



NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL
176 LIMIT STREET, BATTLE CREEK, MI 49037
(269) 965-9607

SCHOOL ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT (AER) COVER LETTER

February 1, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2022-2023 educational progress for the Northwestern 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 Building Interim Principal Kelly Tews for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [AER Report](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2022-2023 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2022-23. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2021-22. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school was identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement school.

Our combined data report indicates that our overall percentage of students demonstrating proficiency in reading and science is approximately 10% with 4.5% proficient in math and 3% proficient in science. Our subgroup proficiency rates all remain below the state averages by a considerable margin. Currently, Northwestern Middle School is in year three for transformation, which includes a strategic plan to support students and families in need, establish additional

resources to meet our needs, highlight our areas of excellence, and provide a series of professional learning experiences for our staff to be prepared to meet the goals of our strategic plan. Specifically, our strategic plan includes intervention classes for math and reading, implementation of Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions (PBIS), Professional Learning Communities, and implementation of math and English Language Arts (ELA) curricula aligned to Common Core State Standards.

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Students are assigned to Northwestern by their area of residence and in accordance with the school zones map set forth by our Student Services department and Board of Education. Intra-district school of choice is an option for any Battle Creek Public School student through an application process.

THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Northwestern Middle School is in year two of its School Improvement Plan. Goals with strategic plans were developed for all core content areas (math, ELA, science, social studies), and building a positive climate and culture. Northwestern is currently using the HMH Read 180 and Math 180 programs to increase students skills in math and reading. Documented progress has been made with the implementation of PBIS, establishment of Professional Learning Communities, and academic progress in specific areas of focus. The aggregated student achievement data for math and ELA can be viewed below. The core curriculum for each content can be accessed by contacting the highly qualified teacher for that subject area through calling our front office.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

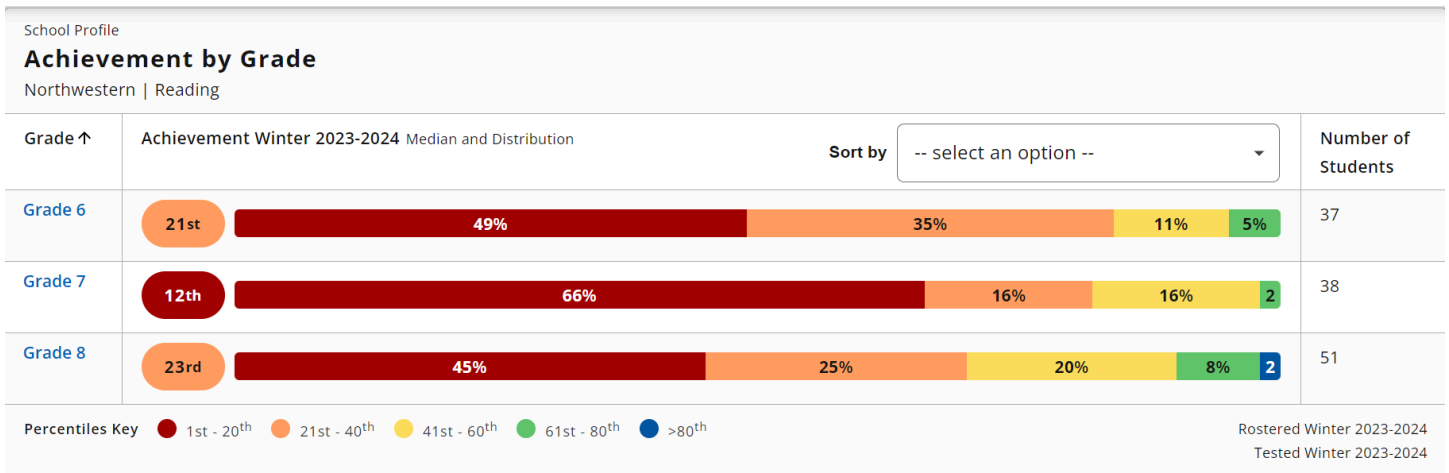
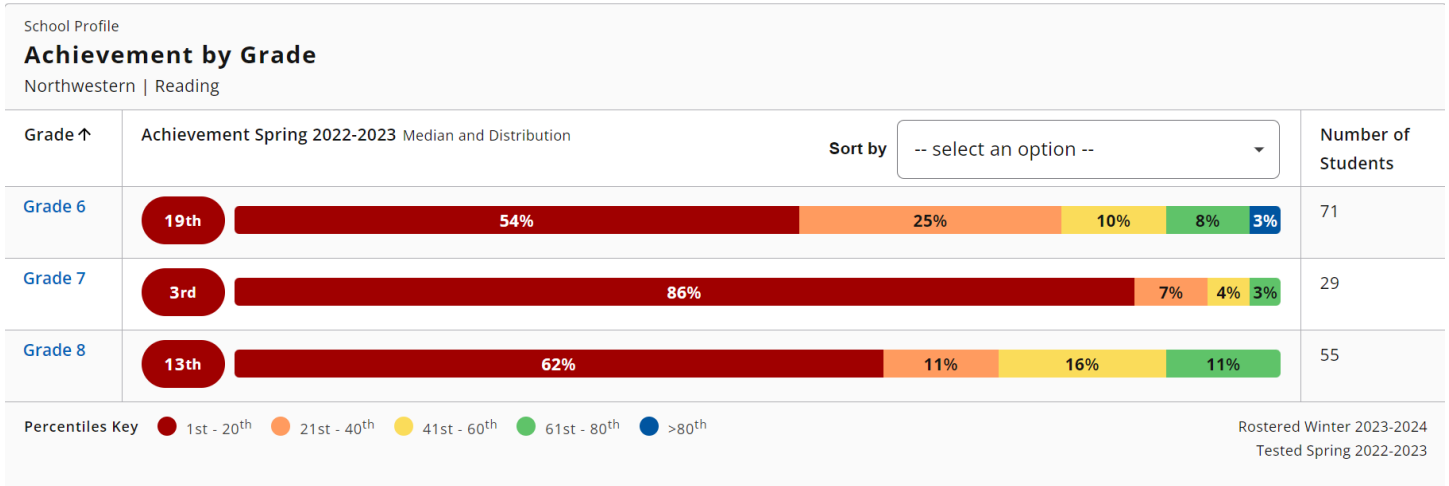
Northwestern Middle School has approximately 238 students. We specialize in the four core curricular areas, (Math, Reading/Writing, Science, and Social Studies) and have many extra-curricular areas taught as well. These would include Physical Education, Technology, Art, and Music. In November 2021, the community of Battle Creek passed a 42 million dollar bond in which Northwestern will receive 32 million to transform it into a K-8 fine and performing arts building.

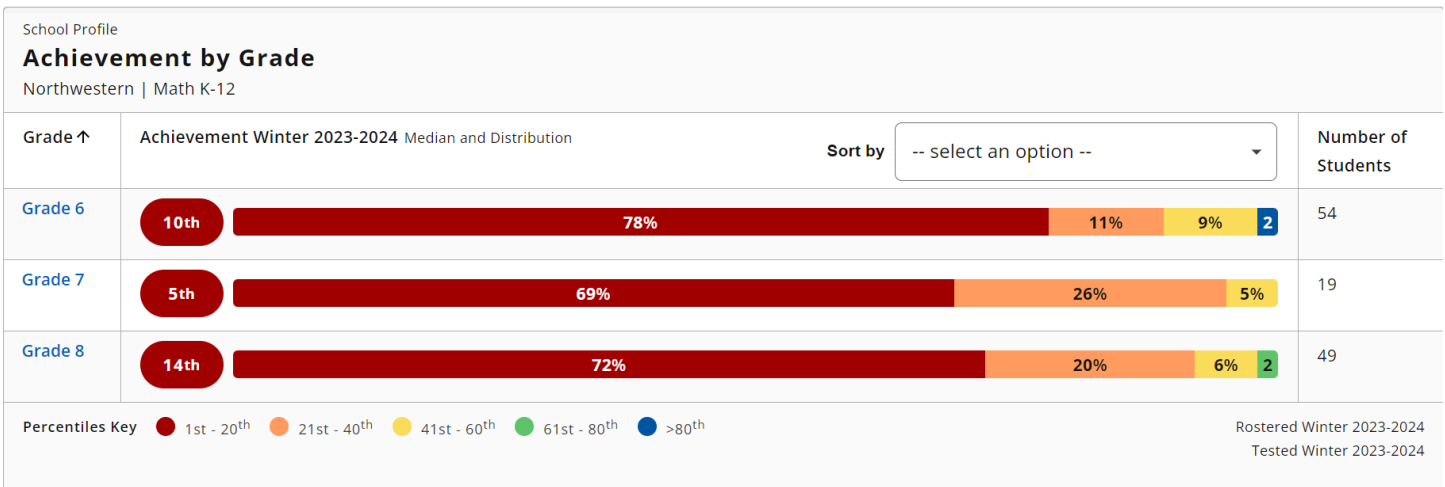
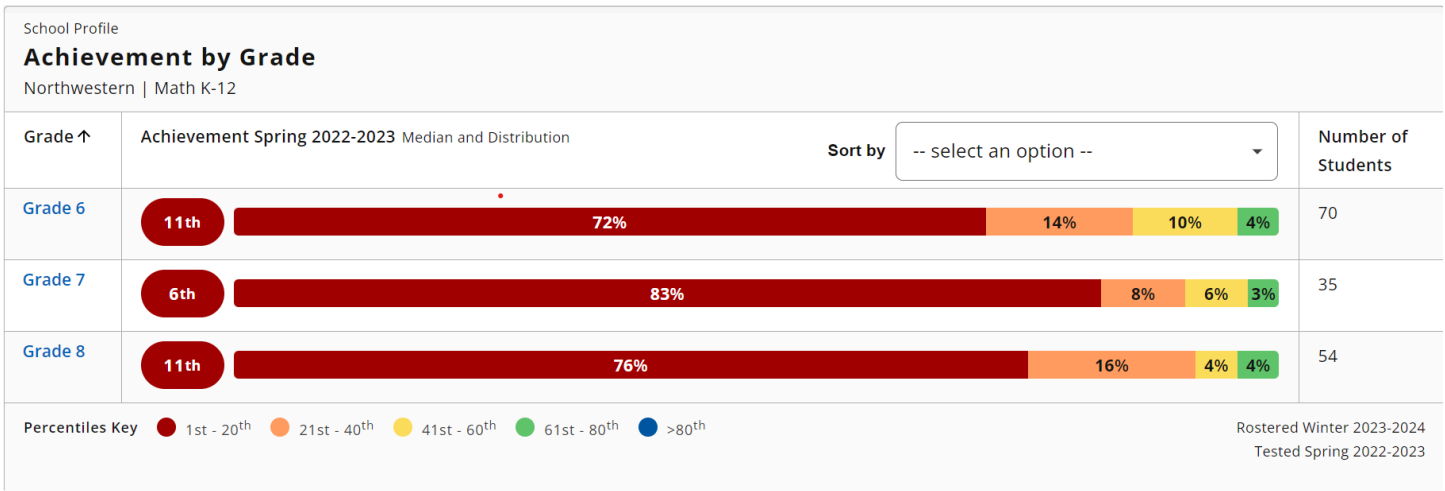
IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

NWMS' core curriculum and curriculum guides can be accessed by requesting copies from the school's office. Battle Creek Public Schools' curriculum is aligned with Michigan's Common Core Curriculum. Curricular work continues to fully align the curriculum with the Common Core Standards. Curriculum maps and common classroom assessments are being developed to provide teachers with consistent expectations to monitor student achievement. The district continues to focus on the Four A's of curriculum work: Alignment with the Standards and Benchmarks/Grade Level Content Expectations; Articulation between grade levels and core areas/courses; Assessment measures that consistently gauges student achievement levels; and Accountability in teaching the written curriculum. Teachers are actively involved in the curriculum development process and provide valuable feedback as we continue to focus on high levels of academic achievement for all students.

THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

The data below displays student proficiency based on the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP), which is a nationally normed assessment. Students at Northwestern Middle School complete this assessment three times each year to measure academic progress in reading and math. The data shows levels of student proficiency grouped into percentiles.





IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent involvement has historically been an obstacle at our school. However, we have seen an increase in involvement for school events and collaboration meetings this year. Our Fall parent/teacher conferences were attended by approximately 52% of our families, and our Spring conferences were attended by approximately 36% of our families. We have tried some new types of events to promote parent engagement that have been beneficial this year. We also have a Family and Community Engagement Advocate to assist in this area.

At Northwestern Middle School, we believe that all children can learn and succeed, regardless of race, ethnicity, native language, academic struggles, income, or background. This is a place

where students can learn safely, explore their creativity, establish positive interactions with peers and adults, and prepare for their futures.

BCPS is in the midst of a historic transformation to ensure a world-class college, career, and culture ready education for every student, in every grade at every school. We understand that big change does not happen overnight, and as a district, we are committed to long-term growth for the betterment of our students, schools, and our community.

As a parent at Northwestern Middle School, you are part of a diverse community where every person provides a unique contribution. We believe in the infinite possibilities of our students and their future. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. Believe in the Change!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kelly Tews
Interim Principal
Northwestern Middle School