has challenged us all as educators to think outside the box about not just our content, but how we present and assess this content. We have experienced challenges, but we have also experienced success. Outstanding educational and extra-curricular opportunities continue to await our students at Homer High School. We have great kids and a great staff...this equals a great school!

Sincerely,

Cohen Sangster
Homer High School Principal