

# **BLANCHE KELSO BRUCE ACADEMY**

## **"A SMART SCHOOL WHERE LEARNING RULES!"**

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### **Blanche Kelso Bruce Academy – DePaul Center**

#### **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

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**DePaul Center**  
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**DePaul Center**  
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**BKB Middle School**  
2750 Selden  
Detroit, MI 48208

**April 19, 2016**

**Dear Parents and Community Members:**

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2014-2015 educational progress for the Blanche Kelso Bruce Academy at the DePaul Center. 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 Charity Dorgan for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site at <http://bkbacademy.org/> or you may review a copy in the classroom at your child's school.

Students at DePaul Center face a variety of challenges unique to adjudicated youth involved mental health treatment. Often they are transient, moving from school to school as they relocate from home to residential or day treatment centers. Students may experience decreased motivation and engagement owing to the circumstances of residential placement. Some students have not enjoyed optimal learning experiences in the past, leading to slow achievement and below-grade level performance. The specific initiatives for the students at DePaul Center have included improved reading proficiency, math interventions, and project-based learning.

The staff of the Blanche Kelso Bruce Academy is committed to closing the achievement gap and accelerating student achievement. To that end, we utilize a variety of research-based practices to re-engage students in the learning process. Specifically, the Academy provides personalized, or individualized, learning plans through a curriculum that is aligned to state and to Common Core standards.

#### **PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

BKBA follows the eligibility criteria for enrollment into a Michigan strict discipline academy. BKBA has little or no control over the students who are placed in the residential facilities where we provide educational services.

Students come and go at the pleasure of the courts, Care Management Organizations, and the Department of Human Services.

Pursuant to Michigan's Revised School Code, PA 451 of 1976, strict discipline academies are created to specifically enroll and educate an exclusive segment of the pupils in Michigan. The following are categories of eligibility to qualify for services in a strict discipline academy:

- Students placed with the school by the Court or FIA or a County juvenile agency under the direction of a Court. MCL 380.1311g(3)(a);
- Pupils who have been expelled for weapons, arson, or CSC acts. MCL 380.1311g(3)©;
- Other expelled pupils referred to the strict discipline academy by that pupil's previous school and placed in the strict discipline academy by the pupil's parent or legal guardian. MCL 380.1311g(3)(d);
- A strict discipline public school academy shall be open for enrollment of a special-education pupil who does not meet any of the above requirements [subsection (3)] if the special education pupil's individualized educational planning committee recommends that the special education pupil be placed in the strict discipline public school academy. MCL 380.1311g(4).1.

#### THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The District School Improvement Team has written and submitted a comprehensive school improvement plan focused on raising achievement in English/language arts, writing, science, social studies, math, and two other goals targeted on specific need of teachers and students in a strict discipline academy setting. The team analyzed data from M-STEP/MME-ACT and numerous other assessment data in each of these content areas and developed a strategic plan for accomplishing these goals.

BKB Academy has a School Improvement Team at the DePaul Center site that monitors the development and implementation of the District and Site Specific School Improvement Plans. The School Improvement Team meets regularly with representatives from each stakeholder group to monitor and refine the School Improvement Plan (SIP) based on the new School Improvement Framework. Parents, students, community members, partners, and school staff participate in the School Improvement Team and they focus on involving interested stakeholders in the process of continuous improvement.

#### A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

BKBA partners with Don Bosco Hall to provide educational services to residents of the DePaul Center. The DePaul Center is a medium-security mental-health facility that provides specialized programming, developed and implemented by core clinical mental health professionals. The program provides both short- and long-term mental health treatment services for youth who are experiencing behavioral problems that may be due to undetected mental health challenges. The school site was founded in 2004 out of a growing need to provide educational services for residential students at the DePaul Center. This site is serviced by two teacher advisors and administered through the school liaison for the BKBA School District.

#### THE CORE CURRICULUM

Copies of the core curriculum scope and sequence are available through the school liaison's

office. BKBA's curriculum follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum and does not vary from the Michigan Content Expectations or Common Core Standards.

#### AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

During the 2014-2015 school year, the DePaul Center site tested 100% of eligible students with the M-STEP/MI Access and MME/ACT tests appropriate for their grade levels. The results are summarized in charts and statistics in the Annual Education Report document. The summary charts for the District (BKBA) and State show a comparison between yearly scores to demonstrate growth rates. Other District and State charts show the disaggregated statistics for the categories the Michigan Department of Education has defined as mandatory reporting categories. All data are generated by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability of the Michigan Department of Education.

Due to the extremely transient nature of our student population, most students fall into the category of "Less Than A Full Academic Year." This category of students must still be assessed to meet the requirement that 95% of eligible students be tested, but that particular category of student (LTFAY), is not added to the calculations for Annual Yearly Progress. Therefore, the scores reported on the BKBA District and school charts are somewhat skewed.

BKB Academy students enroll in our sites with an average deficit of more than two grade levels behind their contemporaries in all subjects and in accrued credit. We have specialized programs that help remediate these grade-level gaps. We expect that our students will not demonstrate grade-level competencies on cognitive achievements tests. Subsequently, we derive grade-level gains from reading and math assessments. Often we see very quick advancement once the student's learning style and educational profile are developed. We are very proud of our successes, which we attribute to our specialized programs and intensive instructional delivery methodologies.

#### NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

At all BKBA sites, parents and partners are invited at the close of each quarterly card-marking period to a Parent/Partner/Teacher Conference for each student. Some of our students are either from foster homes, wards of the state, have no parents in the vicinity, or are living in circumstances where a parent or guardian are not available for conferences. Care Management Organization Case Workers, Parole Officers, and other caregivers visit the students frequently to make sure they are doing well and are fully engaged in the learning process. Also, computerized attendance and behavior reports are maintained and available as need for partners and caregivers.

#### THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)

There are 0% postsecondary enrollments (dual enrollment) at the BKBA at the DePaul Center.

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

There are 0% of students enrolled in college equivalent courses (AP/IB) at the BKBA at the DePaul Center.

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

There are 0% of students receiving a score leading to college credit at the BKBA at the DePaul Center.

This information is available at the district offices. Please contact the school liaison if you wish to review this information.

In closing, please be assured that the staff assigned to the Blanche Kelso Bruce Academy site at DePaul Center are making every effort to ensure that each of our students is provided quality educational programming based on high expectations for student achievement and grounded on a respect for the individual's human dignity. We believe that the individualized approach to student achievement will be a true reflection of student growth.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a very successful remainder of the school year.

Sincerely,



Charity Dorgan, School Liaison