

**BIRCHVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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ISHPEMING, MI 49849

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PRINCIPAL



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

January 8th, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-20 educational progress for the Birchview Elementary 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 Matthew Byce for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/306Ib78>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2019-20 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

At Birchview Elementary, we have continued the implementation of Foundations of Math, which is a research-based framework for math instruction. Utilizing the Foundations of Math framework allows our teachers to develop student number sense, improve student discourse, and help the students gain a deeper understanding of fundamental math concepts.

Our school has continued the implementation of the English Language Arts curriculum, Bookworms, to develop each student in the areas of reading and writing. Through evidence-based pedagogy, our teachers will be able to provide differentiated instruction to build competent readers and writers.

Each teacher and student also engages in a school-wide "Power Hour" which leverages small-group support to hone in on specific student needs. Student needs are routinely assessed to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of each support.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Ishpeming Public School District students in grades Junior Kindergarten through Fourth Grade are all assigned to Birchview Elementary School. Kindergarten students are placed in either of the three kindergarten classes with the knowledge of student outcomes in the kindergarten screening process and parental requests. Parents outside of the district can attain a Schools of Choice application from the Superintendent's Office or your child's school office. There are no specialized schools within the Ishpeming School District.

Birchview Elementary School currently has a school improvement plan in place that is reviewed and updated annually by a committee of teachers, support staff, students, parents, community members, and administration. We are in year four of tracking our current goals, which include improving student proficiency in math, reading, and science.

Parents may access a copy of the common core curriculum and Michigan Merit Curriculum in the Birchview Elementary Office and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools. The curriculum is reviewed on a five-year cycle and teachers are responsible to maintain a checklist.

The Birchview Elementary teachers held parent teacher conferences during the school year. The Fall 2020 conferences had a 91% attendance rate.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, the students at Birchview Elementary School did not participate in the M-STEP assessment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank each of the teachers, support staff personnel, parents, volunteers, and students of Birchview Elementary for their dedication to continuous student improvement. We take great pride in striving for academic, social, and emotional growth as we work to address the needs of the whole child. Thank you, and Go Hematites!

Sincerely,



Matthew M. Byce  
Elementary Principal/Transportation Director