



SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in language arts literacy and mathematics be measured annually for each school in New Jersey.

AYP is based primarily on the results of the New Jersey state assessments given to students in grades 7 and 8 (Assessment of Skills and Knowledge). Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmarks, as well as other indicators, such as test participation and a secondary indicator (drop-out rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and middle schools) to make AYP. These benchmarks increase on an incremental basis until 2014 when 100 percent of all students are expected to reach academic proficiency.

When you compare the Middle School's results on the NJASK to the other schools in the State you will see that we outperform the State average for "All Students" with one exception. Our 2009-10 results were: 7th grade Language Arts Literacy: 76% of Middle School students passed the test compared to 69.5% State Average. 7th grade Mathematics: 68.8% of Middle School students passed the test compared to 64.6% State Average. In the 8th grade Language Arts Literacy: 91.8% of Middle School students passed the test compared to 82.9% State Average. 8th grade Mathematics: 69.7% of Middle School students passed the test compared to 69.0% State Average. 8th Grade Science: 92.4% of Middle School students passed the test compared to 83.3% State Average.

If a school does not make AYP for *two or more* consecutive years in the same content area (language arts literacy and mathematics) it is identified a school in need of improvement and certain sanctions must be applied.

The Middle School has not made AYP for 3 years, even though we met 39 out of 40 indicators. Since we did not meet one (1) of our benchmark targets, we are identified as a school in need of improvement. Part of the school improvement requirement is to notify parents that they have School Choice: Your child may transfer to a higher-performing school in the district. Because there is only one 7th and 8th grade school in our district we are unable to provide the School Choice option. We must also assemble a school improvement committee to develop a school improvement plan that identifies areas of need and programs and activities to help increase student achievement. Some of the steps we have already taken this year include the following: NJASK prep classes for mathematics and language arts, expansion of our BSI (Basic Skills Instruction) program, daily walkthrough procedures and implementation of balance literacy activities for language arts literacy. We are also incorporating an Intervention/Enrichment class period within each student's daily schedule to assist every student with improving their performance on both the NJASK assessment and the core subjects during the school year.

We want to continue serving your child, and we'll use all the resources available to help our students achieve. We will continue to communicate with you throughout the school year regarding the improvement efforts underway and hope you will join us in supporting our students and teachers as we work toward reaching our goals for next year.

Sincerely,

Kevin P. Hajduk, Principal