

Dear Parents/Guardians and Members of the Allen Community,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support of Allen School. The countless resources and hours you have dedicated to our staff, students and parents throughout this past school year have really paid off for us. Our academic successes can be seen in the results of the testing that our students participated in during the 2006-2007 school year. These results give us a “snapshot” of how our school has fared compared to the Aurora East School District as well as compared to the students in Illinois.

Overall, Allen School has made many improvements over past performance in the areas of Reading, Math and Science. Reading and Math assessments are given at the third, fourth and fifth grade levels. Fourth graders are also assessed in Science.

As a school, all our students met or exceeded state standards in reading, math and science and we are proud of both them and their teachers. Unfortunately, however, our students who are in the special education program and have IEPs (Individual Education Plans) did not meet state standards. We understand that these students have special needs and receive special services to help them meet those needs. Though we are disappointed that they did not meet state standards, we are also understanding of the fact that this population as individual educational plans because they are not performing equally with their grade level peers in all academic areas. We will continue to provide them with the best services and instruction we are able and are confident that their scores on these assessments will improve.

Though we will continue to provide a balanced curriculum and will work on all areas of our curriculum, we have identified three areas of concentration for the 2007-2008 school year. They are reading, math and student behavior. We feel that by decreasing classroom disruptions and by helping students develop better self-images, we will create better, more focused students.

**Reading Improvement Activities:**

- Training on the components of balanced literacy will be provided to the staff. These professional development opportunities will focus on guided reading, writing, shared reading, fluency, phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension.
- On-going assessments will help teachers guide their instruction and identify students' needs.
- Small group reading interventions will be incorporated for all at-risk students including our special education population.
- Accelerated Reader will continue to be incorporated into the classroom reading programs.
- We will hire an additional reading teacher and reading teacher assistant to work directly with our at-risk population.
- A to Z Reading will continue to be incorporated into all classroom reading programs.
- All reading teachers will be focused on helping those readers who need their expertise the most.

- Guided reading groups will meet frequently and instruction will be provided at the students' instructional level. Students who are at-risk will receive additional daily instruction at their instructional level.
- Tutoring programs will be offered after school.
- New teachers will receive professional development in the area of literacy education.

**Math Activities:**

- Everyday Math will continue to be used as the primary math program.
- Teachers will receive additional instruction in the teaching of math strategies for math problem solving.
- All teachers will be given a refresher on the Everyday Math program.
- All students will receive 60 minutes of math instruction daily as well as additional minutes of weekly problem solving instruction.

**Positive Student Behavior Activities:**

- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) will be fully implemented. Students will learn appropriate behavior for all parts of the building and all parts of their school day. Incentives will be offered to affirm students for on task behavior. Implementation will take place at all three levels: Universal (whole school), Secondary (small group), and Tertiary (individual targeted students).
- Peaceful School will continue to be implemented and the school will track peaceful days in the building and, again, offer incentives for on task behavior.
- CHARACTER COUNTS! Program will continue to teach students the six pillars of good character.
- Anti-bullying programs will be presented to the students and training will be provided to teach students how to deal with bullies.

We will continue to consider our parents as our partners and encourage them to attend our PTO meetings and numerous parent workshops provided by our parent liaison and classroom teachers. We encourage parents to visit the school to see what we are doing, talk to their children about school, supervise their homework and check their backpacks nightly for notes and assignments. We also encourage parents to speak to their children's teachers frequently.

Together we can provide a quality education for the children of Allen School.

Sincerely,

Karen D. Mink  
Principal  
O.C. Allen School