



# Grant School

305 Cromwell Place

South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

Telephone: (908) 754-4620

Fax: (908) 755-5895

Leo Whalen, Principal

Email: [lwhalen@spnet.k12.nj.us](mailto:lwhalen@spnet.k12.nj.us)

Robert Richkus, Assistant Principal

Email: [r-richkus@spnet.k12.nj.us](mailto:r-richkus@spnet.k12.nj.us)

August 1, 2011

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 3-8 (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 all students are expected to reach academic proficiency.

When you compare Grant School's results on the 2009-2010 NJASK to the other schools in the State you will see that Grant School outperforms the State average for All Students. In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts Literacy: 66.6% of Grant School students passed the test compared to 63.3% State Average. 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics: 82.4% of Grant School students passed the test compared to 79% State Average. In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts Literacy: 72% of Grant School students passed the test compared to 65.5% State Average. 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics: 81.2% of Grant School students passed the test compared to 72.1% State Average.

Schools that do not make AYP for one year receive an Early Warning designation to alert them that students did not meet at least one of the AYP indicators. 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. Grant School has not made AYP for 4 years, even though we met 77 out of 80 indicators. Since we did not meet 3 of our benchmark targets, we are identified as a school in need of improvement. Part of the school improvement requirements 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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: a CAPA (Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement) visit, after school NJASK prep classes for mathematics and language arts, Study Island (mathematics and language arts), *Being a Writer* program, expansion of our BSI (Basic Skills Instruction) program, daily walkthrough procedures and implemented balance literacy activities for language arts literacy.

We want to continue serving your child, and we'll use all the resources available to help our students achieve. An important part of this effort involves parental involvement and support. The district and school must develop and implement a parental involvement policy. We encourage you to become involved in this and other initiatives at Grant School by contacting Mr. Whalen at extension 678.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the year regarding the school 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,  
Leo Whalen  
Principal