

August 17, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Massachusetts Department of Secondary and Elementary Education recently released the School and District Accountability Data from the 2009 – 2010 school year. Based on the results of the spring of 2010 MCAS and other information, the West Elementary School (West) has been identified for *Improvement – Year 1* in English Language Arts and Mathematics under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This designation indicates that the West did not meet its Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals for the 2009 – 2010 school year. The MCAS assessment data used to evaluate the schools annual progress highlights areas for teachers, administrators, and parents to focus on to ensure that all students are successful. Schools identified under NCLB become eligible for additional support from the school district and state as they work together to improve teaching and learning, especially in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

We are doing many things to improve teaching and learning at the West Elementary School, including:

1. We have become a School-Wide Title I Program which allows all students to access the additional services only available to the West. Additional Math and Reading and ELL specialists are available to work with all students throughout the school day.
2. The West Elementary School provides an after school program (SMARTS) at no cost to our students in grades 2-5. This program will have 3 sessions (fall, winter, and spring) and enhances student's social skills and academic abilities through a wide range of enjoyable activities.
3. The West Elementary School will be offering a full day summer program (Multiple Intelligence Camp) for the summer of 2011. This program is offered at no cost for all students attending the West Elementary School. The program consists of a wide range of activities that focus on numerous different curriculum areas.
4. The West Elementary School Staff will also be receiving specific professional development throughout the school in the areas of English language acquisition, Mathematics, and English Language Arts. By the end of the 2010-2011 school year, virtually our entire staff will be trained in all areas of delivering Sheltered English Immersion to students who speak a second language.

Involving families as full partners in the education of their children is a cornerstone of NCLB. When families support learning, children are more successful in school and school success helps children become successful adults. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

For more information on participating in the school improvement process, please contact me at: (781) 344-7005.

As a result of the West Elementary School receiving federal Title I funds, your child may be eligible, to the extent feasible, to attend another public school located within the district that is not identified for improvement. If you choose to have your child considered for a transfer and your application is approved, the district will provide transportation for your child at no cost to you while your child's current school is identified for improvement. Please be advised that the schools to which you might transfer do not offer the above mentioned Title I services and programs.

The schools within the district that a student may apply to transfer to are as follows:

<u>School Name</u>	<u>2009 – 2010 Performance Rating</u>	
	<u>English Language Arts</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<i>Joseph R. Dawe, Jr. Elementary</i>	high	high
<i>South Elementary</i>	high	high

We encourage you to contact our office at (781) 344-7005 for more information. If you would like to request that your child be considered for a transfer to another school, please complete a School Choice Selection Form, available at the West Elementary School. The form must be submitted to my office no later than 3:00 PM on Friday, August 27, 2010. The number of seats available to School Choice students will be based on available seats in the identified receiving schools. If more requests are made than seats are available, students will be selected based on their academic needs in the area of English Language Arts and Mathematics. All parents who elect to have their children considered for a transfer will be notified by August 30, 2010 of placement decisions.

Sincerely,

Brendan Dearborn
Principal

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL CHOICE SELECTION FORM

I, _____, would like to transfer my child, _____,
to another school within the District.

I understand that the number of seats available to School Choice students will be based on available seats in the identified receiving schools. If more requests are made than seats are available, students will be selected based on their academic needs in the area of English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The two schools that have been identified as School Choice receiving schools are identified below. Please select the school you would like to request that your child be transferred to. If you would like to request both schools based on availability, please put a number before the name of each school in order of preference.

_____ *Joseph R Dawe, Jr. Elementary*

_____ *South Elementary*

Transportation

___ **YES** My child will need transportation to the above elementary school.

___ **NO** I will provide transportation to my child's new school.

Name of Parent/Guardian

Phone Number

Date

Please return this form to the West Elementary School no later than 3:00 PM on August 27, 2010. All parents who elect to have their children considered for a transfer will be notified by August 30, 2010 of placement decisions.