



# *Brandywine*

Community Schools

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## Brandywine High School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 20, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2012-2013 educational progress for Brandywine 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 Principal Pat Weckel for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: [www.brandywinebobcats.org](http://www.brandywinebobcats.org) or you may review a copy in the principal's office at the Middle/Senior High 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.

Our school has not been identified as any of these.

A key challenge for our school is to make sure all of our students are on track and making strong academic progress. We have put in place several strategies to address student achievement, and we are confident that we will see many more students showing positive gains this year. We are addressing behavior, we are emphasizing career and college readiness, and we have developed strategies that will result in stronger students leaving our program.

***“Committed to Every Student’s Success”***

## **Process for Assigning Students to the School**

Students and parents are welcomed to Brandywine High School during an evening orientation. The orientation focuses on the rigor of the high school curriculum, suggestions on how to be successful as well as where to receive assistance for academic concerns or personal issues. The assembly also includes a brief overview of the high schools policies, rules and procedures. Students meet individually with a guidance counselor to develop their four year educational plan based on one of the six "Career Pathways." The four year educational plan includes the Michigan Merit Curriculum, as well as the electives needed to fulfill the requirements needed for graduation.

Our Pathway Program of Studies catalog can be obtained in the Guidance Office or online at [www.brandywinebobcats.org](http://www.brandywinebobcats.org).

## **School Improvement Plan**

Brandywine Community Schools reviews policies and practices to consider ways to improve and enhance student achievement. This process, known as the school improvement process, is an integral and necessary part of school reform. Recent state and federal mandates including annual testing directives and increased accountability have intensified the importance of this process and its outcomes.

Since the passage of Public Act 24 in 1990, school districts have been required to develop 3-5 year school improvement plans. These plans are used to establish goals and objectives that will guide teaching for learning, resource allocation, staff development, data management, and assessment.

School Improvement meetings are held at the building level and district level. Committee members include instructional staff, administration, and school board members and members of the community. The purpose of these committees is to become more data driven to improve student achievement. Brandywine High School analyzes and updates the school improvement plan yearly. Changes or updates are based on the most current data available pertaining to student achievement, attendance, and discipline rates. School Improvement plans are available in the principal's office.

## **Specialized Schools**

Specialized schools provide educational alternatives and opportunities for handicapped students as well as meeting their special needs. These programs are an integral part of the continuum of educational services available to special students in Berrien County. Following is a brief description of the specialized schools that serve Brandywine Community School District students.

### **BLOSSOMLAND LEARNING CENTER BERRIEN REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN**

The purpose of Blossomland Learning Center is to provide services to students who have been diagnosed as moderately to severely mentally impaired up to age 26 who reside within the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency. The school assists students in preparing for entry into their respective communities. Ten (10) Brandywine Community Schools District residents attended this program during the 2012-2013 school year. Students are placed in the program through an Individual Educational Planning Committee composed of local district and Berrien RESA diagnostic and educational staff.

LIGHTHOUSE EDUCATION CENTER  
BERRIEN REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY  
ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN

The Lighthouse Education Center program is operated as a therapeutic and educational program for students diagnosed as severely emotionally impaired up to age 26 who reside within the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency. These students exhibit a severity of emotional difficulties, which prohibits them from regular attendance within the resident district. During the 2012-2013 school year, two (2) Brandywine Community Schools District residents attended this program, with the goal being eventual re-integration into the resident district's educational system.

HEARING IMPAIRED PROGRAM  
BERRIEN SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

The Berrien County Hearing Impaired Program provides educational services for hearing impaired students from Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. During the 2012-2013 school year, three (3) Brandywine Community Schools District residents attended the program, which includes children from preschool age through 26 years. This program is operated by the Berrien Springs Public Schools and is funded by the Berrien Regional Education Service Agency. In addition to classroom and teacher consultant services, the program also serves as a diagnostic center and employs an audiologist for the purpose of assessing severity and type of hearing loss. Some students, when determined educationally appropriate by an Individualized Educational Planning Committee, are educated in their resident district with the support of a teacher consultant provided by the Hearing Impaired Program.

SOUTHSIDE PROGRAM  
NILES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
NILES, MI

Niles operates center-based programs for low incidence special education students needing a full time placement. The program for the Severely Emotionally Impaired (SEI) includes students with severe emotional or behavioral problems. These students receive a very strict, highly structured program designed to change inappropriate behavior patterns and allow learning to take place. Expectations for performance are high with the goal being the students' successful readmission to their former school. Classroom programs serve students ages 10 through 25. Students in the Pre-Vocational program have below average ability levels, making success in their local high schools extremely difficult. Often their low ability is compounded by a weak self-concept and inadequate social skills.

Once at Southside a few may pursue a Certificate of Completion, but most will follow a curriculum designed to promote independent living. Classrooms are available to serve ages 16 through 25. During the 2012-2013 school year, fifteen (15) Brandywine Community Schools District residents attended this program.

**Core Curriculum**

Brandywine Community Schools follows a local core curriculum that defines educational outcomes to be achieved by all students and is based on the district's educational mission and locally developed goals and objectives for students. As mandated by the State of Michigan, Brandywine Community Schools has developed a core curriculum at all school levels. Copies of core curriculum are available at the principal's office.

## Student Achievement Data

The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) has norm-referenced assessments for Math and Reading. We administer these for new students in the fall, and every spring for all students.

This data shows the percentage of students who met or exceeded projected growth targets in the Spring of 2013.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>% Meeting Target</u>
Math	9	78
Math	10	79
Reading	9	75.9
Reading	10	50.6

## PARENT CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Fall conference attendance rate: 68%  
Spring conference attendance rate: 59%

## Dual Enrollment

- a) Number and percentage of postsecondary enrollments (dual enrollments): 18, 4 seat time waiver 13.5%
- b) Number of college equivalent courses offered: 72 courses paid
- c) Number and percentage of students enrolled in college equivalent courses: 22, including seat time waiver
- d) Number and percentage of students receiving a score leading to college credit: NA

It was a banner year for BHS! A brief list of accomplishments includes:

- A 2012 recipient of the Michigan “Reward School” status for academic growth
- Voted “Best Public High School” by the readers of the Leader Publications
- ACT scores went up
- Seven athletic teams earned “Academic All State” honors
- Five out of the thirteen seniors who earned their Associates Degree in the county were BHS students
- We added a Machine Tool Academy to our campus in partnership with Lake Michigan College
- Early College enrollment is growing

Sincerely,



Patrick T. Weckel, Principal