

August 11, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The goal of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) of 2001 is to ensure that all children in this country receive a quality education. Under NCLB, each state is required to assess all schools to determine if each school has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the academic testing standards set by the state. If the school has not made AYP for two consecutive years, it is considered "in need of improvement."

Based on the results of the 2009 MAP testing in communication arts and mathematics, Blue Hills Elementary School is considered in School Improvement status for the following reason:

- In 2009, one of the four sub-groups represented at Blue Hills did not meet AYP in Communication Arts and Mathematics. The four sub-groups are: All Students, White, Free and Reduced Lunch, and IEP.

Despite those results, there is reason to celebrate the 2010 MAP achievements of your Blue Hills students. The performance of last year's 3rd graders increased in both Communication Arts and Math, and in fact were the highest 3rd grade MAP scores ever at Blue Hills. Last year's 4th graders improved over their own 2009 performance in Communication Arts, and maintained a high level of achievement in Math. The 2010 4th grade MAP Math results were also the highest ever for Blue Hills.

Based upon the school's AYP status your child is eligible for public school choice options under the NCLB Act. There are two options available for your child:

1. Remain at Blue Hills
2. Transfer to another elementary school in the Fort Osage R-1 School District.

If you would like to exercise your NCLB choice option to transfer to another elementary school, please complete the Transfer Request Form included with this letter, and return it to Dr. Maria Fleming, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services by Friday, August 20, 2010. If you would like for your student to remain at Blue Hills, no action on your part is required.

The district will provide transportation for your child under an NCLB transfer as long as there is funding available. If the demands for transfers exceed available funding, the priority to provide transportation will be for low-achieving, low-income students. However, all students who request a transfer will be granted one.

Please remember that if you do not complete and return the transfer application by Friday, August 20, 2010, your child will remain at Blue Hills. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Monica Shane, Blue Hills Elementary School Principal, at 816-650-7441 or via email at mshane@fortosage.net. The district will work with you to make sure your child finds a school that fits his/her needs.

Because of this designation, the school has developed a plan for improvement that:

- Incorporates strategies that are scientifically research based that will strengthen the core academic areas and address the specific academic issues that caused the school to be indentified as a school in improvement;
- Adopts practices concerning the school's core academic subjects that have the greatest likelihood of ensuring that all sub-groups will meet the proficiency targets;
- Directly addresses the academic achievement problem that caused the school to be identified for school improvement.

An important component of this plan will be parents' involvement in their children's education. By talking with your child and his/her teacher about learning activities at school, and by helping your child to develop reading and math skills, you are making an important difference in your child's education. Your child's teacher can assist you with activities to do at home that will help ensure success at school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Enderle
Superintendent of Schools