



## *Huron Intermediate School District*

[www.hisd.k12.mi.us](http://www.hisd.k12.mi.us)

*Robert Colby, Superintendent*

2 March 2009

### *Administrative Services*

*711 E. Soper Road  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
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### *General Education*

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### *Huron Learning Center*

*1299 S. Thomas Road  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-9274  
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### *TMI Transition House*

*1257 S. Thomas Road  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
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### *Special Services*

*711 E. Soper Road  
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### *Iron Area Technical Center Career/Technical Education*

*Adult Education  
1160 S. Van Dyke  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 269-9284  
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### *Horizon Alternative Center*

*1160 S. Van Dyke  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
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Betsy,

I wanted to write this letter to LEC to let you know about my and my students' experiences with BrainWare Safari over the past year. First, I need to let you know that Karen Buccola has been wonderful; she is there whenever I've needed assistance.

Let me begin our story. I'm a Speech and Language Pathologist for the Huron Intermediate School District; I'm assigned to Harbor Beach Community School District. Over a year ago, when I was exploring online to find some new options for some of my language-delayed students, I came upon BrainWare Safari. I was intrigued by the claims and found the data provided to be very interesting. I took the information to the Harbor Beach Superintendent and Curriculum Director. After discussions we decided to run a student study of our own. We did this because, while we believe in data, we need to verify that it is correct.

We embarked on our own study to duplicate LEC's study. What we found was that your results were accurate and we were very impressed with our students' success. In our study, the students who used BrainWare Safari 45 minutes a day four days a week for 10 weeks improved their cognitive skills by an average of over 3 years. As in previous studies, every student improved.

Our students were enthusiastic about the program and I was amazed at the comments that the students would make about school as they used BrainWare Safari. First, there was a general increase good attitude about school. It was the first time that a number of the students were seeing success and felt like they could make progress. I heard comments like "Wow, I got my first A," "Science is a lot easier, how come?" and "I'm taking notes better – my Mom is happy." Some of the teachers were initially quite skeptical, but have recognized the improvement in their students as a result of using the program.

It has been a wonderful experience for the students last year and so far this year. While they finished using BrainWare Safari last year, they have continued to improve. Their attitude and that of their teachers continues to progress. Of course, this does not mean that this has been a panacea or that the students have not had some difficulties. They have had to go back and relearn some of the things that they had missed in various subject areas. But, I believe that BrainWare Safari has been a huge help in making it possible for them to catch up.

Since the study, Harbor Beach Schools have had a number of additional students work with BrainWare. These students are finding additional success in school and on college entrance exams. One of last year's seniors had received a 22 and a 21 on his ACT Reading test while receiving scores of 28 and 29 on other sections of the exam. We gave him the opportunity to use BrainWare Safari, following which he took the ACT a third time and brought his reading score up to a 29.

As an educator and trained Speech and Language Pathologist, I view BrainWare Safari much like training for a sports team. A player practices the same moves over and over so they develop muscle memory and good playing habits. BrainWare Safari works similarly



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it requires the student to practice the same cognitive skills over and over in an entertaining way to develop those skills. It pays off.

As a result of the success that Harbor Beach Public Schools have seen they are working on a way to fund the program for the entire school district and integrate it into the school year and day. I'm looking forward to working with them and you on helping them integrate BrainWare Safari into a hugely successful school curriculum.

In successful Education, Regards

Curtis J Boehmer,  
Speech and Language Pathologist  
Huron ISD