



CENTER DRIVE SCHOOL

HOME OF THE EAGLES

To: Members of the School Committee

Fm: Judy Marvin, Principal

December 23, 2015 (January, 2016)

I write this as I prepare for Christmas Vacation. Looking out the window, it certainly doesn't look like Christmas. Luckily, though, all I need to do is feel the energy of the 400 students that surround me to know what time of the year it is. It is hard to believe that when we meet it will be 2016!

We received news last week regarding the new assessment that will replace the Smarter Balanced done last year. The new assessment, developed by Measured Progress, has a testing window of 4 weeks. We are being told that there will be a total of 6 hours of testing time. The report I received from the Commissioner stated that Measured Progress has been developing this test for months and now just need to adapt it to be Maine specific. All reports are that this is significantly easier to administer and less time-consuming than the last state assessment.

The new Observation/Evaluation system continues to go well. I am pleased to report that I met the probationary teacher mid-point mark of completing 1 formal and 2 mini-observations by December 15th for our 10 new teachers. Most continuing contract teachers have had one mini-observation done based on our trimester data meetings that took place in the beginning of December. I will begin doing more mini-observations on continuing contract teachers following vacation. According to our handbook, probationary teachers will need one more formal observation and two more mini-observations by March 15th.

8th graders begin their visitations to area high schools this month. Dates have been chosen for students to be introduced to the high schools and see what they offer. On the evening of January 28th families will be invited to attend an information night. Beginning at 5:30, students and their families will rotate through the middle school hearing 15-20 minute presentations from Brewer High School, John Bapst Memorial High School, Bucksport High, Hampden Academy and Bangor High. There will be time left at the end for students to go back to individual schools to ask any questions pertinent to them. Students will then have the opportunities to visit John Bapst and Brewer, along with United Technologies Center (UTC). These high schools are also hosting a parent night on the night of the Step Up days, where parents will have yet another opportunity to have questions answered.

Best wishes for a safe and happy New Year!