

Andrews Middle School
Administrative Office
3000 Mystic Valley Parkway
Medford, MA 02155
P: 781-393-2228 F: 781-395-8128

Timothy S. Blake
Principal

Paul D'Alleva
Asst. Principal

9/30/10

Dear Andrews Middle School Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This letter is to explain the recent public release of MCAS results, MCAS data, and a brief explanation of the *No Child Left Behind Law*, and the Andrews progress in meeting the accountability mandate.

The federal government passed a law in 2001 known as *the No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*. This law mandates that all schools and school districts must make target goals each year known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) related to student performance on MCAS and then issue an accountability status to all schools. The goal is that every student by the year 2014 scores a minimum of 240 on both the ELA and Mathematics MCAS

In English Language Arts (ELA), our school's label is "No Status" while in Math the school's label is "Restructuring Year 2." No Status basically means we are doing well in ELA; Restructuring Year 2 means we have to continue to upgrade our math programs and instruction. New to state reports this year is the Student Growth Percentage for both students and the school. When looking at the Student Growth Percentile, scores between 40-60 reveal average growth. When looking at ELA & Math scores across all grade levels, the Andrews is within the band of average growth (47 & 48). Although the school falls within the average range, we are striving towards excellence and above average growth in the current school year.

At the Andrews we are committed to do all that is necessary to make AYP for all students in all grades on MCAS testing. This summer we studied the preliminary MCAS results and decided to enact some targeted measures and continue some established programs to make a positive difference. They include:

- Continuation of a Math Lab to aid and/or challenge targeted students in math
- Partnering our Math Lab teacher with the 8th grade math curriculum
- Continuing our mentoring program for targeted students in 6th-8th grade
- Continue to use software so all teachers in the school can analyze MCAS results of their own students to improve their practice
- Utilizing our Tech Lab and Computer Lab classes to improve student achievement in math and science
- Dedicating a staff member to working with students to improve literacy skills. Literacy is an area that is critical to student success in both ELA and mathematics.

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The measures listed above are part of our plan to help all students, not just one group of students. Furthermore, we have continued the education of the whole child. The Andrews still offers classes in art, music, computers, drama, painting, guidance, health, foreign language, library skills, and a technology lab. In addition, we are still offering after school clubs and activities. We have developed and are continuing programs that recognize positive student achievement. Not all communities provide these services. I am grateful the City of Medford has supported these services for our children.

Although we have continued our dedication to the whole child and have begun to address academic weaknesses, the Andrews school still needs your help. You can help us continue to improve by ensuring your student comes to school every day on time. Each day throughout the entire year is important and it is difficult for students to make up the hours of instruction they miss when absent or late. Your child may be asked to stay for extra help by a teacher. It is very important that you encourage your child to participate and support our efforts to provide needed assistance. Lastly, if you would like to take a role in becoming active in the school's Site Council that develops the school's improvement plan, please contact me at your earliest convenience. You can contact me via phone, email, or speak to me at the school's Open House/Curriculum Night on Thursday, October 7th at 6:30 PM. You need not be an experienced PTO member or volunteer to be a member of the Site Council. No matter your background, your input and time in the Site Council is needed and will be appreciated.

Please feel free to call Mr. D'Alleva or myself with any concerns you may have. We are here to help your child. I chose to become principal of the Andrews knowing full well that the Andrews Middle School would be labeled a school in Restructuring and that it takes continuous years of improvement to change the school's designation under NCLB. As I have said during my tenure as principal, the mission and vision statements of the Andrews School hasn't been developed to look good for a report for the state. Raising student attendance, raising student achievement, and a dedication to excellence all benefit our children. We want your children at school and we want to use the school day to efficiently deliver a superior education. This is the challenge I chose to embrace. This is the challenge the entire Andrews staff has embraced. We are counting on your help as we strive to help your children.

Sincerely,



Timothy S. Blake

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