



Sturgis Middle School  
Principal, Mr. Christopher Gerbers  
Assistant Principal, Mrs. Heather George

## Sturgis Middle School Annual Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

The following letter contains information regarding the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-19 educational progress for Sturgis Middle 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 the Christopher Gerbers at the main office for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: [Annual Education Report](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2018-19 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. 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.

As we continue to work towards finding success for all students at Sturgis Middle School, we will look at data to identify growth opportunities and utilize appropriate measures and practices to address our needs. Some of the data shows items which may be simple adjustments, such as attendance and making sure our students are in school each day and making sure we have the right people in place to work with our students. Other items may be much more involved and complex. However, we will stay committed to our mission of supporting and empowering all to be learners and servers. Moving forward, we will build on



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current success, use best practices to support students through engaging instruction, and remain steadfast in our belief that all students can achieve great things.

#### PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Sturgis Middle School is the only middle school in the Sturgis Public District (SPS) that services students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Any parent/guardian new to the district wishing to enroll their child in the school must complete the registration process in person during our regular office hours. Sixth grade students are automatically enrolled at Sturgis Middle School if they were current SPS students at the conclusion of fifth grade.

#### THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Sturgis Middle School maintains a 3-5 year School Improvement Plan with goals in each of the content areas, Reading, Writing, and Math. Student achievement data was used to determine strategies in curriculum alignment, instruction and student assessment.

A primary focus of the plan includes the delivery of Special Education and English Language Learners (ELL) support programs to ensure student access to the Core Curriculum. Best practice instructional strategies in each area continue to be an emphasis during regularly scheduled staff professional development activities. Included in the professional development is the MS LEAD initiative.

#### A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

SPS Middle School is a standard school.

#### ACCESS TO THE CORE CURRICULUM

The state of Michigan, along with a majority of states, recently adopted the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards establish clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare our students for success in college and work. The Common Core Standards may be accessed at: [Michigan Academic Standards](http://Michigan Academic Standards).

In addition to the direction the standards provide, each grade level and department has developed curriculum maps. Curriculum maps ensure consistency across the district. They are available from your building principal.



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### AGGREGATE STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Sturgis Middle School students were assessed three times annually in the areas of Reading and Mathematics. In 2017-18 we used the i-Ready Diagnostic test. In 2018-19, we began using the NWEA MAP benchmark assessment, a normed, diagnostic test. While i-Ready and NWEA MAP use different scales, the following shows the relative Fall to Spring growth for the previous two years as compared to the national norms.

| Grade                              | 2017-18<br>i-Ready Reading<br>Fall/Spring | 2018-19<br>NWEA Reading<br>Fall/Spring | 2017-18<br>i-Ready Math<br>Fall/Spring | 2018-19<br>NWEA Math<br>Fall/Spring |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| SMS Sixth Grade<br>National Norm   | 563/568.4<br>579/594                      | 207.2/208.4<br>210.99/215.8            | 473/485<br>486/500                     | 208.8/214.4<br>217.62/225.3         |
| SMS Seventh Grade<br>National Norm | 576/587<br>592/604                        | 211.1/211.5<br>214.45/218.2            | 485/494.1<br>494/504.5                 | 214.2/219.6<br>222.65/228.6         |
| SMS Eighth Grade<br>National Norm  | 588/591.2<br>605/617                      | 213.4/217<br>217.24/220.1              | 496/500<br>502/513                     | 220.2/223.4<br>226.3/230.9          |

2018-19 was the first year for 8<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT testing. 54.8% of SMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders were proficient in English-based Reading and Writing compared to 61.9% Statewide. 23.4% of SMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders were proficient in Math compared to 41.4% Statewide.

### IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Sturgis Middle School continues to encourage parent/guardian participation at Parent Teacher Conferences each semester. While we schedule and invite all parents to attend a face to face conference, some parents choose not to or are unable participate. In October of 2019, we had almost 290 families represented at conferences and many of those families have multiple students in our building. For families unable to attend conferences, we utilize various other methods to communicate with parents, including phone calls, emails and PowerSchool viewer.



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Thank you for taking time to review the data for Sturgis Middle School. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your student and are committed to the success of each child. If you have questions about the report or about ways the school is working to support your child, please don't hesitate to contact the main office.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gerbers

Sturgis Middle School Principal