

John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary School 2010-11 Annual Report — Introduction

Aug. 22, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2010–11 educational progress for John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), teacher quality and more. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Principal Robert Watson for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting www.yale.k12.mi.us or you may review a copy at your child's school office.

AYP summary:

For 2010–11, John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English Language Arts and mathematics. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort. See the Annual Report for further details on our AYP grade.

More John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary School information

In addition to the facts and figures you will find in the Annual Report, we want to share the following information with you:

Pupil assignment process — 2010–11*:

Students are located as follows: Kindergarten through Grade 5 is located at Yale, Avoca or Farrell-Emmett elementary schools. A preschool for 4-year-olds is also located at each elementary school. The District operates one junior high school building and one high school building with an alternative education program housed in a wing of the building.

The Yale Public School District and the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) have a policy and process in place for non-district residents' school of choice requests. Copies of this policy and procedures are available at the principal's office or through the central office.

* This information was the same in the 2009–10 school year.

School Improvement Plan status — 2010-11

We are in the second year of our five-year plan. Our goals cover the five content areas (reading, math, writing, science and social studies). In the past, we used the percentage of students who earned proficient scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment Tests to gauge the progress and success of our strategies in pursuing each goal. Although we

still have the aspiration for all of our students to obtain proficient levels on the MEAP, individual student academic growth is our priority. In order to measure this outcome, we are going to use scaled scores to determine the success of our strategies and goals.

2009–10:

Mathematics improvement: Working with RESA consultants, building staff analyzed assessments that will continue to help us determine students' strengths and weaknesses in the area of mathematics. Using the same plan in all grade levels to provide consistency in our K-5 program is a goal that we will continue to work on.

Social studies improvement: Our social studies goal was a new challenge for us. The staff of John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary worked very hard in finding materials and resources that would enhance instruction. Technology resources were used to expand students' views of the world and support their quest for knowledge. Using online resources we found through the James Madison University Center for Economic Education and MoneyInstructor.com, we expanded the number of resources and tools available to help students and staff study economic concepts.

Science improvement: Our science goal was also a new goal for the building. The staff challenged students with hands-on inquiry projects throughout the year that reinforced investigative skills. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored a family science night that allowed families to work together on several hands-on science lessons. The event was held in conjunction with the annual Science Fair. An evening workshop was held for students who participated in the fair this year. Parents were invited to the workshop, and a RESA consultant walked everyone through the scientific process for a science project.

Language arts improvement: Our goals in language arts remain a high priority for the staff. Staff members at all grade levels participated in writing workshops sponsored by the RESA. A partial book study of *Classroom Instruction That Works* by Marzano, Pickering, & Pollack was conducted by staff members. Several staff members attended a workshop and received training in K-Pals and First Grade Pals. Pals is a 20-week program that helps early elementary teachers ensure students are getting a solid foundation in early reading skills.

Specialized schools and alternative education:

Yale Public Schools offers several programs designed to meet a variety of student needs and interests, opening the educational process to all students. Through these programs, each student can learn and experience success.

- The Academic Transitional Academy (ATA) provides pre-vocational support to 9th- and 10th-grade students.
- St. Clair TEC offers countywide career and technical training to high school students.
- Woodland Developmental Center serves students with severe learning disabilities to age 26.
- The Phoenix Alternative Yale School is an option for students grades 7–12 who are at risk of not succeeding in the traditional school setting.

Core curriculum — 2010-11

Core Curriculum and Curriculum Maps, as well as Pacing Guides, may be accessed at each of our school buildings. Additionally, all K-12 information may be found in the office of the Director of Personnel and Instruction housed at Central Office. This year is an exciting one indeed in that all of our curriculum K-12 will be aligned to the National Core State Standards and represents one of the broadest and most comprehensive changes as it relates to educational reform.

2009-10:

The Yale Public Schools' core curriculum is developed and monitored by the District's Curriculum Committee. A dynamic process that is multistep and ongoing guides curriculum development. Each content curriculum is reviewed every five years. The District carries out this process in a planned and systematic manner that includes the following components:

- Writing a curriculum, aligned to state standards, for all classes.
- Developing assessment strategies for each curricular objective.
- Aligning each objective to one of the Michigan Department of Career Development's six Career Pathways.
- Providing staff with professional development on best practices in all curricular areas.

The end product of this curriculum review process is a working document that will assist teachers in lesson planning and provide assurances that the District has a curriculum that is aligned, taught and tested. Questions about the Yale curriculum may be addressed to Principal Nancy LePla or to James Heimbuch, Director of Instruction and Personnel, at (810) 387-3231.

Alternate assessment testing: No alternate assessment testing is done in the Yale District.

Parent-teacher conference rate:

2010-11 — 99%

2009-10 — 97%

John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary School's students, families and staff have worked very hard to create a safe and enjoyable environment that strives for academic excellence. Data validates that our school does quite well in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). Data also supports that our families have made education a priority for our community. Attendance rates at parent-teacher conferences, student attendance, and attendance at various school functions demonstrate a strong commitment to our school. Even with our past success, the John F. Farrell-Emmett team (students, parents, community and staff) is committed to continuous improvement toward creating a 21st Century learning environment where all of our members will grow and improve as individuals and citizens.

For these reasons and many others, I commend the students, staff and parents of John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary School and look forward to continued success in the 2010-11 school year.

Sincerely,

Robert Watson
Principal, John F. Farrell-Emmett Elementary School