

Saginaw Arts & Science Academy
2015–2016 Annual Education Report
Priscilla Arocha–Roby

2015–2016 Annual Education Report

January 30, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the Saginaw Arts & Sciences 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 Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy at 989.399.5500 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.spsd.net>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given.

Our school was identified as a Reward School.

Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy students exceed state and national averages on our MSTEP, PSAT and SAT scores. We are cognizant of the fact that some students may lack certain essential skills to demonstrate annual increased proficiency for our school. Teachers have identified our students in the bottom 30% and our "bubble" students who are capable of demonstrating growth and increasing their proficiency in assessed areas. These students have been assigned

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to structured tutorials once a week throughout the school year in each of their content areas of need. They are also identified for supplemental core content instruction through our summer school program. These are new initiatives at SASA in an effort to increase student proficiency for all students.

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

All Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy programs are open to student applicants from Saginaw County and the surrounding areas. Students who have an interest in S.A.S.A. must complete all entrance requirements. Each student must submit applications and submit transcripts of grades and letters of recommendation. We assess all applicants with the appropriate level of nationally standardized ability test. Factors for acceptance include admissions’ test score, past academic record, attendance, citizenship, and interest. Students who apply for any of the performing arts, such as dance, theatre, and voice/keyboards, must also complete an audition in the area of their interest. Visual arts applicants are required to submit a portfolio of their work for evaluation, as well as to participate in a brief drawing exercise. Students applying for language arts may be required to submit a writing sample.

THE STATUS OF THE 3–5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Goals	Progress		
	Getting Started	Implementation	Monitoring
Goal 1: All students will meet or exceed Common Core State Standards for literacy (Reading/Writing)			
Strategies: Teachers and administrators will be provided learning opportunities prior to the beginning of the school year through the Teacher Summer Institute and the Administrative Academy. During these sessions information about CCSS, how to implement them with student-centered learning, inquiry-based learning, data-driven decisions and research based instructional best practices to include integration of technology.		X	
Goal 2: Students in grades 7 and 11 will show a 10% increase in Science Proficiency on			

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MSTEP, MME, and AP assessments.			
Strategies: Staff will implement student-centered learning, inquiry-based learning and research based best practices including technology integration and differentiated instruction to support students as shown by state and local assessments.		X	
Goal 3: There will be a 10% increase in the number of math students who will meet level 1 or 2 proficiency in math common core state standards on the 2016 State Standardized Assessments assisted by use of exploration activities and technology.			
Strategies: Teachers will implement lessons that support learning CCSS that include multi-tiered questioning, visual representations, and the use of graphing calculators where appropriate with the support of district math coaches.		X	
Goal 4: Saginaw Arts & Sciences will continue to be a stable and high performing organization to promote the success of all students.			
Strategies: Staff will continue to develop curriculum documents that would further enhance SASA programs and provide articulation of courses to reflect the students' anticipated course of study.		X	

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF OUR SCHOOL

The Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy is a public school for gifted and talented students that has been recognized repeatedly by the State of Michigan as a Reward School. Advanced classes are offered to students who want a more challenging and culturally rich environment. Qualifying students are enrolled in an area of concentration that meets daily for a 2-3 hour block. Students have the option to specialize in the visual or performing arts or in an academic concentration or both.

The *Dance program* is designed to enable each student to discover their own capacity for ideas, thoughts and feelings using a working knowledge of dance technique and vocabulary. A strong emphasis is placed on developing the discipline and responsibility that is involved in learning dance technique, in performance, and in choreography.

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The *Theatre program* is designed to foster the creative spirit through performance, design, and hands-on experience. Students work collaboratively to develop their performance skills, discipline, and general theatre knowledge, including Theatre History. Emphasis is placed on growth through self-understanding, critical thinking, and group interaction.

The *Visual Arts* program is open to students in grades 6-12. This program is designed to teach students to apply the elements and principles of design as explored through a variety of two and three-dimensional media. New middle school students enrolled in the morning classes will study both 2-D and 3-D art under the guidance of both instructors. High school students in the afternoon classes will elect to be enrolled in either the 2-D or 3-D art class.

The *Voice/Keyboard* program is available to qualified middle and high school students. Musical instruction includes the areas of voice, keyboard, music theory, music history and appreciation, and performance choreography. The intent of the program is to develop individual and group performance skills, appreciation and knowledge of music and the arts, and to prepare for college study. No previous piano instruction is required.

The *Middle School Language Arts/Global Studies* program is designed to Integrate Language Arts and Global Studies for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. This enriched and accelerated curriculum allows students to use originality, creativity and leadership skills. Career exploration, guest speakers and field trips are integrated into the program to enhance the learning.

The *mathematics/science program* is designed to integrate mathematics and science. This unified approach treats mathematics both as a science and as a language of the other sciences. Students will learn scientific facts and concepts and be able to understand how these facts are established and applied to real world problems. In response to the needs of today's changing society, students are exposed to current technologies as well.

The *high school Global Studies program* promotes a lifelong growth in the understanding, awareness and appreciation of the world community and the interdependency of its people and systems--social, cultural, racial, economic, political, artistic, linguistic, technological, ecological, religious, and historical.

The *high school Language Arts program* at SASA is designed to challenge the students' interests and skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will use creative approaches to the study of literature and the practice of writing, exploring a variety of genres. Frequent writing assignments focus on narratives, poems, scripts, and critical responses to literature, including expository and argumentative essays; reading assignments include novels, drama, poetry, essays, biography and memoirs.

CORE CURRICULUM

The Core Curriculum can be located on the Saginaw Public School District's website:

Step 1: Go to www.spsd.net

Step 2: Click on Departments

Step 3: Click on Instructional Division

Step 4: Click on Core Curriculum MAISA units

Step 5: To view and download the MAISA CCRS units, click on either the SEARCH or BROWSE buttons on the top of the page. You can use the SEARCH feature to find where a certain topic or skill is taught. The BROWSE button allows you to browse by grade level or subject area.

Thus, SASA's core curriculum is consistent with the district and state in all academic content areas and our highly qualified staff continues to work with District Curriculum Implementers to develop and implement grade level content standards, assessments, and instructional techniques that are aligned with these standards.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

To access SASA's achievement data, please click on this link:

<https://goo.gl/EZNN70>

PARENT–TEACHER CONFERENCES

The percentage of parents that attended fall 2015 Parent-Teacher Conferences was approximately 64%; spring 2016 Conference attendance was approximately 37%. Many of our parents use Skyward Family Access to monitor their student's academic progress and thus, do not feel the need to attend a face-to-face conference.

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COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Description	Number of Students	Percentage
Dual Enrollment	4	4%
College Equivalent Courses (AP/IB)	225	82%
Students Receiving College Credit	34	15%

SASA offers 12 Advanced Placement courses and opportunities for high school students to enroll in dual enrollment opportunities at local colleges and universities as well as the Michigan Virtual High School.

The Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy is a unique gifted and talented school like no other in Michigan. SASA offers concentrations in academic, visual and performing arts for grades 6-12. Our award winning staff continues to motivate and inspire students to exceed expectations and reach their goals and dreams. Students aspire to explore and excel in their areas of concentration. Opportunities and educational options abound at SASA. The many awards and distinctions earned through adjudications and competitions, whether in the academic or performing and visual arts programs, demonstrate the SASA spirit and commitment to excellence by all members of this school community!

Sincerely,

Priscilla Arocha-Roby, Principal