

## **RIVER VALLEY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

### **2005-2006 Annual Education Report**

Public Acts 25, 335, and 339 require that all Michigan School Districts and individual school buildings complete and present an Annual Education Report to the Board, Community, Intermediate School District, and the Michigan Department of Education each year.

These reports must contain information about:

1. The accreditation status of each school
2. The process of assigning pupils to particular or specialized schools
3. A description of each specialized school
4. Pupil retention/drop out rates
5. The status of the 3-5 year school improvement plan
6. The Core Academic Curriculum
7. Aggregate school achievement data
8. Disaggregated student achievement data (by gender)
9. Degree of parent participation in parent/teacher conferences
10. Comparison of above information with the previous year

In addition to the state legislation, the requirements to fulfill the new No Child Left Behind federal legislation are also included in this report. It is hoped that this information will provide the reader with up to date information about the River Valley School District. Should you have any questions or would like any further information, please call the Superintendent's office, during regular business hours, at 269-756-9541.

Mr. José N. Vera  
Middle/High School Principal

## 2005-2006 RIVER VALLEY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

River Valley High School currently (February 2006) enrolls 339 students in grades 9 – 12. The River Valley School District encompasses 82 square miles and is primarily rural in nature. Within the high school building there are also 116 middle school students (February 2006) sharing many of the facilities.

### DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

We believe all children can learn and we are committed to providing a positive learning environment in which all students have the opportunity to achieve academic success, to learn to communicate clearly and think critically, and to become productive lifelong learners and self-directed, responsible citizens through a STRONG working partnership with school, home and community.

### ADULT LIFE ROLES

River Valley Graduates are expected to be:

#### **Responsible Citizens** who:

- Contribute to improving the welfare of the community and environment
- Demonstrate responsibility for self
- Respect others and their property

#### **Productive Team Members** who:

- Share ideas
- Solve problems
- Work cooperatively together

#### **Critical Thinkers** who:

- Demonstrate skills learned from the River Valley Core Curriculum
- Use a variety of methods in the decision making process
- Develop and complete a plan of action

#### **Self-Directed Learners** who:

- Read for personal gain or enjoyment
- Extend learning beyond the required
- Have a vision and set goals for their future
- Engage in cultural, creative, practical or other leisure time activities

#### **Effective Communicators** who:

- Listen objectively
- Express thoughts, ideas, and feelings appropriately to all audiences in written, oral and non-verbal forms

#### **Caring Individuals** who:

- Appreciate and value others
- Respect diversity
- Demonstrate compassion and sensitivity to the needs of others

## **ACCREDITATION STATUS\***

River Valley Middle School has been granted full Accreditation status for the 2006-2007 school year. The River Valley High School continues to be fully accredited by the North Central Association and the University of Michigan.

## **SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS**

Specialized schools provide educational opportunities and alternatives for disabled students in an effort to meet their special needs. These programs are an integral part of the continuum of educational services available to special students in Berrien County. The following is a brief description of the specialized schools that serve students from the River Valley School District.

### **Blossomland Learning Center Berrien County Intermediate School District Berrien Springs, Michigan**

The purpose of Blossomland Learning Center is to provide services to students who have been diagnosed as moderately to severely mentally impaired up to age 26 who reside within the Berrien County Intermediate School District. The school assists students in preparing for entry into their respective communities. Five (5) River Valley students attended this program during the 2005-2006 school year. Students are placed in the program through an Individual Educational Planning Committee composed of local district and Intermediate District diagnostic and educational staff.

### **Lighthouse School Berrien County Intermediate School District St. Joseph, Michigan**

The Lighthouse School program is operated as a therapeutic and educational program for students diagnosed as severely emotionally impaired up to age 26 who reside within the Berrien County Intermediate School District. These students exhibit a severity of emotional difficulties that limits their ability to be successful in a regular classroom. During the 2005-2006 school year, two (2) River Valley students attended this program, with the goal being eventual re-integration into the resident district's education system.

### **Hearing Impaired Program Berrien Springs Public Schools Berrien Springs, Michigan**

The Berrien County Hearing Impaired Program provides educational services for hearing impaired students from Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. During the 2005-2006 school year, one (1) River Valley student attended the program, which includes children from pre-school age through 26 years. This program is operated by the Berrien Springs Public Schools and is funded by the Intermediate School District. In addition to classroom and teacher consultant services, the program also serves as a diagnostic center and employs an audiologist for the purpose of assessing severity and type of hearing loss. Some students, when determined educationally appropriate by an individualized Educational Planning Committee, are educated in their resident district with the support of a teacher consultant provided by the Hearing Impaired Program.

### **Southside Programs - Niles Community Schools Niles, Michigan**

The Niles Community Schools operates a number of center based programs for low incidence special education students needing a full time placement.

The program for the Severely Emotionally Impaired (SEI) includes students with severe emotional or behavioral problems. These students receive a very strict, highly structured program designed to change inappropriate behavior patterns and allow learning to take place. Expectations for performance are high with the goal being the student's successful re-admission to their former school. Classroom programs serve students ages 6 through 25.

Students in the Southside Pre-Vocational program have below average ability levels, making success in their local high schools extremely difficult. Often their low ability is compounded by a weak self-concept and inadequate social skills. Once at Southside, a few students may pursue a diploma, but most will follow a curriculum designed to promote independent living. Classrooms are available to serve ages 16 through 25.

The program for the Autistic Impaired (AI) includes students diagnosed as autistic that typically have severe speech and language delays, behavioral disorders and unusual or repetitive motor movements. The classroom is available to serve ages 16 through 25.

During the 2005-2006 school year, three (3) River Valley students attended these programs.

### **Alternative Education**

During the 2005-2006 school year the River Valley School District did not offer alternative education programs.

### **Juvenile Center Education Program**

The Berrien County Probate Court-Juvenile Division, contracts with Berrien County Intermediate School District to provide the education program at the Berrien County Juvenile Center. The Center is a 42 bed facility where juveniles are detained for up to one year. The ages of the students range from 12 to 17 years of age.

The education program is provided by four (4) teachers, approved to teach emotionally impaired (EI) students, and one teacher with certification to teach industrial arts. Two (2) Title I paraprofessionals are also instructors in the program. The program is a therapeutic one with academic instruction as its base.

During the 2004-2005 school year, there were no River Valley students who passed through the Juvenile Center program.

### **ASSIGNMENT PROCESS FOR SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS**

River Valley students are assigned to specialized schools based on a decision and a written plan of their educational needs by an Individual Education Planning Committee (IEPC).

In addition, a parent (or legal guardian) may request that his/her child be transferred to any River Valley School where there is open enrollment availability under the District's School of Choice Policy.

### **RETENTION AND DROP-OUT PERCENTAGE RATES**

The following information pertains to the River Valley High School comprising of Grades 9-12. The retention rate is the percentage of ninth grade students who graduate in four (4) years. The drop-out rate is the percentage of students who leave school in any one (1) year.

2004	Retention Rate	94.1%	Drop-Out Rate	5.9%
2005	Retention Rate	96.2%	Drop-Out Rate	3.8%
2006	Retention Rate	96.4%	Drop-Out Rate	3.6%

### **MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SIZES**

During the 2005-2006 school year, the average class size for middle/high school was as at 22.1.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

The 2005-2006 school year was a continued data collection year for district school improvement. Various groups, made up of teaching and support staff, administrators, Board of Education members, parents and community members, met at different times to gather information in order to identify four district goals and specific strategies that will be incorporated into a 3-5 year plan and continued in the 2005-2006 school year. The district goals are as follows:

1. To provide the learning environment for students to meet or exceed standards in the core curriculum areas (language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies).
2. To provide opportunities for students and staff to use technology as a tool for learning and planning for instruction.
3. To provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff.
4. To provide leadership in promoting parent/community involvement within the schools.

In addition, at each of the educational levels, various school improvement goals were identified and focused on during the 2005-2006 school year. They were as follows:

### **Middle School**

1. All students will improve their writing skills by writing a research paper.
2. All students will improve their ability to comprehend and analyze information text by identifying a domestic policy problem and proposing a solution.
3. All students will improve their understanding of the scientific method.

### **High School**

1. All students will demonstrate broader community involvement by participating in a service project of their choosing.
2. Through Individual Development Plans (IDPs), all students will be placed and monitored in a Career Pathways Program that will best challenge their academic ability and area of career interest.
3. All students will improve their writing skills by writing a research paper.

## **ATTENDANCE RATE**

The average daily attendance rate for the middle/high school building in 2005-2006 was as at 93%:

## **CORE CURRICULUM**

Each year, students receive instruction in the core curriculum areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In 2005-2006, the curriculum for Mathematics was reviewed and then aligned to meet the standards and benchmarks set forth by the Michigan Department of Education. The new curricula were adopted by the Board of Education. Later that year, teacher resources and materials were purchased to implement the new curricula in the 2006-07.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA –MIDDLE SCHOOL MEAP TESTS\*

In late January and early February, 2006, students in Grade 7, took the English/Language Arts test. The test in English/Language Arts was in its fourth year since its inception and it included sub-sections in reading and writing. Furthermore students in Grade 7 took anew implemented test in Mathematics. In addition, students in Grade 8 took the Mathematics and Science tests. Furthermore students in Grade 8 took a new implemented English Language Arts test.

Students in Grade 8 took tests in mathematics, science, and social studies. **Note:** Prior to 2002, students in Grade 8 did not take a separate mathematics test. The percentage of students who successfully passed the MEAP Tests is listed below.

### English/Language Arts

		2004		2005		2006	
		RV	State	RV	State	RV	State
Met or Exceeded State Standards in:							
Reading							
Grade 7		74.0*	61.0	77.0*	73.0	74.0*	76.0
Writing							
Grade 7		62.0*	47.0	53.0*	54.0	69.0*	67.0
Reading							
Grade 8						85.0**	73.0
Writing							
Grade 8						83.0**	65.0

**\*Note:** These figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

**\*\*Note:** These figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in 2005-06. This is a new test for students in Grade 8.

		2004		2005		2006	
		RV	State	RV	State	RV	State
Met or Exceeded State Standards in:							
Total ELA							
Grade 7		68.0*	57.0	73.0*	66.0	71.0*	73.0
Grade 8						90.0**	69.0

**\*Note:** These figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in 2003-04, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

**\*\*Note:** These figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in 2005-06. This is a new test for students in Grade 8.

### Mathematics

		2004		2005		2006	
		RV	State	RV	State	RV	State
Met or Exceeded State Standards in:							
Grade 7							
						53.0**	60.0
Met or Exceeded State Standards in:							
Grade 8							
		46.0*	63.0	61.0*	62.0	63.0*	63.0

**\*Note:** The current test was expanded and these figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006.

**\*\*Note:** This was a new test and these figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in 2005-06.

	2004 RV	State	2005 RV	State	2006 RV	State
<b>Science</b>						
Met or Exceeded State Standards in:						
Grade 8	76.0*	66.0	77.0*	65.0	92.0*	77.0

**\*Note:** The current test was expanded and these figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in, 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06.

	2004 RV	State	2005 RV	State	2006 RV	State
<b>Social Studies</b>						
Met or Exceeded State Standards in:						
Grade 8	23.0*	29.0	31.0*	30.0	Test not given	

**\*Note:** This was a new test in 2002-03 and these figures represent the percentage of students who received Level I (Exceeded State standards) and Level II (Met State standards), as determined by the Michigan State Board of Education in 2003-04, and 2004-05.

### ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS DATA

In 2000-01, the Michigan Department of Education established criteria to determine adequate yearly progress in the MEAP test grades for English/Language Arts and Mathematics at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. Based on the data, a determination was made as to whether each school building met the adequate yearly progress goals and was identified for improvement for that year.

We are happy to announce that both the Middle School and the High School have met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA – HIGH SCHOOL MEAP TESTS\*

In 1998, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) began administering new MEAP Tests to high school eleventh graders in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, and writing. A social studies test was developed and administered for the first time in Spring, 1999. **Note:** Prior to 1998, the Michigan Department of Education administered the High School Proficiency Tests (HSPT). Students who successfully passed these tests were given state endorsements on their diplomas. A change in the tests also brought a new reporting format.

**\*Note:** As of this publication date of this report, the High School MEAP Test scores have not been released for the 2002-2003 school year.

		2003 RV	State	2004 RV	State	2005 RV	State
Reading	- Met or Exceeded Michigan Standards	70.0	71.0	78.0	76.0	62.0	61.0
Mathematics	- Met or Exceeded Michigan Standards	49.0	52.0	43.0	51.0	46.0	46.0
Science	- Met or Exceeded Michigan Standards	49.0	57.0	55.0	51.0	55.0	52.0

Writing - Met or Exceeded Michigan Standards 42.0 50.0 43.0 48.0 50.0 46.0

Social Studies - Met or Exceeded Michigan Standards 44.0 34.0 38.0 31.0 80.0 79.0

In 2005, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) began administering new MEAP Tests to high school ninth graders in the area of social studies.

**2005  
RV State**

Social Studies - Met or Exceeded Michigan Standards 72.0 75.0

**HIGH SCHOOL MICHIGAN MERIT AWARDEES**

Beginning in 2001-2002, data was collected on the number of students who were awarded Michigan Merit Awards. In 2003-2004, there were twenty-nine (29) students who qualified to receive the Michigan Merit Award based on MEAP scores alone. Students had to have met or exceeded Michigan standards in the areas of mathematics, reading, science, and writing. There were forty-five (45) students in 2004-2005. In 2005-2006 we had twenty-four (24) students.

**HIGH SCHOOL AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST (ACT) RESULTS**

Yearly, River Valley High School Seniors take the American College Test. The following scores represent the local, state, and national results from the past three years: 2003—04, 2004—05 and 2005—06.

	Number	English	Mathematics	Reading	Sci Reason	Composite
<b>Local</b>						
2003-04	35	21.6	20.7	23.5	21.9	22.1
2004-05	35	21.8	20.2	23.7	22.0	22.0
2005-06	43	20.2	19.5	22.3	20.8	20.9
<b>State</b>						
2003-04	73434	20.5	21.1	21.8	21.5	21.4
2004-05	74307	20.7	21.2	21.8	21.6	21.4
2005-06	74751	20.7	21.2	21.8	21.7	21.5
<b>National</b>						
2003-04	1171460	20.4	20.7	21.3	20.9	20.9
2004-05	1186251	20.4	20.7	21.3	20.9	20.9
2005-06	1206455	20.6	20.8	21.4	20.9	21.1

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

	Fall 2003	Spring 2004	Fall 2004	Spring 2005	Fall 2005	Spring 2006
RVMS (7-8)	61%	53%	69%	52%	66%	64%
RVHS (9-12)	64%	43%	66%	43%	62%	44%

## OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Community Service/Service Learning

Providing service to others is one way the River Valley School District encourages students to be responsible citizens. It has become a vital part of student life around the various school campuses. In fact, the District's Service Learning Model was recognized statewide. Resource materials were developed to assist other school districts in replicating similar experiences for students.

Through various community service and service learning project, the District has found what research says about how students learn. They learn "by doing." Students of all ages are better students when they use their time and talents to problem solve, think critically, and help others in their schools and community. Some yearly events include: Make a Difference, recycling jug contests, pennies for Cancer, benefit dinners, food drives, and Angel Tree. These experiences help students earn their "Service Cords" at graduation. They also help some students earn scholarships to further their education.

### Postsecondary Education Options

School districts must now annually include the answers to nine (9) questions in their Annual Education Reports that are related to postsecondary education options for high school students. Those questions and District responses for the 2005-2006 school year are listed as follows:

1. How many students in your school district were enrolled in one or more post secondary courses in the immediately preceding year? 20
2. What percent of your total secondary student population was enrolled in one or more post secondary courses in the immediately preceding year? 5.0 %
3. What was the number and types of advanced placement/college level equivalent courses offered to students enrolled in the district 0 high school 1 and cooperative programs 2 (math/ science)?
4. How many students in your school district were enrolled in at least one advanced placement/ college level equivalent course in the immediately preceding year, disaggregated by grade level?  
Grade 9 = 0 Grade 10 = 0 Grade 11= 0 Grade 12 = 4
5. What percent of your total secondary student population was enrolled in at least one advanced placement/college level equivalent course in the immediately preceding year, disaggregated by grade level?  
Grade 9 = 0 % Grade 10 = 0 % Grade 11= 0 % Grade 12 = 4.5 %
6. How many students in your school district were enrolled in at least one advanced placement/ college level equivalent course in the immediately preceding year and took a college level equivalent credit examination? 0
7. What percent of your total secondary student population was enrolled in at least one advanced placement/college level equivalent course in the immediately preceding year and took a college level equivalent credit examination? 0 %
8. How many students in your school district, who took an advanced placement/college level equivalent credit examination, achieved a score that is at or above the level recommended by the testing service for college credit? 0
9. What percent of your total secondary student population, who took an advanced placement/ college level equivalent credit examination, achieved a score that is at or above the level recommended by the testing service for college credit? 0.0 %

Prepared by Mr. José N. Vera, Principal of River Valley Middle/High School, in August, 2006.