

Yale Public Schools

HOME OF THE



198 School Drive - Yale, Michigan 48097

Phone: 810-387-3231 - Fax 810-387-4418

Kenneth Nicholl
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

President – Mrs. Amanda Zabor

Vice-President – Mr. Peter M. Bullard

Treasurer – Mr. Ron Charney

Secretary – Mrs. Dena French

Trustee – Mr. Kevin Sokacz

Trustee – Mrs. Veronica Monaco

Trustee – Mr. Greg Hoppe

February 28, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-2017 educational progress for Yale Junior High 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 Bradley Dykstra for assistance. The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting <http://www.ypsd.us/documents/AER/YJH-AER20162017.pdf> or you may review a copy at your child's school office.

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 given one of these labels.

More Yale Jr. High 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 — 2016–17:

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 high school 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.

School Improvement Plan status — 2016-17

Yale Junior High School continues to use four core academic goals as part of our State of Michigan school improvement plan. Each school improvement goal addresses one of our core academic goals. Within each goal are several specific objectives that were created to address

each goal. These school improvement goals were established to better meet the needs of our students, while at the same time, seamlessly meeting the requirements of the school improvement process. Our academic success continues due to the efforts of the staff and students of our school. Teachers in all academic areas are implementing instructional strategies to address reading proficiency across content areas. Students are exposed to a structured approach to reading and writing that is introduced in 6th grade and developed through 8th grade. Our staff is focusing our efforts on assisting our students with reading comprehension, retelling, and summarizing grade level informational text. In addition, students are expected to write significant pieces in all of their core academic classes. Our focus on reading stems from students struggling with understanding informational text. Teachers are working with specific reading strategies in all four core academic classes. These strategies have been designed to build the skills associated with the comprehension of informational text. Students are taught to discover the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context clues. Yale Junior High School has seen an improvement in our reading scores over the last few years on the new MSTEP assessment.

Parents, students and staff are proud of our performance on both standardized mathematics exams and local assessments. Our focus is to maintain the quality of learning as it pertains to basic mathematical skills, but at the same time, increase the exposure to advanced higher order problem solving strategies, such as those required for algebra and geometry. Students will be exposed to more difficult mathematical concepts and given the tools to successfully find solutions to those problems.

Social studies and science goals are also in our school improvement plan. Both core areas went through a statewide curriculum review process and are in the process of developing curriculum by grade level. The Social Studies department will assist students with using graphs and charts to analyze and evaluate changes brought about by human influence on the environment, population and climate. Students will also be able to analyze the impact historical events have on current events and policies at a higher level than in previous years. They are also incorporating reading and writing instruction within their subject area. At the same time, our Science classes will increase strategies and activities in the classroom to better prepare students with topics such as weather, cells, and motion of objects. Both Science and Social Studies will also utilize hands on, project based assignments as well as writing components in the curriculum.

In addition to the aforementioned goals, Yale Junior High School staff is focusing their professional development on researched based instructional strategies. The staff is in year 2 of reviewing and refining Kagan Cooperative Learning and the first year of implementing 5 Dimensions+ framework in all content areas. The Science department is also working with the St. Clair County RESA to rollout Michigan's new content standards. It is the staff's belief that improving instruction through research based practices will increase student comprehension and performance on the MSTEP as well as increase student growth on a variety of measures. The staff will continue on our 5 year plan to implement both Kagan Cooperative Learning and the 5 Dimensions+ framework.

Yale Junior High School's School Improvement Goals

Goal 1: All students at Yale Junior High School will become proficient in mathematics.

Goal 2: All students at Yale Junior High School will become proficient in reading.

Goal 3: All students at Yale Junior High School will become proficient in writing.

Goal 4: All students at Yale Junior High School will become proficient in science.

Goal 5: All students at Yale Junior High School will become proficient in social studies.

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.

— 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 — 2016-17

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.

2016–17:

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 Bradley Dykstra or to, Mr. Haynes, Assistant Superintendent at (810) 387-3231.

Alternate assessment testing: No alternate assessment testing is done in the Yale District.

Parent-teacher conference rate:

2016-17	-	64%
2015-16	-	65%
2014-15	-	57%
2013-14	-	62%
2012-13	-	65%
2011-12	-	67%
2010–11	-	70%

Sincerely,

Bradley Dykstra
Principal, Yale Jr. High School