

2019-2020 Annual Education Report



Grand Rapids Public Schools • 1331 Franklin S.E. • P.O. Box 117 • Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117 • (616) 819-2000 • <http://www.grps.org>



February 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-2020 educational progress for GERALD R. FORD ACADEMIC CENTER. 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 me at neald@grps.org or call our school's main office at 616-819-2640 for assistance.

All Michigan schools are required to report out on several different components including:

- *Results of State Assessments for all tested subjects (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies)*
- *Teacher Qualification Data*
- *NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)*

Schools typically are identified using definitions and support categories as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is performing in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school has one or more student subgroups performing at or below the 25th percentile. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school has one or more student subgroups performing at or below the 25th percentile with one or more student subgroups performing like a bottom 5th percentile school. Schools with higher levels of performance are not identified with any of these support category labels.

Note that student assessment and accountability data are not included in this AER due to federal waivers. Our school's AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the Michigan School Data site or clicking this link: [Gerald R. Ford AER](#). You may also review a copy in the main office at our school.

Gerald R. Ford Academic
Center

Grades PreK-8 • 851 Madison Ave • 616.819.2640 • Fax: 616.819.2660 • Denishea Killingham-Neal, Principal
• Enrollment: 304

Click [here](#) to view the School Index Overview for our school. This site provides additional information about key performance indicators.

We continue to implement the district's Academic Plan that focuses on creating a learning culture to advance students' thinking and providing a rigorous and standards-based curriculum to help students achieve College- and Career-Readiness by the time they graduate.

About The School

Gerald R. Ford Academic Center is a K8 Theme School within Grand Rapids Public Schools. Our mission is to develop intellectual habits of mind, character traits, and the perseverance needed to ensure career and college readiness, to develop personal integrity, achieve success, to lead and serve the common good of the local and global community. Our school prepares all students to become independent learners with the desires, skills, and abilities necessary for lifelong learning. We have created a learning environment that is student-centered, directed by teachers, and supported by home and community.

Our school offers a structured, disciplined, supportive environment for families committed to academic excellence. Students learn in small classes that foster civic and community leadership, develop character and integrity, and participate in service learning projects. Parents are required to sign a contract and fulfil parent/guardian expectations for attending parent events and ensuring their child maintains good attendance and behavior. Our families support the school by being engaged in the school community and by actively participating in their student's education through partnering, frequent communication and involvement with the school regarding their student's academic and social performance.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to ensure that all students are educated, self-directed, and productive members of society.

Process for Assigning Pupils to Our School

Our school is a theme school requiring application. Click [here](#) to view the GRPS Attendance Area Finder. It shows the neighborhood elementary school, middle school, and high school for your address. Additional options, including K-8 schools, theme schools, and Centers of Innovation are available. Please contact Student Services at 616-819-2150 to learn more about your school choices.

Local Assessment Results

NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is the district's local assessment. Schools were closed beginning March 2020 due to the pandemic. Therefore, MAP tests were not administered in Spring 2020.

Core Curriculum

GRPS continues to...

- Align curricula to Michigan Grade Level Content Standards and College and Career Readiness Standards.
- Provide professional development that supports the Academic Plan.
- Assess student learning so teachers have accurate information about each student.
- Define individualized student targets, school-wide targets and district achievement targets.

The GRPS Parent University website links parents to resources such as [Milestones](#) (provided by *GreatSchools*), a collection of online videos aimed to help parents understand their child's grade-level expectations. These videos show students demonstrating what success looks like in reading, writing, and math for every grade level.

We are committed to ensuring our students reach their full academic potential. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you for your interest in our school!

Sincerely,

Denishea Killingham-Neal
Principal, Gerald R. Ford Academy

