

MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1201 WEST FAIR AVENUE  
MARQUETTE, MI 49855  
TELEPHONE (906) 225-4200  
FAX (906)225-5340  
WEBSITE WWW.MAPSNET.ORG

ZACK SEDGWICK, SUPERINTENDENT

JIM LAMPMAN, ASST, SUPERINTENDENT

**2023-2024**  
**Sandy Knoll Annual Education Report (AER)**

February 8, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2022-23 educational progress for Sandy Knoll Elementary 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 Stacy Brock, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by clicking the link below:

**Annual Education Report**

You may also review a copy in our main office here at Sandy Knoll.

We are very proud to announce that Sandy Knoll has been named a Reward School, based on an "A" grade on the "School Grades" report for the second year in a row. Reward Schools receive an "A" grade based on the components of proficiency, growth, and peer comparisons.

For the 2022-23 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 2022-23. 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 2022-23. 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 2022-23. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given. Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Marquette Area Public Schools has instituted an MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Supports) initiative to address achievement gaps in all students. This initiative is focused on the whole child and addresses academic, behavioral, social-emotional learning, and health and wellness. The staff here at Sandy Knoll continues to work diligently through grade level meetings, professional learning communities (PLCs), and other professional development opportunities to analyze student data from assessments and classroom evidence in order to identify areas of need for individual students and develop a plan to remedy those areas. Classroom teachers are utilizing Lexia's Core 5 reading program to provide additional curriculum support and to navigate individualized student need areas. Teachers are receiving specialized training in Math Recovery courses that provide a framework, diagnostic assessments, and tools for differentiating instruction. We have also provided additional support, such as instructional coaches, to support building staff with instructional and interventional strategies, targeted Title I support, a free academic tutoring program, summer enrichment program, and various other programs to increase student achievement. School Counselors address social emotional needs through classroom lessons, along with our Social Emotional Learning elective that students attend on a weekly basis.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

**Pupil Assignment:** The Marquette Area Public School District has identified attendance areas for each building, as well as, a policy and process to address parents' schools of choice requests. Copies of this policy and procedures are available at each building principal's office, as well as, the central administration office. Parents have been notified of the policy and process for schools of choice requests.

**The Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan:** A plan for continuing school improvement efforts is evidenced by goals set forth in our District Strategic Plan and Continuous Improvement Plan. The District Strategic Plan defines goals in the areas of student achievement, wellness, professional development, community relations, business/finance, and facilities/learning environment. The Continuous Improvement Plan addresses the goal of closing student achievement gaps through an intentional and impactful Multi-tiered System of Supports initiative that connects directly to our Sandy Knoll building goals.

**Specialized Schools:** The Marquette Area Public school District has an Adult Basic Education program and an Alternative High School Program. Sandy Knoll is not a specialized school.

**Core Curriculum:** We fully follow the State of Michigan approved curriculum standards. All students at Sandy Knoll receive core instruction in the areas of ELA, math, science, and social studies. In addition, all students (K-5) receive instruction in art, music, physical education, technology, and social emotional learning. We have implemented core instructional resources in all four core subject areas, including instructional coaches to assist our teaching staff with best practices for our students in delivering a differentiated learning environment to meet all student

needs. District curriculum committees representing all four core areas, composed of representation from all buildings and principals, meet to review, evaluate, ensure alignment between grade levels, and make curriculum recommendations.

**Parent Teacher Conferences:** The percentage of parents that attended Parent Teacher Conferences in the Fall of 2023 was 96% with 325 attended. The percentage of parents who attended Parent Teacher Conferences in Fall of 2022 was 95% with 347 conferences attended.

**Career Readiness:** Sandy Knoll students are provided exposure to multiple career fields through guest speakers, field trips, and exposure through classroom activities and instruction. Some activities include STEM, conservation, agriculture, technology, communication, music, and the arts. We also have visits from the Fire Department and City Police to educate students on safety. In every opportunity, we connect our students to experiences in partnership with our community.

**Student Achievement Results:** Sandy Knoll Elementary School uses the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Assessment as a district assessment tool in grades K-5 in the areas of reading and mathematics. The following is a comparison of mid-year assessments using the 2020 national norms.

Mathematics Spring 2022-2023				Reading Spring 2022-2023			
Grade	RIT Average	RIT NORM Average	% of Students at or Above Nat'l RIT Norm	Grade	RIT Average	RIT NORM Average	% of Students at or Above Nat'l RIT Norm
<b>K</b>	164.4	157.1	67.4%	<b>K</b>	158.3	153.1	67.4%
<b>1st</b>	182.2	176.4	79.2%	<b>1st</b>	175	171.4	60.4%
<b>2nd</b>	195.3	189.4	76%	<b>2nd</b>	194.4	185.6	67.4%
<b>3rd</b>	205.5	201.1	62.3%	<b>3rd</b>	201.5	197.1	65%
<b>4th</b>	215.7	210.5	73.3%	<b>4th</b>	212.2	204.8	77.8%
<b>5th</b>	224.5	218.7	71%	<b>5th</b>	216.2	211	66.7%

<b>Mathematics Spring 2021-2022</b>	<b>Reading Spring 2021-2022</b>
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<b>Grade</b>	<b>RIT Average</b>	<b>RIT NORM Average</b>	<b>% of Students at or Above Nat'l RIT Norm</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>RIT Average</b>	<b>RIT NORM Average</b>	<b>% of Students at or Above Nat'l RIT Norm</b>
<b>K</b>	163.7	157.1	81.8%	<b>K</b>	157.1	153.1	70.5%
<b>1st</b>	183.7	176.4	85.1%	<b>1st</b>	177.3	171.4	70.2%
<b>2nd</b>	193.5	189.4	64.8%	<b>2nd</b>	189.9	185.6	66.7%
<b>3rd</b>	206.8	201.1	69.4%	<b>3rd</b>	203	197.1	67.3%
<b>4th</b>	215.9	210.5	68.7%	<b>4th</b>	210.1	204.8	68.7%
<b>5th</b>	230.1	218.7	78.3%	<b>5th</b>	216.8	211	71.7%

Sandy Knoll Elementary is a caring community of responsible and respectful learners, who value connection and engagement. Our school staff provides a safe, creative, and positive learning environment for all students. We will continue to strive toward educational excellence for our students, families, and community.

Sincerely,

Stacy Brock  
Sandy Knoll Elementary Principal