

Mr. Claude Tiller
High School Principal

September 30, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child is currently a student at Pontiac Academy for Excellence, and it is very important to us that we provide every opportunity for him/her to be successful.

Each school in Michigan is required to test students every year using the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) for students in grades 3 – 8 and the Michigan Merit Examination for students in grade 11. The results of these tests, as well as participation on the tests, are used to determine whether our school is making adequate yearly progress (AYP).

Effective the 2009-2010 school year, Pontiac School for Excellence is officially a school district with three separate schools, elementary, middle and high school. We are pleased to announce that the elementary and middle schools are **no longer** in an AYP phase for improvement.

However, our high school students who participated in the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) did not make sufficient gains to achieve AYP. Our high school has been identified as a Phase 3 high-priority school. In the high school, 9.4% of our students scored at a proficient level in ELA as well as in mathematics. A comparison of our test scores to other school districts and the State averages can be found on the enclosed document labeled “Academic Achievement Comparison for Identified Areas” (Enclosure No. 1).

Highlighted below is a listing of the strategic actions on which we will be focusing to promote improved performance of PAE students on the MME for the upcoming school year.

- Providing continuous professional development for our teachers
- Developing an assessment system that will provide students, staff and parents with more frequent reports on student progress
- Utilizing a web-based tutorial program, Study Island, that will allow students more practice on core subject areas at school and the program can be assessed at home
- Providing additional support for students through the services of Reading, Math and English Second Language Specialists
- Providing a summer school program
- Providing an after-school tutorial program
- Scheduling additional classroom time in core academic subjects
- Providing a Saturday School Program

As a parent, you can assist us in our efforts to provide a quality educational experience for your child by:

- Being an advocate for your child
- Making sure your child has adequate rest before coming to school
- Ensuring your child arrives at school on time
- Avoiding picking your child up from school early- this interrupts instructional time
- Providing a quiet place for your child to complete homework assignments
- Helping your child with homework projects
- Following up on whether your child is turning in his/her homework
- Keeping in touch with your child's teacher(s)
- Knowing when testing is going to take place
- Networking with other parents and forming study groups
- Prioritizing academics as being more important than sports and extracurricular activities
- Showing support for your child by working collaboratively with his/her teachers and participating in parental involvement events

Since the Pontiac Academy for Excellence High School is identified for improvement, the district is obligated to offer you the opportunity to transfer your child to another neighboring school (see Enclosure No. 2). If Pontiac Academy for Excellence receives more applications for transfer than can be accommodated, priority will be given to the lowest-achieving children from families that qualify for the free or reduced-lunch program. You will be notified by mail of your child's transfer status.

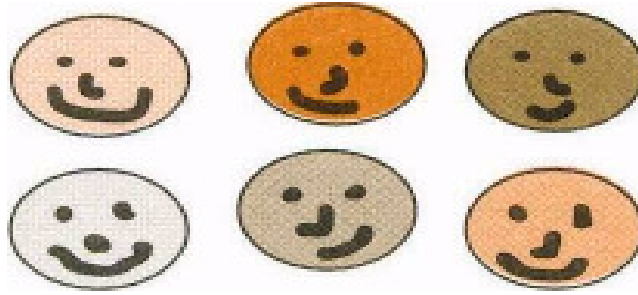
To assist you in your decision, we have provided test information from the high schools that achieved AYP along with Pontiac Academy's information so you can make a comparison. The only high school in the area who has agreed to accept students transferring from our high school is listed below (see Enclosure No. 2). There are no other options within a reasonable distance from our high school. Based on this information, you may choose the high school from this list using the enclosed transfer form (see Enclosure No. 3). Transportation to the high school will be provided. For consideration, you must complete this form by **October 16, 2009** and return it to Keturah Brinson, SES Coordinator.

If you decide not to transfer your child and your child is eligible for free or reduced lunch, free tutoring may be available. You should have received a separate letter regarding tutoring.

To discuss this decision further, please call Mrs. Brinson, at (248) 745-9420, ext. 2115 and she will be able to assist you.

Sincerely,

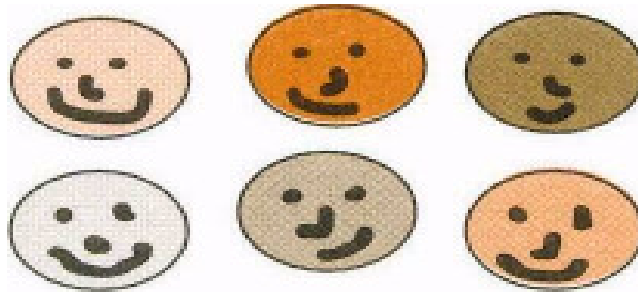
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Pontiac Academy for Excellence Enclosure No. 1
Academic Achievement Comparison for Identified Areas

This chart compares Pontiac Academy for Excellence’s academic achievement in the subject and grade identified for improvement to at least three other high schools and the State average.

High Schools	Percent of Students Proficient in English Language Arts	Percent of Students Proficient in Mathematics by Grade
Pontiac Academy for Excellence	MME 11th – 9%	MME 11th – 9%
Pontiac Northern High School	MME 11th – 13%	MME 11th - 4%
Waterford Kettering High School	MME 11th -71%	MME 11th – 48%
West Bloomfield High School	MME 11th – 65%	MME 11th – 66%
State Average	MME 11th – 52%	MME 11th – 49%
Required Proficiency Level	High – 61%	High – 61%



Enclosure No. 2

Pontiac Academy for Excellence Transfer Information

Your student may be able to transfer to the following school:

Pontiac High School
Pontiac School District
1051 Arlene Ave.
Grades 9-12
Pontiac, MI 48340-2904
(248) 451-7300

Please complete the attached Transfer Request Form by October 16, 2009 or contact:

Mrs. K. Brinson
(248) 745-9420 ext. 2115

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Public School Choice Transfer Request

Please print all requested information accurately and clearly.

Please complete one application per child. Check **ONLY** Option 1 or Option 2 below.

Return this request form on or before **October 12, 2009** to:

**Pontiac Academy for Excellence
196 Oakland Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48343
(248) 745-9420**

Please complete the following student information:

Student Name: _____ Student ID# _____

Student's Grade: _____ Student's Date of Birth: _____

Name of School Student Currently Attends: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Alternate or Cell: (____) _____ - _____

Is this student currently enrolled in Special Education? ___ Yes ___ No

Parent/Guardian Statement:

I have received and understand the correspondence informing me that Pontiac Academy for Excellence did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) and has been identified for improvement. I also understand that I have the option to transfer my child to another school that has not been identified for improvement and is making AYP. Based on this information, I choose:

___ **OPTION 1:** Transfer to Pontiac High School

___ **OPTION 2:** Remain at Pontiac Academy for Excellence

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date