



*"Go Maroons"*

Menominee Area Public Schools

Blesch Intermediate

1200 11th Ave., Menominee, MI 49858

Phone 906-863-4466 Fax 906-863-1171

Brandie Williams - Principal

Superintendent - Terri Mileski

### **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

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 Blesch Intermediate 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 Brandie Williams for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.menominee.k12.mi.us/ourdistrict/annual-education-reports/> or you may review a copy in our main 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. Blesch Intermediate has not been given one of these labels.

Blesch's key challenge is Math. The aggregate score remained 31% for grade 4-6. In addition to last year's 15 minute instructional time increase Blesch will be utilizing a 25 minute school wide differentiated math block. This will provide students direct differentiated instruction in their specific standard of need.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Third grade students were assigned to Blesch upon successful promotion from Central Elementary School in the fall of 2013 and 2014.

2. Blesch continues to implement the 6+ Traits Writing Instruction Cross-Curricular Approach in all grades. The School Improvement Plan Math Goal was not met; Blesch will be integrating a daily, school wide Math differentiation class to reduce learning gaps. Blesch staff collaborate regularly discussing strategies for the upgraded Math National Common Core integration.
3. Blesch Intermediate is an elementary school housing approximately 460 students in grade 3-6. There are no district specialty schools servicing the district elementary schools.
4. Core Curriculum can be accessed through the Menominee Area Public School District website: [www.menominee.k12.mi.us](http://www.menominee.k12.mi.us). The Blesch curriculum is aligned to the National Common Core in Math and ELA. We are still aligned with the Michigan Frameworks for Science.
5. Blesch did not administer a nationally normed achievement test over the past two years. Blesch uses STAR Math and Star Reading grade level criteria based achievement tests. These were administered school wide in the spring winter and fall.
6. 371 students were represented by a parent or guardian at the conferences in November 2013; this results in 87 % of the student population being represented.

Upon entering our school there is an immediate awareness of the energy running through the walls! This is a place where teachers are eager to provide kids with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful, productive members of today's ever-changing society. With so many positive changes taking place this year, and so many wonderful community partnerships Menominee Schools is the place to be.

Blesch welcomes parents and community members to partner in the education of our youth. Educational presentations in our school include a wide variety of learning experiences; specialized centers such as the DAR and YMCA partner with Blesch to provide unique life experiences beyond the classroom. Parents participate in and out of our classrooms some are on our parent volunteer committee (PVC), others assist in fundraising, and a few have volunteered to help out when extra supervision is needed; all of these people add to the success of everyone at Blesch.

Working together makes a difference and enriches the lives of everyone. Teaching students to have or know how to find the answers is a great thing, instilling them with a desire to meet the demands and challenges of a complex and changing world with competence, and creativity is an awesome thing; and that is what work toward everyday at Blesch.

Go Maroons,  
Brandie Williams  
Principal