

August 29, 2008

To the Parents/Guardians of Parkview Middle School:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our school continues to be identified as a Program Improvement (PI) school under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. It is now a PI Year 3 school.

What is PI?

NCLB requires the state and district to review annually the academic progress of federally funded Title I schools and to identify schools in need of improvement. These schools are identified as PI schools after two consecutive years of not making adequate yearly progress (AYP). California determines AYP by considering the following four measures:

- The percentage of students scoring at the “proficient” or “advanced” level on the California Standards Tests for English-language arts and mathematics
- The percentage of students participating in those tests
- California’s own accountability measurement of progress, the Academic Performance Index (API)

Why is our school identified as PI?

The reason our school continues in PI is because it did not achieve AYP in 2007-08. The AYP area(s) that caused the identification are:

- The school, or one or more subgroups of students, did not meet annual state targets in English-language arts.
- The school, or one or more subgroups of students, did not meet annual state targets in mathematics.

The school’s 2007-08 Accountability Progress Report may be obtained from the school or on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay>.

Public school choice: What right does a parent have to request a transfer to a school that is not in PI?

All parents/guardians of students attending a PI school have the right to request a transfer of their child(ren) to a non-PI district school with district-paid transportation.

For parents who select this option, the district will provide transportation to the non-PI school for as long as the home school continues to be identified as a PI school. If the home school exits PI by making AYP for two consecutive years, the student can remain at the school; however, transportation will no longer be district-paid. If the demand for choice exceeds funds available, priority will be given to lowest achieving, low-income students.

If you are interested in transferring your child(ren) to a non-PI school in the district for the 2008-09 school in the district, please contact Steve Bogan, Superintendent. The district will provide a list of the schools available for transfer and information about the achievement levels of those schools. Currently, Crossroads Charter Academy is the only non-PI school in the district that can house your child at this time and you are welcomed to transfer your child there.

Name of School	API Scores *	ELA Percent Proficient or above** (Elem target = 35.2%)	Mathematics Percent Proficient or above** (Elem target = 37.0%)
Parkview Middle	667/800	30.6%	17.5%
Crossroads Charter School	524/800	22.5%	5.1%

* 800 on the API = Meeting the state proficiency target for schools on the Academic Performance Index

** Percentage targets vary by grade level span.

For more information about any of these schools, please contact the District Office at (559) 583-5000. You may also go to the district's Web site at <http://www.auesd.com>.

To apply for a public school choice transfer from a PI school, please contact the District Office and request an application form and return it by September 12, 2008. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact the District Office at (559) 583-5000.

Supplemental educational services (SES): How does a parent obtain a provider for their child?

Students from low-income families at continuing PI schools, whose parents did not select a public school choice option, are eligible for free SES. These services are classes or tutoring which occur outside the regular school day with educational providers approved by the State Board of Education. If the number of eligible students who apply for the SES program exceeds the financial resources available, the lowest achieving students from low-income families will receive SES first.

If you are interested in SES, contact the District Office and request an SES application form and return it to the district by September 12, 2008. If you need assistance, please contact Steve Bogan at (559)583-5000.

What will the school do to address the problem of low achievement?

The Armona Union Elementary School District is working closely with Parkview Middle School to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance at the school. Listed here are some of the steps that have been taken or that will be taken by the beginning of this school year.

- We are working with an outside provider to align curriculum with state standards to improve student achievement.
- We are implementing a new mathematics training program for all mathematics teachers at Parkview Middle School
- We are implementing a new Language Arts training program for all teachers at Parkview Middle School
- Students most in need of help can receive after-school tutoring in reading and mathematics.
- We are training our teachers on how to help students who are not at grade level.
- We will work to help parents become involved at the school and at home.

What are the district and state doing to support schools in PI Year 3 (Corrective Action)?

Our district is working closely with the CDE to improve curriculum, instruction, and student performance. In addition to choice and SES, the school must revise its school plan to include at least one of the following options:

- Replace school staff (may include principal) who are relevant to the school's failure to make AYP
- Institute and fully implement a new curriculum
- Decrease management authority at the school level
- Appoint an outside expert to advise the school on its progress toward making AYP
- Extend the school day or year for the school
- Restructure the internal organizational structure of the school

August 29, 2008

Page 4

How can parents become involved?

Research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school. Parents interested in partnering with the school are encouraged to contact the school for additional information regarding:

- School-parent compact
- Ongoing parent/community meetings
- Advisory committee/school site council meetings
- Attend the School Site Council meetings to revise the school plan. The school plan should address the issues that caused the school to be identified for PI.
- Visit your child's school and volunteer to help in the classroom or office.
- Participate in activities that encourage parents to get involved at your school. The research shows that strong parental involvement leads to student success at school.

We will keep you updated and informed about opportunities to discuss plans for our school. If you have questions, need additional information on how you can get involved in our school improvement efforts, or would like to discuss the school's instructional program and PI status, please feel free to call me and/or visit the school.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lance M. Clement
Principal
Parkview Middle School