

# E.F. Rittmueller Middle School

## 2021-2022 Annual Education Report

Kristen Hecht, Principal

### EFR Annual Education Report

February 1, 2022

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2020-2021 educational progress for E.F. Rittmueller Middle 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 E.F. Rittmueller Middle School Office for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/37PyqOT> or you may review a copy in the EFR Main Office.

For the 2020-2021 school year, schools were identified using new definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given. E.F. Rittmueller Middle School did not receive a label.

State law requires that we also report the following information. On the following pages you will find information regarding:

- Process for assigning pupils to the school
- The status of our school improvement plan
- A description of our school
- The core curriculum
- Student achievement data
- Parent-Teacher conference statistics

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### PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

All district pupils in grade five through eight are assigned to E.F. Rittmueller Middle School since there is only one public school building in the district that serves this grade span of students. E.F. Rittmueller Middle School accepts School of Choice applicants as announced annually. Applications are due during the appropriate timeframes for acceptance.

### THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In 2019-20 Frankenmuth Schools ended its accreditation with NCA, and in 2020-21, streamlined efforts toward "school improvement" using the newly released Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP). Still in the implementation phase, this process was initiated by the state of Michigan with the expectation for schools and districts to unify their plans and initiate these efforts with a goal that strives to improve student outcomes by assessing whole child needs to develop plans and coordinate funding. This process ultimately encourages the continuation of what had been in place with our prior NCA accreditation, including focusing on high levels of student achievement, a positive school climate supporting the educational process, and a shared mission among all stakeholders. We will focus our continued growth on meeting the needs of the whole child by incorporating the use of research-based best practices in socio-emotional and academic learning and development. Our specific academic focus areas include increasing performance and minimizing the achievement gap in reading, writing, and mathematics/critical thinking. All of our school improvement goals and strategies are in the "monitoring" phase of the process, with annual revisions to improve results.

### A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF OUR SCHOOL

At E.F. Rittmueller Middle School, we maintain a culture of high expectations and continuous improvement by creating a place for every student, ensuring academic achievement for all, and preparing students for high school and beyond. The instructional staff consists of fourteen full-time teachers, three teachers shared with the high school, and a part-time counselor. Three hundred forty-seven young adolescents in grades five, six, seven, and eight make up the student body.

We offer various exploratory courses, including band, physical education, art, communications, technology, and dramatic arts. Several after-school programs exist, including Fox Club (Frankenmuth Outdoor Explorers), Student Council, Ecology Club, Book Talks/Clubs, Yearbook, and athletics (girls teams: volleyball, basketball, track/ boys teams: wrestling, basketball, track). Before COVID, approximately 90% of our fifth-grade students experience three days and two nights at Hartley Nature Center every fall. For the past two years, in response to COVID, the trip has been an extended day spent at Hartley Nature Center with either outdoor activities or cohorting students in addition to other health/safety precautions for indoor activities. Each fall, 85% of our eighth-grade students travel to Washington DC to experience four days of learning in our nation's capital. We could not go during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID. Once COVID is past us or the health precautions are doable, we will continue to offer this trip to our eighth-grade students. Combining all of these opportunities reinforces our mission of Frankenmuth School District as "A Place for All Students."

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In spring 2019, E.F. Rittmueller Middle School was designated a Michigan School to Watch (STW). Currently, only fourteen Michigan middle grades schools hold this designation. Schools to Watch is a recognition and school improvement program for middle-level schools developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Michigan is one of seventeen states that have implemented the program in partnership with The National Forum. After a lengthy application process and site visit, E.F. Rittmueller Middle School was selected for its academic excellence, responsiveness to young adolescents' needs and interests, and commitment to helping all students achieve at high levels.

### CORE CURRICULUM

The Frankenmuth School District offers a core academic curriculum as defined by the State of Michigan. To learn more about the core academic curriculum taught at E.F. Rittmueller Middle School, you can contact Kristen Hecht or visit the Michigan Department of Education website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>. The educators at E.F. Rittmueller review, evaluate, develop and write curriculum and assessments. This on-going, cyclical process includes research, analysis of current practice, and selection of appropriate materials, resources and implementation.

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#### English Language Arts

The English Language Arts curriculum follows Michigan approved Common Core State Standards. Building educators utilize the Language of Literature series (McDougal Littell) and supplement the curriculum with students reading required novels and the implementation of a reader's workshop type of instruction.

#### Mathematics

The Mathematics curriculum follows Michigan approved Common Core State Standards. Kindergarten through fifth grade math staff utilize Eureka Math curriculum resources. Sixth through eighth grade math teachers utilize Open Up Resources (OUR). All math teachers at EFR also implement the Focused Instructional Model (FIM). This systemic process provides an opportunity for teachers to scaffold student learning and encourages growth of numeracy skills.

#### Science

Sixth through eighth grade science teachers utilize the Mi-STAR curriculum. Mi-STAR is a middle school curriculum that supports both the NGSS and the Michigan State Standards, while empowering student to use science and engineering practices to address real-world issues. The Mystery Science curriculum is utilized in the fifth grade. Mystery Science is a hands-on program that is aligned to the State of Michigan Next Generation Science Standards.

#### Social Studies

In June 2019, Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies were adopted. Social studies staff is working together to plan for shifts in the curriculum and make sure all concepts are covered. Throughout all social studies courses, the inquiry process is studied. This process helps students develop the kind of reasoned and informed decision-making skills needed for active participation in society. Social Studies staff utilizes the America: History of our Nation and World Studies series by Prentice Hall.

Ongoing professional development is a critical part of our instructional staff increasing knowledge of the curriculum being taught and how to teach it.

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### AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

E.F. Rittmueller Middle School students continue to perform well on the required, standardized tests given. On the spring 2021 M-STEP assessments, our students scored well above the state of Michigan and Saginaw Intermediate School District proficient and highly proficient averages on every grade level M-STEP curriculum area that was assessed. Additional information on state assessments can be found at [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org)

Fifth through eighth grade students take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests to determine each student's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year. This data, along with classroom observations, help our staff make informed decisions regarding individual student academic needs. During a typical school year, tests are administered in the areas of reading, math, science and language usage. MAP tests are computer based and unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for each child's level of learning. For more information regarding MAP Testing through the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) please visit [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org). MAP tests are administered two to three times each school year depending on the grade level and curricular area. Trend data is shown below. It is disaggregated per cohort with the most recent mean RIT score listed which helps us gauge how our students perform compared to the national norm.

GR	Test	F 2020 EFR	W 2021 EFR	S 2021 EFR		W Norm	EFR above/ below norm	S Norm	EFR above/ below norm
5	Math	210	212	216.6		215	-3	219	<b>-2.4</b>
5	Reading	212	NA	217.6		209	NA	211	<b>6.6</b>
5	Lang Use	NA	209	NA		208	1	210	
6	Math	216	216.8	222.3		220	-3	223	<b>-0.7</b>
6	Reading	215	217	NA		214	3	215	
6	Lang Use	NA	212	NA		213	-1	214	
7	Math	221	224.3	NA		224	0.3	227	
7	Reading	219	221.5	NA		217	4.5	218	
7	Lang Use	NA	219	NA		215	4	216	
8	Math	228	231	NA		228	3	230	
8	Reading	224	226.2	NA		221	5.2	222	

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### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent participation with E.F. Rittmueller Middle School is exceptional. Attendance at our before school Parent/Teacher Meet & Greet exemplifies this participation, with over 95% of parents attending. Parent participation has been enhanced through Skyward, a web-based program that allows parents to access student progress in real-time. Close cooperation between the home and school is essential to promote the best interest of the child. Parents are encouraged to visit and are always welcome at E.F. Rittmueller Middle School.

#### Fall Parent/Teacher Conference Attendance Data

	Number of Students Represented	Percentage of Students Represented	Total Enrollment	
2012-2013	206	66%	310	
2013-2014	242	75%	322	
2014-2015	245	75%	326	
2015-2016	260	75%	347	
2016-2017	261	74%	351	
2017-2018	259	76%	340	
2018-2019	268	78%	342	
2019-2020	261	76%	343	
2020-2021	173/ 297 (in person learners)	58%	346	COVID: 297 in person. 49 students of the 5-8 grade are all-virtual students.

With the staff's dedication, the students' perseverance, and parents' unwavering support, we can offer a fine academic program rich in opportunities for all students. We are grateful for the staff, parents, and entire community's support for their dedication to raising student achievement and supporting positive student development in the middle grades. The long-standing success of our school district is the result of a community that values education. We pledge to continue this tradition.

Sincerely,



Kristen M. Hecht  
Principal  
E.F. Rittmueller Middle School