

American Montessori Academy - Upper Elementary
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February 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the American Montessori Academy Upper Elementary. 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 Renee Arnot for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/gEqqoj> 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 a label.

For the 2013-2014 school year, we added an interventionist position. This certified teacher supports and mentors our instructional aides on research-based strategies and provides a combination of push-in and pull-out support. For the 2015-2016 school year, we added a Dean of Academics position. This person plans and monitors school-wide curriculum and offers teachers support as needed in both Montessori and traditional methods. Our academy still struggles with science. In addition to math and reading, the intervention staff now supports science instruction in small group settings.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

Application and Enrollment

Enrollment Limits

The Academy will offer third through seventh grade. The Academy will annually adopt maximum enrollment figures prior to its application and enrollment period.

Requirements

Section 504 of the Revised School Code states that public school academies shall neither charge tuition nor discriminate in pupil admissions policies or practices on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a handicapped person, or any other basis that would be illegal if used by a Michigan public school district.

- Academy enrollment shall be open to all individuals who reside in Michigan. Except for a foreign exchange student who is not a United States citizen, a public school academy shall not enroll a pupil who is not a Michigan resident.
- Academy admissions may be limited to pupils within a particular age range/grade level or on any other basis that would be legal if used by a Michigan public school district.
- The Academy Board may establish a policy providing enrollment priority to siblings of currently enrolled pupils.
- The Academy shall allow any pupil who was enrolled in the immediately preceding academic year to re-enroll in the appropriate age range/grade level unless that grade is not offered.
- No students may be denied participation in the application process due to lack of student records.
- If the Academy receives more applications for enrollment than there are spaces available, pupils shall be selected for enrollment through a random selection drawing.

Application Process

- The application period shall be a minimum of two weeks in duration, with evening and/or weekend times available.
- The Academy shall accept applications all year. If openings occur during the academic year, students shall be enrolled. If openings do not exist, applicants shall be placed on the official waiting list. The waiting list shall cease to exist at the beginning of the next application period.
- In the event there are openings in the class for which students have applied, students shall be admitted according to the official waiting list. The position on the waiting list shall be determined by the random selection drawing. If there is no waiting list, students shall be admitted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Academy may neither close the application period nor hold a random selection drawing for unauthorized grades prior to receipt of written approval from Bay Mills Community College.

Legal Notice

- The Academy shall provide legal notice of the application and enrollment process in a local newspaper of general circulation. A copy of the legal notice must be forwarded to Bay Mills Community College.

- At a minimum, the legal notice must include:
 - A. The process and/or location(s) for requesting and submitting applications.
 - B. The beginning date and the ending date of the application period.
 - C. The date, time, and place the random selection drawing(s) will be held, if needed.
- The legal notice of the application period shall be designed to inform individuals that are most likely to be interested in attending the Academy.
- The Academy, being an equal opportunity educational institution, shall be committed to good-faith affirmative action efforts to seek out, create and serve a diverse student body.

Re-enrolling Students

- The Academy shall notify parents or guardians of all enrolled students of the deadline for notifying the Academy that they wish to re-enroll their child.
- If the Academy Board has a sibling preference policy, the re-enrollment notice must also request that the parent or guardian indicate whether a sibling(s) seeks to enroll for the upcoming academic year.
- An enrolled student who does not re-enroll by the specified date can only apply to the Academy during the application period for new students.
- An applicant on the waiting list at the time a new application period begins must reapply as a new student.
- After collecting the parent or guardian responses, the Academy must determine the following:
 - A. The number of students who have re-enrolled per grade or grouping level.
 - B. The number of siblings seeking admission for the upcoming academic year per grade.
 - C. If space is unavailable, the Academy must develop a waiting list for siblings of re-enrolled students.
 - D. The number of spaces remaining, per grade, after enrollment of current students and siblings.

Random Selection Drawing

A random selection drawing is required if the number of applications exceeds the number of available spaces.

Prior to the application period, the Academy shall:

- Establish written procedures for conducting a random selection drawing.
- Establish the maximum number of spaces available per grade or grouping level.
- Establish the date, time, place and person to conduct the random selection drawing.
- Notify Bay Mills Community College of both the application period and the date of the random selection drawing, if needed. Bay Mills Community College may have a representative on-site to monitor the random selection drawing process.

The Academy shall use a credible, neutral “third party” such as a CPA firm, government official, ISD official or civic leader to conduct the random selection drawing. Further, the Academy shall:

- Conduct the random selection drawing at a public meeting where parents, community members and the public may observe the process.
- Use number, letters, or another system that guarantees fairness and does not give an advantage to any applicant.

The Academy shall notify applicants not chosen in the random selection drawing that they were not selected and that their name has been placed on the Academy's official waiting list for openings that may occur during the academic year. Students shall appear on the official waiting list in the order they were selected in the random selection drawing.

American Montessori Academy is proud to be delivering on its mission in assisting children in reaching their full potential and in building awareness and respect for their community and environment. The primary vehicle to ensure that the academy stays true to this mission is the implementation of the school improvement plan. The following steps outline the procedure that is being followed to implement and evaluate the school improvement process:

- The school improvement committee was formed, including full stakeholder representation.
- The committee met to evaluate the Academy's mission statement and educational goals, and to establish goals for the school improvement plan. The committee also proposed potential strategies for the achievement of these goals, as well as suitable measures for their assessment.
- The staff was surveyed to elicit additional strategy proposals.
- Committee meetings were held with the entire teaching staff to adopt strategies for each SIP goal.
- The principal will meet with the teaching staff each June to analyze student progress reports and make suitable revisions to the curriculum.
- The administration will be responsible for the collection and analysis of performance data.
- The administration will meet with the school improvement committee to report on performance data and to consider the revision or replacement of strategies.
- The school improvement process will be addressed as a standard agenda item at regular monthly curriculum meetings. Teachers will discuss strategy effectiveness and share successful practices.
- Teachers will be expected to refer to SIP strategies in weekly lesson plans where appropriate. The principal and instructional leader will monitor lesson plans. The principal and instructional leader will work on a continuing basis with each teacher to insure SIP strategy implementation.

For 2004-05 the district serviced Kindergarten-third grade. In 2005-06, we added 4th grade. In 2006-07, we added 5th grade. In 2007-08 we added 6th grade. In 2009-10 we added a 2nd campus to house our upper elementary students. We are currently a K-7th grade academy with 2 locations. American Montessori Academy does not offer any specialized schools.

American Montessori Academy has adopted a Montessori curriculum that is fully aligned with MCF benchmarks, and includes grade specific learning objectives. The curriculum specifies requisite content and skills for each of the four core subject areas, as well as health, physical education, art, music and technology.

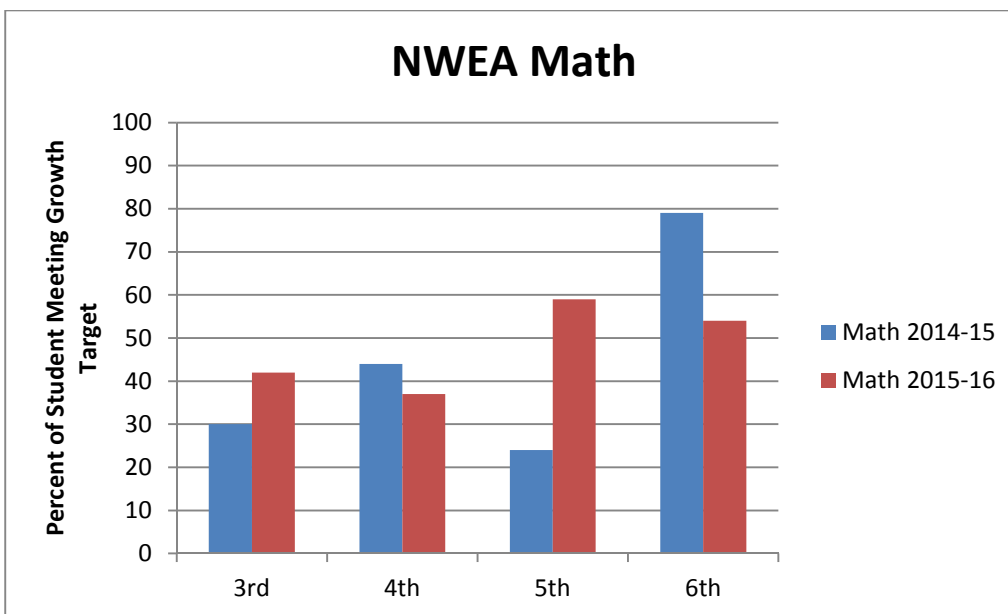
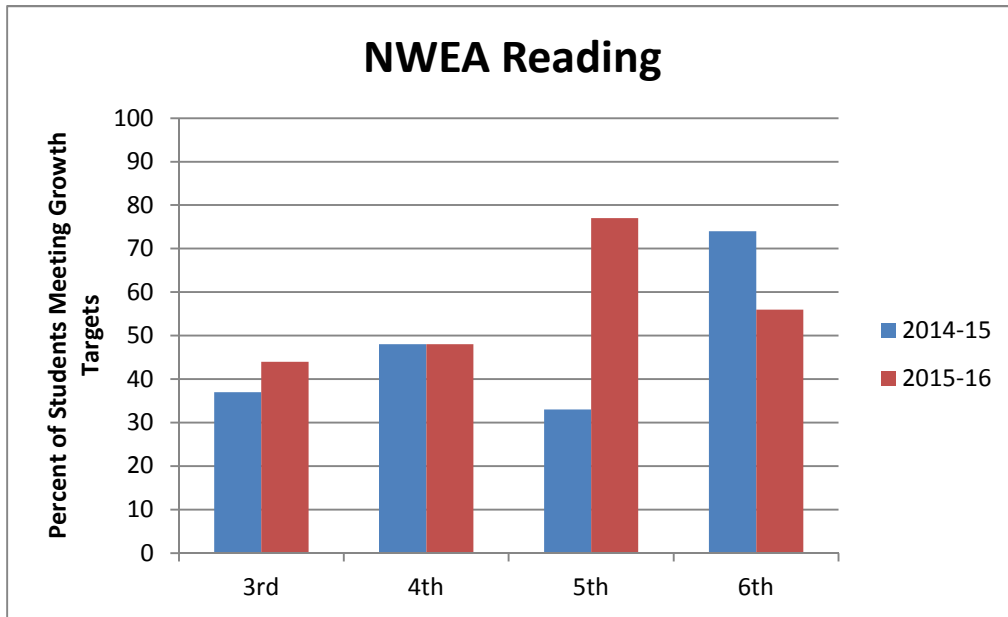
Teachers are required to submit weekly lesson plans, and the Academy's Principal will review these. The veteran teachers serve as mentors, working with each teacher on a continuing basis to guide curriculum delivery and teaching methodology in accordance with the Montessori educational philosophy. Curriculum issues are addressed on a school wide basis at regular staff meetings and monthly curriculum meetings. Staff are also working collaboratively to transition to the Common Core.

Student progress is reported three times per year. Reports consist of skill/content checklists indicating performance on curricular objectives. Progress reports are reviewed each marking by the Administrative Team to monitor delivery of academic content.

Each year, the administration will meet with the staff to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the academic program, with specific reference to standardized test results, SIP assessment data, Michigan GLCEs, Common Core and progress report summaries. Curriculum revision will be based on the identification of curricular gaps revealed by these analyses.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the school's curriculum may do so by requesting one at the Principal's office at their child's school.

In addition to M-STEP testing at our upper campus, the Academy uses the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessment to assess student achievement K-7th grade. Students also receive formal classroom assessments such as a comprehensive math assessment and spelling inventories, as well as Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). The following data is related to the percent of students meeting our NWEA measures. The M-STEP data can be accessed at the school's website in the Full Annual Education Report or at <https://www.mischooldata.org>



In 2014-2015, we offered both a fall and spring conference. 257 students were enrolled at AMA Upper at fall conference time and 219 of those attended conferences (85%). 215 students were enrolled at AMA Upper at spring conference time and 87 of those attended conferences (41%). The spring conference was offered as an optional conference. In 2015-2016, 175 (82%) of our 213 families attended our fall conference.

American Montessori Academy is proud to be delivering on its mission to develop children with a self-confident mindset that prepares them for all of their future endeavors, socially, emotionally and academically. We are excited about our partnership with the community and our students and look forward to future success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ticheal Jones, Executive Director
Renee Arnot, Principal
American Montessori Academy – Upper Elementary
Redford Campus