



# Public Schools of Petoskey

*A Special Place for Everyone*

## Montessori School's Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

December 5, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the **Annual Education Report (AER)**. This report provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress of Montessori School and the Public Schools of Petoskey (as a whole district). The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. Our school report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have a question, please contact me for assistance.

The **Annual Education Report** is available for you to review electronically by visiting our school's website, at <http://moodle.petoskeyschools.org/course/view.php?id=227>, or on the district's main webpage, at [www.petoskeyschools.org](http://www.petoskeyschools.org) (highlighted in yellow). You may also review a hard copy of the school report at Montessori School.

### Information from the State of Michigan

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus Schools were named. Some Priority or Focus Schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward Schools were identified using school rankings and "Beating the Odds" information. A Focus School is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority School is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward School is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (using an improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or the predicted ranking of similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given. *The Montessori School has not been given any of these labels in 2016-17.*

### Key Building Initiatives

While we are pleased to have reached important academic and character goals, we are constantly working to improve. We have chosen **purposeful** inquiry as an initiative this year and in the future. Our educational philosophy drives **personal** inquiry for all of our students. However, as we facilitate that inquiry process, we are making efforts to make

the inquiry opportunities more **purposeful** and aligned to our core Montessori Standards and the MI Content Standards.

**We are also required by state law to report the additional information below for the two most recent years:**

1. Pupils are assigned to schools based upon the age and grade of the student, living proximity to the school (whenever possible), class size, siblings within the Public Schools of Petoskey, parent preference (when possible), and availability of staff to meet the needs of the student. (The final choice to attend the Montessori School is primarily parental if openings are available.)
2. We are moving forward on our multi-year School Improvement Plan (SIP), and we continue to make learning gains. Our focus to increase each student's core proficiencies is supported through a continual review/revision/alignment of curriculum, balanced assessment plans and analysis, well-researched, best teaching practices (e.g., authentic student engagement), stakeholder and PLC collaboration, a variety of supports/extensions (e.g., multi-leveled supports/Rtl), and caring for each member of our school family.
3. There are no "specialized schools" within our district. However, we do offer "specialized programs" that include special education, Title I/31a, enrichment, Title VII, Montessori School, and alternative educational settings through Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate District.
4. Our district's core curriculum follows Michigan's Content Standards and Practices in ELA Math, Science, Social Studies, the Arts, and PE. Montessori teaching and learning practices are embedded. The standards can be found at [https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753\\_64839\\_65510---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_64839_65510---,00.html). Our curriculum is built, aligned, and paced based upon these standards and practices by grade level and/or department. Further information is on our website under the Curriculum tabs entitled General Guide and Curriculum Framework with Spiral Annual Progressions at <http://moodle.petoskeyschools.org/course/view.php?id=204>.
5. The aggregate student achievement results for our school on state tests can be found in our Annual Education Report or in our Annual Report/Calendar available at all schools in hard copy or electronically on the district website at [www.petoskeyschools.org](http://www.petoskeyschools.org). All state and national assessments (e.g., NWEA) show our students well above average proficiency levels. (Due to our low student numbers, no subgroups are represented in this data.) We do not post common assessment data, ELPA findings, or national NWEA scores. They are utilized by our staff to assess and monitor individual student and cohort achievement growth. The results of these personalized tests are sent to parents at various times during the school year and are also discussed at parent-teacher meetings/conferences and PLC/building team meetings.
6. The number and percent of students represented by parents/guardians are also displayed in our Annual Report/Calendar which is available in hard copy at all schools and also on our district website at [www.petoskeyschools.org](http://www.petoskeyschools.org).

Montessori School's Parent-Teacher Conference attendance (fall and spring) were 100%.

The staff at Montessori offers a sincere thank you to our parents and the community for partnering with us to offer a quality education to students at Montessori. We congratulate our students and their families for their hard work and efforts toward academic success. Together, we will continue to work toward our district's and school's mission.

The Public Schools of Petoskey truly is a "*Special Place for Everyone.*"

Sincerely,  
Kim Maves, Administrator  
Montessori House  
1560 East Mitchell Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
231-347-5331  
[kim@petoskeymontessori.org](mailto:kim@petoskeymontessori.org)

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