

9/2/2009

Dear New Franklin Parents and Guardians:

We are writing this letter to inform you about a recent determination by the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Each year, Portsmouth Schools participate in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for students in Grades 3-5. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in reading and mathematics be measured annually for each school and the NECAP assessment is New Hampshire's indicator for AYP. While there is always considerable work to be done and the NECAP is only one indicator of student learning, we were pleased with our results this year, which showed an increase in overall student reading proficiency from 71% in 2007 to 73% in 2008 and an increase in math proficiency from 63% in 2007 to 73% in 2008 (see attached sheet for 2005-2008 proficiency scores and growth)

While our overall scores rose, AYP is determined by the performance of subgroups. New Franklin school did not make AYP for the Educational Disability subgroup in mathematics and reading in the 2008 assessment. In 2007 the Economically Disadvantaged subgroup did not make the AYP standard in mathematics. This year, we are pleased that our Economically Disadvantaged subgroup did make AYP in math and reading, however, since subgroups did not meet the standard in the same subject (Math) for two consecutive years, New Franklin will remain a School in Need of Improvement (SINI) for the next two years.

Mathematics has been a major curricular focus at New Franklin for the past two years. We have hired a math support instructor to provide enrichment and remedial supports, placed renewed emphasis on students learning basic math facts through a daily math facts regimen and aligned our mathematics instruction to meet the state Grade Level Expectations. Grade level teams have been creating and administering common assessments in mathematics and developing a system of interventions for students not meeting learning expectations. The results have been extremely promising and have given our teachers a clearer picture of each mathematical learner at New Franklin.

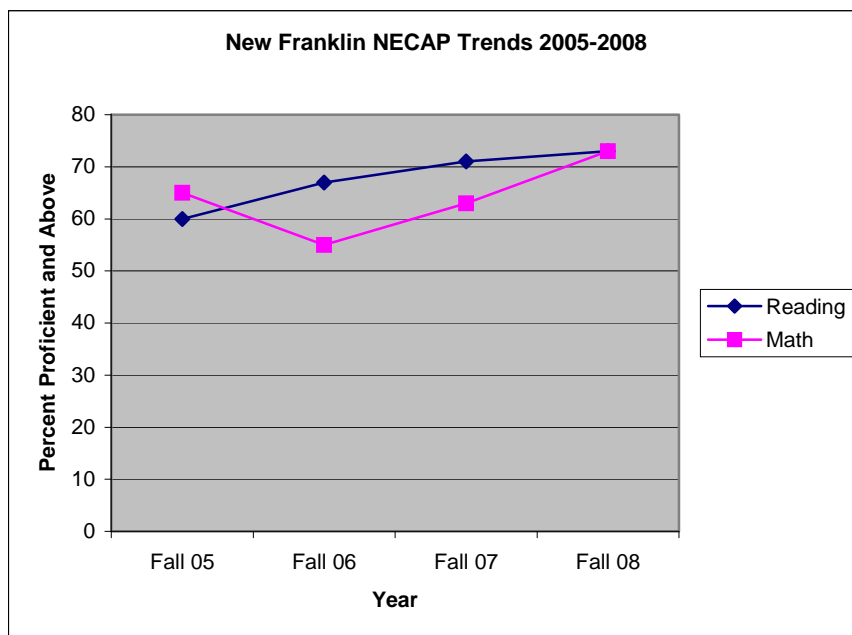
We've appreciated the wonderful turnouts for our Family Math Nights this year and are grateful for the many hours families have logged working on math with their children. Your continued home support will only enhance our improving mathematics program and help all students reach their learning objectives.

New Franklin is a thriving academic community where all children are celebrated and challenged. We're grateful for our intimate school community and fortunate to have small classes led by excellent teachers and an outstanding support staff. The New Franklin staff is committed to meeting the educational needs of every student. While we're continually working to hone our school-wide programs, our fundamental purpose is to develop an individualized education for each of your children; driven by high expectations, differentiated instruction and a passion for learning. We want to thank all New Franklin families for their vital contributions to the school community and most importantly, for entrusting us with the education your children.

As a result of the SINI designation, New Franklin is required to commit 10% of our Federal Title 1 funds towards professional development to continue our work to enhance teaching

and learning at New Franklin School. Additionally, New Franklin parents and guardians will be given a choice of between the three public elementary schools in Portsmouth (Dondero, Little Harbour, New Franklin) for their children to attend.

We have worked very hard in recent years to ensure that each elementary school in Portsmouth offers comparable academic and enrichment programs and holds students to the same high expectations for learning. Results from each of the three elementary schools on the most recent NECAP assessment are as follows. In Math, 73% of students scored proficient or better at New Franklin, 74% at Dondero, and 82% at Little Harbour. New Franklin's 10% increase in math proficiency this year was the largest increase in the district. While AYP is not our most useful indicator of student achievement, in the 2008 assessment Dondero did not meet AYP for the Educational Disability subgroup in Reading and Math and Little Harbour did not make AYP for the same subgroup in Reading.



If you choose to apply for school choice and associated transportation for a New Franklin student, Please submit any requests in writing by to:

Mr. Edward McDonough
Superintendent of Schools
50 Clough Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801

We encourage you to contact either of us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Edward McDonough
Superintendent of Schools
Portsmouth School Department
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George H. Shea
Principal
New Franklin School
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