



Lyndhurst Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SHAUNA C. DEMARCO
Superintendent of Schools

JAMES A. CORINO, ED. D.
Interim Assistant Superintendent

DAVID DIPISA
*School Business Administrator
Board Secretary*

February 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

Throughout New Jersey, and nationwide, there continues to be strong debate about standardized testing and its impact on students. No matter one's opinion, the foundation of such debate is common, significant, and centered around one key question: *What is in the the best interest of students?*

To assist with this inquiry, the Lyndhurst School District annually devotes a tremendous amount of time and attention analyzing the merit of multiple assessments. We remain confident in our 2015-16 decision to replace mid-term and final exams with quarterly assessments as comprehensive measures of student performance. Likewise, we continue to encourage our teachers to use diverse assessment approaches in order to enable students to demonstrate their strengths and identify areas in need of further development so that future instruction may be planned accordingly.

We are proud to remain focused on teaching to the standards put forward by the state - our teachers do not deem test preparation as their goal, but rather focus on the growth and development of each and every student. We truly believe our approach enhances the areas of college and career readiness that will ultimately benefit our students in their future grade-level, college, and/or career experiences. An additional benefit this year is that no students will need to travel to another building for PARCC testing purposes; all students will test onsite in their home school, thanks to the technology enhancement that added over 250 iPads to our elementary schools.

Lyndhurst is pleased to report that our student PARCC participation rate *drastically* improved last year. We achieved a participation percentage at/above the state requirement of 95% at 4 of the 5 schools that administered PARCC. This year, we are striving for this achievement at all 5 of our participating schools. We thank you, the parents of our students, for your cooperation in helping us achieve this year's goal by supporting your child's participation in his/her assigned PARCC assessments. Any parent who does not support his/her child's participation in this assessment must express this in writing to their child's building principal before March 1, 2017.

All educators in the Lyndhurst Public Schools are committed to demonstrating support, care, and compassion for our students. We thank you for joining our good faith effort to do our best for the students – your children – who we are so privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

Shauna C. DeMarco
Superintendent of Schools

James A. Corino, Ed. D.
Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools