

Yale 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 Yale 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 Suzanne Guttowsky 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, Yale 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 Yale 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 2nd year of our plan. Each year, the staff at Yale Elementary reviews the plan based on current data. In addition we review our plan to make sure we are representing changes in MEAP and the direction of the state.

Each of our goals and the strategies chosen were evaluated based on the 2010 MEAP data as well as district assessments that are in the process of being developed and implemented across all core content areas. In mathematics, we continue to use the

Understand, Plan, Solve and Look Back (UPSL) process, as well as increased instruction in vocabulary to meet our current goals. In 3rd grade, 100% of our students were proficient while 97% of the 4th graders and 83% of the 5th- grade students were proficient in the area of Mathematics on the 2010 MEAP.

In the area of Science, our goal is to provide opportunities for students to grow in the areas of constructing and reflecting through participation in the science fair. Through this process of scientific inquiry/investigation, students have the opportunity to practice content specific standards. We are striving to increase the percentage of students who are proficient in Science as demonstrated by the MEAP.

A 5% increase from 2009 was noted on the 2010 Social Studies test, with 87% of our students being proficient in Social Studies. We will continue to work toward closing the gap between economically advantaged and disadvantaged students on the Social Studies assessment.

In reviewing subgroups in the area of writing on the 2010 MEAP, two groups have been identified as needing targeted writing instruction: the economically disadvantaged and male students. As the Write Well program is implemented as part of our School Improvement Plan, Yale Elementary Staff will give particular attention to these two groups. Staff will continue to focus on the full implementation of this program and continuous professional development.

2009–10:

Reading improvement: The comprehension team successfully researched and implemented ways to increase student achievement on comprehension tasks. We continued to implement the 50 Literacy Strategies checklist. The Read Naturally program was adopted to strengthen fluency and enhance comprehension skills. Through continued progress monitoring, we provided the best practice techniques for our students.

When analyzing the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) data, a slight discrepancy in 3rd-grade reading results among economically disadvantaged students was noticed. Teachers reinforced comprehension strategies in small group settings to help close these gaps.

Problem solving improvement: Yale Elementary School continued to successfully implement the UPS Look Problem-Solving Process (Understand, Plan, Solve, Look Back). Documentation of office discipline referrals indicated a decrease of 13%. According to the 2008 MEAP results, 92% of students were proficient on the mathematics portion of the test. The Yale Elementary Problem-Solving Team will continue to strive toward excellence and constant improvement.

Writing improvement: According to MEAP results for 2008, writing remains an important goal for Yale Elementary. Results indicated a discrepancy when scores were sorted by both gender and economically disadvantaged status in the 3rd grade. Discrepancies at other levels were not as evident. The writing curriculum remained a focus as Yale Elementary teachers participated in the creation of a countywide writing curriculum. This curriculum emulates the Lucy Calkins writing model and will be implemented in the 2010–11 school year. The staff remained committed to using best practices in writing, including strategies from Marcia Freeman and Lucy Calkins, as well

as the 6 +1 Traits writing program, to assist students in improving their writing.

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 — 98%

2009–10 — 100%

I commend the students, staff and parents of Yale Elementary School for a great year and look forward to continued success in the 2011–12 school year.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Guttowsky
Principal, Yale Elementary School