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December 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Enclosed you will find a letter from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) about the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. No Child Left Behind requires each state to notify parents/guardians of any district identified for "District Improvement."

Our goal of becoming a premier school district in the United States of America by offering a rigorous curriculum and achieving high standards remains the focus of teachers, administrators, students, parents and the community.

The district has already begun the work necessary to improve our long-term achievement results. This summer, for example, over 700 teachers, administrators, and parents joined together to continue to develop the curriculum for each subject in grades PreK through 12 to ensure that every child is effectively taught the content required by the state Achievement Tests and Graduation Tests. We also implemented an improved assessment system focused on better evaluating the current skill levels of our students and evaluating the readiness of our high school students for their *Ohio Graduation Tests*. We continue to increase our community outreach to engage each of our families in their own child's education as a true and important partner.

There is also some good news in our report card data on which we will continue to build. First, mathematics scores for children in the district went up in the majority of the tested grades (grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10); gains were strongest in grades 3 and 7 with greater than 10 percentage point gains in each. Our district also received an above average value-added growth measure on our district report card. This means that the majority of our students attained greater than one year's growth academically during the 2009-2010 school year. This reinforces the importance of strategies like the "half band increases", professional development opportunities that focus on best practices, literacy and mathematics coaches in the majority of our buildings, extended day tutoring opportunities, implementation of a scope and sequence curriculum, focus on project-based inquiry learning, and a strong parental involvement program that emphasizes the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

If you have any questions about the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and this identification under NCLB, please contact our Academic Offices at 216-574-7157. The academic staff will be happy to answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,



Eugene T.W. Sanders, Ph.D.