December 16, 2015

Dear CCSD 46 Parents and Guardians,

As many of you are aware, this past spring, Illinois Students participated in a new state assessment, called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam, in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The PARCC assessment replaces the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and marks a significant change from this previous assessment.

The new test signals a change in how student performance will be reported. The PARCC exam score reports will show how each child performed in the areas of English Language Arts/Literacy and Math. It will reveal their overall score which will fall within one of five performance levels:

- Performance Level 1 - Student did not meet expectations for College & Career Readiness
- Performance Level 2 - Student partially met expectations for College & Career Readiness
- Performance Level 3 - Student is approaching expectations for College & Career Readiness
- Performance Level 4 - Student met expectations for College & Career Readiness
- Performance Level 5 - Student exceeded Expectations for College & Career Readiness

Illinois considers a score of four or five to be meeting College & Career Readiness Standards.

As you review these reports, your child’s scores, as well as the school and district averages, will look much different and may appear lower than what you typically expected on previous state assessments. It is important to remember that these score reports are not comparable to your child’s previous scores on the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT). The PARCC exam uses higher expectations for what it means for students to truly master content and grade-level standards. The 2015 PARCC test scores provide a new baseline to measure student progress going forward. These results do not mean our students know less or are less capable or that our schools are failing. Our schools are continuing to do great work to teach the updated learning standards and prepare our students for the demands of college and careers. We have simply raised the bar for the type of skills and knowledge students must possess before moving onto the next grade level.

As with any change, we anticipate some growing pains as students and teachers adjust to the new format of the PARCC exam and the higher expectations of the Illinois Learning Standards. We are confident that results will improve as they become more familiar with the test. Our staff will work hard to ensure all students are prepared for life’s opportunities while developing a lasting appreciation for learning.
to keep you informed about our progress as a district and will provide opportunities for discussion and feedback.

For more information about the PARCC exam visit http://www2.d46.org/teachlearn/assessment.asp. Please feel free to contact us your student’s school with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child’s academic growth and success.

Sincerely,

Ellen Correll
Superintendent

Craig Keer
Assistant Superintendent

Amanda August
Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Heather Trom
Assistant Director of Pupil Services

Maricela Sierra
ELL Coordinator

Laura Morgan
Principal, Meadowview

Cathy Santelle
Principal, Woodview School

Jodi Cinq-Mars
Assistant Principal, Frederick School

Karen Wiesner
Assistant Principal, Grayslake Middle School

David Dinsmore
Assistant Principal, Park School

Community Consolidated School District 46 will provide an educational environment that maximizes the potential of ALL students to be prepared for life’s opportunities while developing a lasting appreciation for learning.