



April 15, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-2015 educational progress for the New Groningen 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 Mrs. Laurie Poll, New Groningen Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/lZYnx1> or you may review a copy in our main office at your child's school.

Increasing academic achievement among all students and the specific subgroups in our building continues to be our challenge as a building. During the past year we have planned several initiatives to increase the performance of our students including a comprehensive phonics program in grades K-2 and rigorous new reading program in grades 3-5. Our professional development will be on these programs. We have addressed the needs of our struggling students through a response to intervention program we call WIN (What I need). All students will be provided an intervention period of reading and/or math that will help them to be successful with the Common Core State Standards.

***Process for assigning pupils to the school*** - Students in Zeeland are assigned based upon their geographical home location. Zeeland also offers school of choice openings which are placed after the residents of Zeeland are assigned to their home school. There are 7 elementary schools in Zeeland and those schools feed into two middle schools, Cityside and Creekside. New Groningen feeds into Creekside Middle School which goes to Zeeland West High School.

**The status of the 3-5 year school improvement plan (SIP)** - New Groningen Elementary is continually revising the school improvement plan to help our students achieve the necessary skills for success in the content areas. The staff will continue to work with students in goal areas of reading comprehension, writing, and math.

**Specialty Schools** – Students enrolled in an elementary program at Zeeland Public Schools are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of opportunities besides the traditional general education. ZPS offers special education programming to meet various needs, Gifted and Talented (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade), Spanish Immersion (K-3<sup>rd</sup>), and ZQuest (a year round, project based school, K-8<sup>th</sup>).

**The Core Curriculum** for our school is based upon the State of Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations and National Common Core Standards. This information is available at our school office or on our district website. Zeeland Public Schools makes sure our students are provided challenging lessons that are consistent across grade levels. A team of Zeeland educators regularly evaluates and revises our curriculum to ensure that classroom lessons meet state requirements for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Our district has made the transition to the National Common Core Standards in math and English Language Arts.

**Student Achievement Results**

<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015 *note benchmark changes</b>
<p>On District <b>Rigby Running Record</b> Assessments:            90% of Kinder are at or above grade level benchmark 3            83% of 1<sup>st</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 16            88% of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 22            72% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 25            68% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 28            53% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 30</p>	<p>On District <b>Rigby Running Record</b> Assessments:            72% of Kinder are at or above grade level benchmark 4            83% of 1<sup>st</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 18            87% of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 22            86% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 26            60% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 29            3% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders are at or above grade level benchmark 30</p>

<b>2013 -2014 Discovery Education Scores (Percent Level 1 or 2 at End of Year) – Year 1 of Assessment</b>			<b>2014 -2015 Discovery Education Scores (Percent Level 3 or 4 at End of Year) – Year 2 of Assessment</b>		
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Reading</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>*Not tested</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>*Not tested</b>
<b>2nd</b>	<b>60.9%</b>	<b>51.6%</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>59.4%</b>
<b>3rd</b>	<b>52.1%</b>	<b>41.7%</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>54.0%</b>
<b>4th</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>79.4%</b>	<b>67.8%</b>
<b>5th</b>	<b>42.1%</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>84.5%</b>	<b>62.0%</b>

Note: Discovery changed proficiency levels –  
In 2013-14 Level 1 or 2 was proficient and in  
2014- 15 Level 3 or 4 were proficient

During the 2014-15 school year, New Groningen had 98% of parents representing their student at parent-teacher conferences. New Groningen had over 5,654 volunteers this school year. The volunteers donated a total of 52,036.34 documented hours for our students and staff!

New Groningen Elementary staff has worked very hard during the 2014-15 school year to ensure that every student receives the quality education that they deserve. We continue to strive toward excellence in our school and community. 'The mission of New Groningen Elementary School, in partnership with staff, family and community, is to promote learning as a lifelong goal by providing opportunities for all students to succeed.' New Groningen Staff will continue to give their best to each student who walks into the school each day during the 2015-16 school year.

Sincerely,

Laurie Poll  
Principal  
New Groningen Elementary

To view the Zeeland Public Schools District Annual Report please click here: [ZPS District Annual Report](#)