



August 1, 2011

Dear Highland View Parents and Guardians,

The staff at Highland View Elementary School, home of the Eagles, is looking forward to the start of the 2011-2012 school year. We anticipate another productive and exciting year in an environment that is respectful, motivating and challenging for all of our children.

As you might expect, the highly anticipated summer news is related to our students' performance on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA). I am very pleased to inform you that Highland View met the state standard and achieved Adequate Yearly Progress for the 2010-2011 school year! Our scores were outstanding in many areas. For example, in the "All Students" category HVES students **exceeded** the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) targets in both reading and math. With the ever-rising AMO targets, it is not an easy task to meet the state standard. I cannot overstate how proud I am of the efforts of our students and staff! I look forward to sharing more detailed information about the assessment results at Back to School Night.

On the facilities front, our Building Services Manager, Mr. Hungerford, and his staff have worked tirelessly to prepare the building and the grounds for our students' and staff's return. Additionally, as many are aware, over the years we have had unfortunate events of vandalism by individuals who have gained access to our roof. The Department of Facilities Management is currently working on upgrades to the facility to make gaining access to the roof more difficult. I am hopeful these upgrades will help to protect our campus. Also installed is a new security system, ACS (Access Control System). ACS consists of a surveillance camera installed at the school's main entrance with a second camera at the side door entrance to the All Purpose Room. Signs will direct you to push a button to alert main office staff of your arrival. A remote locking system, controlled from the main office, will allow entry into the building during the period between students' morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times. When a visitor arrives during the school day, they will be prompted to press an alert button at the main entrance. Office staff will communicate with the visitor and provide controlled entry into the school. All visitors will be instructed to report to the main office to sign in. Visitors arriving at the secondary entrance will be instructed to enter only through the main entrance. In order to ensure the successful implementation of ACS, all other entrances to the school building will remain secured at all times. This initiative and others that will follow are provided to ensure the safety and security of the learning and working environment. Thank you for your continuing support. Please call me if you have questions or wish to discuss this new security initiative.

On the personnel front, we welcome three new staff members to our Professional Learning Community this year. We received an additional part-time allocation for ESOL for this coming school year, and we have hired Mrs. Dana Frye, a veteran ESOL teacher, who is transferring to us from Stedwick Elementary. Mrs. Kimberly Stonerook will be our new fifth grade teacher. Mrs. Stonerook has been teaching since 2000, and she and her family moved to Maryland from Iowa this past year. She substituted for us many times last year and earned emphatic praise from those staff members for whom she subbed. Also joining us is another experienced teacher, Mrs. Priya Agarwal. Mrs. Agarwal will serve as our .5 special education teacher. She is returning to MCPS after being on childcare leave. In late June Mrs. Bronda Mills, our Community Superintendent, graciously allocated an additional .5 Academic Intervention position to our school. This position is still vacant, as we search for qualified individuals to serve in this important role.

As these tight budget times continue, we recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. Unfortunately, as a result of the current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if enrollment comes in below projections and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, I will do my best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. I will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school.

As the beginning of the new school year approaches, I look forward with great anticipation to opening day. When our students return to school on August 29, 2011, we will have a great opportunity to make a difference in their lives. Come soar with us!

Sincerely,

Anne M. Dardarian  
Principal