



“Raising the Standards of Education”

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School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 1, 2023

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2021-22 educational progress for Merritt Academy. 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 Tracy Cohrs for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website <https://bit.ly/3Yju4s9> (SEE Q.7 AND Q.8 OF THE 2021-22 AER FAQ DOCUMENT FOR DIRECTIONS), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child’s school.

For the 2021-22 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 2021-22. 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 school that has not been given a label.

Based on the combined reports Merritt Academy needs to really work on closing the learning gaps in math and reading in all grade levels. Our lower elementary scores were much lower than in the past. For the middle school we need to look at specific subgroups to target to help close the gap and increase proficiency. This is supported throughout the data at all grade levels in all subject areas.

Merritt has faced two major challenges. The first one is to continue to work with students to catch up on the learning gaps created with the COVID closure and

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Merritt Academy will instill academic excellence, character development, a love for life-long learning, and service to others.

quarantines. Students are not only suffering from academic loss but more emotional issues and trauma connected to the shut-down. The other major issue has been the teacher shortage and making sure we have qualified teachers in the right positions.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING STUDENTS

For school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 students must complete an enrollment packet and placement testing before being accepted to the school. They must also have their prior discipline report verified from their previous school before final acceptance is granted.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The School Improvement team has developed goals in both 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years for all four-core subject areas, which are listed below. Measurement will be based on M-Step results for students in grades 3-8 and 11, PSAT for students in grades 8, 9 and 10, SAT for students in grades 11, and NWEA results for students in grades K-10. The school continues to make progress towards the established goals. New strategies are implemented to help reach the final goal.

Goal: All students will be proficient in English Language Arts.

Measurable Objective Statements: 100% of all students will demonstrate proficiency in ELA by June 2022.

Goal: Mathematics: All students will be proficient in mathematics.

Measurable Objective Statement: 100% of all students will demonstrate proficiency in Math by June 2022.

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Goal: Science: All students will be proficient in Science.

Measurable Objective Statement: 100% of all students will demonstrate proficiency in Science by June 2022.

Goal: Social Studies: All students will be proficient in Social Studies.

Measurable Objective Statement: 100% of all students will demonstrate proficiency in Social Studies by June 2022.

DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

During the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, Merritt Academy did not have any specialized schools.

ACCESSING A COPY OF CORE CURRICULUM

The core curriculum is available on each teacher's website. The curriculum is fully implemented and did not vary from the state's model in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

The table below shows the percentage of students that met their personal growth goal in NWEA. The table shows NWEA for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years in both reading and math. The N/A in Kindergarten, ninth, and tenth the percentage was not calculated because students did not test all three times in those grades.

	Math 20/21	Reading 20/21	Math 21/22	Reading 21/22
Kdg.	64%	49%	N/A	N/A
First	76%	69%	65%	36%
Second	61%	59%	34%	51%
Third	62%	46%	71%	63%
Fourth	53%	47%	67%	74%
Fifth	61%	59%	70%	57%
Sixth	53%	48%	52%	40%
Seventh	46%	53%	80%	48%
Eighth	62%	47%	57%	40%
Ninth	35%	N/A	31%	29%
Tenth	50%	N/A	67%	N/A
Eleventh	57%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Twelfth	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Merritt Academy had 430 parents attend conferences in 2018/2019. That is 74%. In 2019/2020 Merritt Academy had 490 parents attend conferences (mostly virtual). That is 84% of the parents.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

- a. In 2020/221 Merritt Academy had 11 students participate in Dual Enrollment. That is 8%. In 2021/2022 10 students participated in Dual Enrollment. This is 8% of the high school students.
- b. The school does not offer college equivalent classes (AP/IB)
- c. There are not any students enrolled in college equivalent classes (AP/IB)
- d. No students received a score to earn college credit because we do not have college equivalent classes.

Merritt Academy was able to open and remain face to face for the entire 2021/2022 school year. This was a huge success for us. In addition, we were able to start offering support programs to address the many academic struggles we were seeing.

Sincerely,

Nathan Seiferlein
Principal



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