

Sonoma Elementary School

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-15 educational progress for Sonoma Elementary. 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 Cyndi Mead for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/ykEpZx> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

According to the most recent state assessment data our biggest challenge is in the area of math. Although our English Language Arts scores are higher than both the state and our district averages, we have work to do in order to also be leaders in math. Our school improvement team has made math a priority as we work on developing common understandings throughout the grade levels. Next steps include digging deeper into our assessment data to identify where misunderstandings are happening, work to close identified gaps, and begin the process of vertical alignment between the grade levels. We are also working toward teaching math through the workshop approach since this has been so successful for us in ELA.

Students are assigned to Sonoma Elementary through two methods: 1) students live in the Sonoma area within the district, and 2) parents request Sonoma as their school of choice both from within and from outside of the district. Class size numbers are considered before any student is granted school of choice status.

Our School Improvement Plan is reviewed each year and updated to meet the needs of the students in our school. Consideration is always given to providing teachers with additional professional development and families with opportunities for further engagement. Technology usage has also been incorporated into the plan. We have goals areas in reading, writing, and math.

Sonoma follows the Common Cores State Standards found on the Michigan Department of Education website. We work at teaching as much as possible through an inter-curricular approach in order to help students draw from their experiences and make deeper connections. Our report cards have been aligned to the Common Core which assures that our teaching practices are consistent with state-wide expectation

Sonoma students take district assessments three times per year in English Language Arts and Math. The table below shows results of these assessments. Note: we changed assessment tools for reading in 2014-2015 from the DRA (Direct Reading Assessment) to F&P (Fountas & Pinnel).

	English Language Arts			Mathematics	
	Fall	Spring		Fall	Spring
2014 - 2015	51%	75%	(F&P)	48%	66%
2013 - 2014	79%	86%	(DRA)	52%	70%

We are fortunate to have many supportive parents at Sonoma who attend Parent Teacher Conferences. The table below reflects conference attendance either through parents coming to the school or joining the teacher over the phone.

	FALL	SPRING
2014 - 2015	98%	98%
2013 - 2014	99%	97%

We are very pleased to work with the entire Sonoma Elementary community and pride ourselves on developing positive relationships with our students and their families. . It is only by the combined efforts of educators, parents, and community members working together that our students' understanding of the world will continue to flourish and grow. Thank you Sonoma parents and community members for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Cyndi Mead
Principal