



H. M. Sauter School
Principal Cherie McComb
130 Elm Street, Gardner, MA 01440
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August 20, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Helen Mae Sauter School has been identified for Improvement in English Language Arts under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This designation alone does not indicate a failing school. It highlights areas where more work is needed by principals, teachers and parents to ensure that all students are successful. Schools identified under NCLB become eligible for additional support from the school district and the state as they work together to improve teaching and learning, especially in English language arts and mathematics. Helen Mae Sauter made our Average Yearly Progress for English language arts and mathematics for 2009. Helen Mae Sauter School is on target for our Improvement Rating in both English language arts and mathematics. Our Performance Rating in English language arts is High and in mathematics it is Moderate. We are in Improvement Year 1 as the state requires that a school make their AYP two years in a row.

We are doing many things to improve teaching and learning in the school, including:

1. We have developed a strong Response to Intervention Program that provides any student of need with extra small group support in both reading and math as needed. These students are monitored closely to assure adequate gains are being made.
2. We are appointing core curriculum leaders in math and English language arts who will assist in improving teacher instruction, and student learning, by grade and by school.
3. We purchased a new curriculum in math based on scientific research and aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks that will provide research-based pedagogy for improving student performance in math.
4. We have a once a week homework club in the morning for students who need this support.

Involving families as full partners in the education of their children is a cornerstone of NCLB. When families support learning, children are more successful in school and school success helps children become successful adults. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
Encouraging other parents to become involved

For more information on participating in the school improvement process, contact Cherie McComb the principal at 978-632-5480

Sincerely,

Cherie McComb