

August 8, 2011

Dear Johnstown Middle School Parent/Guardian,

We are writing to inform you of the academic progress our school has made under the guidelines of the Federal Law, No Child Left Behind (NCLB). All schools must make adequate yearly progress (AYP) by meeting State performance goals of 72% proficiency in Reading and 67% proficiency in Math on the annual PSSA (Pennsylvania State System of Assessment) exam. Proficiency must be met by the entire student body as well as subgroups of students. A subgroup consists of forty (40) or more students in the following categories: ethnicity, socio-economic status, special education, and English Language Learner (ELL). The number of subgroups that a school has determines the number of "targets" that must be met to make AYP. The PSSA is currently given in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11. The Greater Johnstown Middle School met 25 of the 25 targets and made AYP for the 2010-2011 school year. The greater Johnstown Middle School's AYP status is now "Making Progress in Corrective Actions I." Please refer to the attachment regarding school comparison data.

Under current NCLB mandates we must notify you of education choices for your child within the Greater Johnstown School District. Although there is not another middle school for your child to attend, we do offer free academic tutoring programs that are available during the school year and summer months. We are sure that your child's education is the single most important factor of their future success in life and know that you feel this same significance concerning a distinguished education. Please understand that the PSSA is a rigorous academic examination that tests important knowledge your child needs in order to become triumphant now, and in the future. Although an enormous amount of instructional focus is on reading and math we continue to need your support. Parent/Guardian support of the school community and academics, communicating in a positive and team oriented approach with students, teachers, and administration, monitoring your child's progress in school by checking homework daily, making sure your child attends school regularly, restricting television and computer time, and becoming a partner and advocate of the Greater Johnstown School District are important aspects of helping your child become a lifelong learner.

The district wide and building parent involvement policies and parent and guardian/Title I handbook have been updated for the 2011-2012 school year and are available at the school and on the district website [www.gjsd.net](http://www.gjsd.net).

The middle school has initiated a school improvement plan for student performance that utilizes a data driven decision making model. The 4-Sight test which measures reading and math skills is a predictor of the PSSA and is given to all students in grades 6, 7, and 8 five times a year. Using this diagnostic tool enables us to focus our math and reading instruction in order to meet the educational needs of our students. Within our curriculum we also implement an inclusion model that is used in conjunction with our Success For All reading program. Through this program, students receive on level instruction with their peers who are performing at similar levels.

The Greater Johnstown School District is continually striving to accomplish the mandated goals of NCLB and will continue to do so now and in the future in order to provide the best education for all children. Our educational commitment of every second, every minute, every hour, everyday, for every child, will not waver and we will continue our quest of academic growth of all children. We want to thank you in advance for continuing to work with us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Darren Buchko  
Principal

Attachment