



March 26, 2019

Dear Families,

We are writing to follow up on our letter from December about our Maryland School Report Card rating.

This winter, we were incorrectly rated as a one-star school. **After submitting data supporting our well-rounded curriculum and a lengthy appeal process, our star rating has increased to two stars.** We have also been removed from the list of schools identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools as a result of our appeal. Our corrected rating reflects that we earned 39.5% of possible points (the two-star rating band includes schools that received between 30% to 45% of possible points). **This means that we are rapidly approaching three stars.**

We gained nearly all of the available points in the “well-rounded curriculum” domain. This includes not only providing students with a well-rounded curriculum (to include art, physical education, health, science and social studies) and also student proficiency in these subjects.

We openly acknowledge that PARCC and attendance are areas where we are still growing. We are well on our way to becoming a school that receives three or more stars in this new system, and we are excited to join with you to achieve the growth that we know is coming:

- Our monthly attendance postcards were created to further open lines of communication between school and home about attendance. This February, our school had the highest attendance since September, and the best attendance of any February for the last three years.
- We will soon begin a contract with Attendance Works, a group that specializes in attendance strategies. They will help us create even more effective strategies to make sure as many students as possible are coming to school regularly.
- We expanded our literacy intervention strategies by adding the Springboard program, which is running for 10 weeks after school this spring. We are excited that 60 students have joined this after-school program. It will also have a summer program component (details coming soon).
- We are working with students, staff and families to be more prepared than ever for PARCC. Families of students in grades 3, 4 and 5 should join us for an important meeting on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00. We will also have support and information about PARCC throughout the spring.

While we are not yet a five-star school, we are also not a one-star school. We are grateful that our Maryland State Report Card has been updated to reflect our school program more accurately. We are also very excited to work with everyone in our school family in continual self-reflection and improvement.

If you have any questions, please contact either one of us, anytime, at 443-642-3600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marisa Canino".

Marisa Canino
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Traci Mathena".

Traci Mathena
Principal