

NORTHWEST ACADEMY IDENTIFICATION/CHOICE LETTER

August 15, 2011

Dear Northwest Academy Family:

Your child is a student at Northwest Academy. You know that your child is important to us and that we want to provide every opportunity for success.

Each school in Michigan is required to test students every year using the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests/Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The results of these tests, as well as participation on the tests, or graduation rate are used to determine whether our school is making adequate yearly progress (AYP).

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update:

This year Northwest Academy has been "identified for improvement" for four reasons:

- ❖ We are required to test 95% of our juniors with the MME. During the 2010-2011 school year, **six** of our fourteen students were chronologically considered juniors, but did not have the credits to be considered juniors. They should have been excused from taking the test because they had not yet been taught the information to be successful. However, they were not unassigned from the MME roster in the allotted time, so the Michigan Department of Education expected NWA to administer the MME to these students. Also, one student refused to take the test for other reasons. These six students not participating in the MME caused us to drop below the 95% requirement, thus causing us not to make AYP.
- ❖ The 2009-2010 school year NWA made AYP; however it takes two years of making AYP to get out from this designation.
- ❖ During the 2006-2007 school year, **one** of our seven juniors left NWA before the test was administered, dropping us below the 95% requirement, and thus "identifying us for improvement."
- ❖ During the 2007-2008 school year, we received "no reportable scores" on the English Language Arts portion of the tests submitted. To-date, we have not been given a reason why that section of the tests submitted was not scored.

Since the school is identified for improvement, the district must offer you the opportunity to transfer your child to Charlevoix Public Schools. If the district receives more applications than can be accommodated, priority will be given to the lowest-achieving children from low-income families. You will be notified by mail of your child's transfer status.

To help you decide, we have provided test information from the schools that made AYP along with Northwest Academy's information so you can compare them. Based on this information, you may choose a school using the enclosed transfer form. Transportation to this school will be provided. You must complete this form by September 2, 2011 and return it to Matt Saunders at 231-547-9000 for consideration.

If you decide not to transfer your child and your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, free tutoring may be available to your child. You will receive a separate letter about free tutoring.

To discuss this decision further, please call <name and number> and <he/she/they> will be happy to help you.

Sincerely,

Matt Saunders
Enclosures

NORTHWEST ACADEMY IDENTIFICATION/CHOICE LETTER ATTACHMENT

Northwest Academy Academic Achievement Comparison for Identified Areas

This chart compares Northwest Academy's academic achievement in the subject and grade identified for improvement to at least three other schools in the district and the State average.

	Percent of All Students Proficient in English Language Arts	Percent of All Students Proficient in Mathematics
Northwest Academy	100%	90%
Charlevoix Elementary	91.2%	91.9%
State Average	85%	92%
Required Proficiency Level	76%	71%