

PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

58 PARK AVENUE

WEBSTER, MA 01570

TELEPHONE: 508-943-4554

FAX: 508-949-1668

Mrs. Robin L. Parmley, Principal

Mrs. Patricia Mackay, Assistant Principal

Mr. Luis Soto, Dean of Students

November 30, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to share with you our school's report card which can be located on our school website. It contains information about school and district accountability, achievement, our students and teachers, and other important measures of school performance.

The first page of the report card contains important accountability information. We are very proud to say that the many improvements last year helped launch our school into a positive upswing in achievement. Previously, we as a school had performed in the lowest 1%. We were pleased to learn that our students made huge gains this past spring, performing in the 22%, a tremendous and commendable increase from the year prior. However, we still have much work to do and we want to continue this uptrend of student achievement. Currently, Park Avenue has been identified as a school requiring assistance or intervention and/or in need of focused, targeted support with a focus on the low participation rate for ELL and former ELL students. Our students participated in The Next Generation MCAS tests and will continue to do so. Participation rates are listed because schools have minimum participation standards set by the state that must be met. PAE made that percentage target and we encourage all students to participate in this on demand testing for this upcoming year.

The first page of the report card also shows how students in our school are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. Achievement and progress information is reported for our school and is also compared to the performance of our district and the state.

The second page of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. Also included are other important measures of school performance, such as attendance, suspension rates, and high school performance.

To improve student performance in our school, we have implemented the following initiatives. We are now in our second year of implementation of a new reading series published by McGraw-Hill, *Wonders* which has increased the rigor and academic expectations for all students. Our students are also engaging in a research based reading intervention program, differentiated to meet individual student's needs by creating a customized digital, instructional pathway. This program is a computer-based program entitled *i-Ready Instruction* and aligns beautifully with our newly implemented math program, *Ready Math*, which is one of the leading math curriculums in the nation. We have adjusted our daily schedule to lengthen the academic day and increase our instructional blocks for increased time on learning. We have continued to adjust staffing to better suit the needs of our students. An example of this has been to increase the services provided at the early elementary level, Kindergarten, such as to retain our instructional assistants in each Kindergarten classroom and add an additional special education teacher that services the Kindergarten students. We have also added a school adjustment counselor to better meet the social-emotional needs of our students. For our specials, we have increased our gym teachers by one and brought in a new school librarian to provide for the 7 needed Unified Arts periods who also provide

key academic support in the classrooms. We are fortunate to have 3 Academic Interventionists as well as another ELL Teacher, both of whom provide targeted support to our identified students and our English Language Learners. Our Kindergarten Instructional Assistants have allowed us to provide students with a phonics foundational building system entitled Early Reading Intervention, ERI. By providing a strong early literacy background, we will be able to ensure students will have the strongest academic foundation to build upon. Furthermore, we have begun instructing students in small differentiated groups, to better serve all of our students needs by enriching and remediating. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Reading with your child every night, completing homework assignments and communicating with your child's teacher.
- Attending parent-teacher meetings, special meetings and school events, serving as a volunteer in our school or district and/or joining our PTO or school council while encouraging other parents to become involved.
- Finally, because your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:
 - Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach.
 - Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver.
 - The college degree and major of your child's teacher.
 - Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

For more information about what we are doing to improve student achievement or to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers, please feel free to contact us at Park Ave Elementary, 508-943-4554.

Report cards help parents/guardians and the general public see where schools and districts are succeeding and where there is still work to do. This report card overview answers important questions about our school's performance. For the full report card containing additional data visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website at <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu>

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robin L. Parmley, Principal