

# KALEVA NORMAN DICKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Small School – Big Family*

Jakob Veith, Superintendent  
Cheryl Smith, K – 12 Principal  
Patrick Schrock, Dean of Students  
Jason Kemler, Athletic Director

February 4, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for Brethren High 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 the 6-12 Principal, Kile Charnes for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [BHS AER](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2024-25 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2023-24. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2022-23. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2022-23. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

**Our school was not given a label for the 2023-2024 school year.**

Brethren High School is a small school servicing the communities of Brethren, Wellston, Kaleva, and Irons, along with other small communities. It is a district covering over 350 square miles with a free and reduced lunch rate near 70%. When identifying challenges that the school faces, high absenteeism continues to be an issue that the school and district faces. The State sets a goal of a 90% attendance rate, and Brethren High School had a rate of 85.3%. Due to this low average, the school has hired a School Success coordinator that works with the Truancy Liaison from the Manistee County Sheriff's Department to notify families when their child is absent 5, 10, and 15 days or more in a semester. When a student reaches 10 or more unexcused absences in a semester, legal action may occur. Also, students with high absenteeism are matched with a staff member, and they meet to discuss the challenges the student faces when trying to get to school. With these meetings, student and staff members build a relationship and students become more aware of the importance of good attendance. In addition, teaching staff is working closely with students who may be experiencing a covid gap in learning to identify areas of focus within each content area.

State law requires that we also report additional information. <TO HAVE THIS LETTER MEET THE STATE REQUIREMENTS, EACH SCHOOL SHOULD PROVIDE A REPORT FOR THE **TWO MOST RECENT YEARS** ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Brethren HS follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum and places students into grade levels based on age and grade level performance.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Brethren HS completes all of the requirements of the School Improvement process, and has a vision for progress that extends 3-5 years.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Brethren HS does not have any specialized schools. The high school consists of all students in 9th through 12th grade.

4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

Brethren High School follows the requirements governed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and the Common Core State Curriculum. Those interested in viewing the requirements established by MDE and the Common Core can get more information by going to: <https://www.michigan.gov/en/mde/Services/academic-standards>

Also, information can be found at: <http://knd.manistee.org/>

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

a. SAT Results

2022-2023			
Evidence-Based Reading/Writing		Math	
DISTRICT	STATE	DISTRICT	STATE
474	480	441	530

2023-2024			
Evidence-Based Reading/Writing		Math	
DISTRICT	STATE	DISTRICT	STATE
465	480	433	530

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

In 2021-2022, 48 % (78) of students were represented at parent teacher conferences in the fall and spring.

In 2022-2023, 32% (52) of students were represented at parent teacher conferences in the fall and the spring.

In 2024-2025, 24.4% of students were represented at parent teacher conferences in the fall.

7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)

**2022-2023 (20 @ 12%)**

2. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)

**2 AP Courses were offered in the 2022-2023: Calculus and World History**

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3. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)

**2022-2023 (35 @ 27%)      2024-2025 (18 @ 13%)**

4. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT>

**2022-2023 (10 @ 12%)**

Thank you to the teachers, staff, parents, and most importantly, the students for making Brethren High School a great place to learn and explore. When we all work together, our students can be very successful and we are truly a “Small School-Big Family.”

Sincerely,  
Kile Charnes, 6-12 Principal  
KND Schools