

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

08/09/10

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2009-2010 educational progress for Big Rapids High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Tim Haist, High School Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.brps.k12.mi.us or you may review a copy in student services at the high school.

For 2009-2010, Big Rapids High School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

At Big Rapids High School, all students are given every opportunity to be successful. Our mission is to provide all students with the necessary skills to become productive and responsible citizens. Our staff works hard on school improvement goals that include:

- Students will increase their ability to demonstrate effective writing skills on the Writing portion of the MME by three percent.
- Students will increase their ability to demonstrate effective reading skills on the Reading portion of the MME by three percent.
- Students will increase their ability to demonstrate effective math skills on the MME by three percent.
- Students in sub-groups scoring more than ten percentage points lower than the current state AYP targets will increase their ability to demonstrate proficiency in all areas of the MME by three percent.

We are continuously evaluating the processes we use at BRHS to allow each student to grow and flourish.

Our curriculum at BRHS is aligned with the state high school content expectations. Students are expected to meet both the State of Michigan's graduation requirements and Big Rapids Public Schools graduation requirements. Specific information about our curriculum is available in the form of a curriculum guidebook. You are able to find this information by either visiting our website or student services at BRHS.

State law requires that we also report this additional information:

- Big Rapids High School has consistently scored above the state average on the ACT. Our most recent graduates had a composite ACT score of 20.6.
- BRHS had 275 total parents or 41 percent of students represented at parent-teacher conferences in the fall. BRHS had 165 total parents or 25 percent of students represented at parent-teacher conferences in the winter. BRHS had 148 total parents or 21 percent of students represented at parent-teacher conferences in the spring.
- 78 students participated in postsecondary enrollments in the 09-10 school year, which equals 25 percent of all juniors and seniors.
- BRHS currently offers 4 advanced placement courses. They include AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Literature and AP Composition. There are 83 students or 12 percent of all BRHS students enrolled in AP courses. 21 students or 25 percent of students enrolled in the AP courses earned a score that led to college credit.
- Overall, 96 students, in equivalent to 194 college courses, earned college credit in 2009-2010.

Big Rapids High School continues to strive to be a leader in the area for student academic success. BRHS has been recognized as a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School and also by U.S. News and World Report as a Silver Medal High School. We want to continue to provide our students with opportunities to pursue their passions and to become lifelong learners. We will continue to evaluate our processes and would welcome your input in helping us help our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (231) 796-7651.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Haist".

Tim Haist
Principal
Big Rapids High School