



**R. Grant Graham Elementary**  
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***Tony O. Harris Principal***

January 29, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-19 educational progress for R. Grant Graham 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 Tony O. Harris, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the district website at [www.avondaleschools.org](http://www.avondaleschools.org) and selecting R. Grant Graham Elementary School. You may also review a copy in the main office at R. Grant Graham.

We were pleased with our R. Grant Graham students' performance on the MSTEP assessment in 2019. However, we are constantly striving to increase proficiency and close achievement gaps identified by state and local assessments. Our biggest challenges are in closing our achievement gaps. Gaps exist between our Economically Disadvantaged students, English Language Learners and our Special Education students as compared to their counterparts. We have also recently identified gaps between our male and female students in all content areas and in most grade levels.

In order to address these challenges, we have implemented the following initiatives:

- Increased ELL servicing to assist with academic vocabulary and writing - full time certified teacher
- Leveled Literacy Instruction for at-risk readers grades K-3
- Added full time certified reading teacher and two para-educator's
- Professional Development provided to all staff in the areas of engagement of at-risk students (ELL and EDD specifically)
- Utilized Behavior/Literacy Interventionist to support our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Purchased FOSS kits for physical and earth science at all grade levels
- NWEA Map Assessments and analysis three times per year to monitor progress and to design instruction
- Culture of Thinking initiative utilizing Thinking Routines and the 8 Cultural Forces
- Adoption of new math textbook, Math Expressions, in 2015-16
- Added two para-educator's to support classroom learning.
- Added Units of Study in Reading and Writing by Lucy Calkins

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Process for assigning students to the school: The Avondale School district designates enrollment areas for each of its four elementary buildings. Residents in the R. Grant Graham attendance area attend our school. When space permits, parents may apply to have their child attend another district elementary school. R. Grant Graham also has several School of Choice students as part of Avondale's limited School of Choice offerings.
2. Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan: R. Grant Graham Elementary, along with the Avondale School District, has received district accreditation from AdvancEd. We are engaged in a 3-5 year improvement process aligned with the district strategic plan and improvement goals. Our current focus is to improve proficiency in reading (specifically informational text), writing in the content areas (claim/support), and math computation. These have been our areas of focus for the past two years. R. Grant Graham's plan can be reviewed on our building website at [www.avondaleschools.org](http://www.avondaleschools.org).
3. Core Curriculum: Core Curriculum is defined as those educational outcomes that are important for all students to attain as they progress through school. The Michigan Department of Education provides an academic core curriculum that specifies the standards, benchmarks, and content expectations at each grade level and content area K-12. We follow the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Math and GLCEs for Science and Social Studies. The Avondale School District strives to provide all students with a comprehensive curriculum consistent with the State of Michigan's core curriculum that meets their diverse needs and prepares them for a productive future. Information on the core curriculum is available at [www.mi.gov/mde](http://www.mi.gov/mde) or in our school office.
4. Achievement Testing: This year, all Avondale 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students have taken the nationally normed NWEA MAP tests in Math and Reading. This standardized assessment is given three times a year and data is used to drive instructional practices. Please click the following link and select R. Grant Graham Elementary to access our progress: [www.avondaleschools.org](http://www.avondaleschools.org)
5. Parent-Teacher Conference Data : For the past two years, R. Grant Graham had approximately 95% attendance at Parent Teacher Conferences. We offer conferences in the Fall and Spring through face-to-face meetings and/or via phone conversation.

The strength of R. Grant Graham Elementary School is found in the dedication of our students, parents, and educators working together in a cooperative spirit. As a community of diverse learners, we are focused on the success of our students as they prepare for the world of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

*Tony O. Harris*

Tony O. Harris

Principal

R. Grant Graham Elementary

*The purpose of R. Grant Graham Elementary is to educate the whole child in a safe and encouraging environment.*