

AMELON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

132 AMER COURT

MADISON HEIGHTS, VA 24572

(434) 528 - 6498

(434) 929-1547 (FAX)

Donna Lewis, Principal
Elizabeth Brown, Assistant Principal

July 28, 2011

Dear Parent / Guardian:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year which will begin on August 15, 2011. I look forward to meeting all students and their parents during Open House Thursday, August 11, between 1:00 and 7:30. Class assignments will be given out at this time.

This letter is to inform Amelon parents of the *No Child Left Behind Act* requirement to provide School Choice for students enrolled at Amelon Elementary School. Public School Choice must be provided in spite of the fact that Amelon Elementary School is anticipated to be fully accredited by the State of Virginia. The Virginia Department of Education identifies schools that must provide Public School Choice. The identification is made when a school does not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years as measured by student performance on the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments.

To help Amelon Elementary School meet AYP targets, greater emphasis will be placed on helping the individual student in the areas of reading and mathematics. We will have a school-wide intervention time designed for remediation/enrichment to address the needs of all students. We are adjusting scheduling for reading this year. Title I reading teachers will be co-teaching in selected general education classrooms and there will be more emphasis on differentiated instruction and on-going assessment. As a staff we will continue to monitor and assess student progress frequently so that the instructional needs of each student can be met.

As you look to the new year, parents, I ask you to take a few minutes to consider the information about school choice presented below. If you have questions or just want more information about school choice, please plan to attend our informational meeting **Wednesday, August 10th, at 6:00 P.M.** at Amelon Elementary Library.

Meanwhile, best wishes as you complete back-to-school shopping and enjoy family time.

Sincerely,

Donna D. Lewis
Principal

Information about School Choice:

Amelon Elementary School is fully accredited and has met the benchmarks for the SOL scores in all content areas; however, it has been identified for improvement in the area of reading because it has not met the annual measurable objective in all student sub-groups. We have provided a chart to give a context to these test scores over time:

* -preliminary results

SOL/AYP Results 2009-2011

	SOL Scores			AYP Ratings		
	2009-10 Spring 2009	2010-11 Spring 2010	2011-12 Spring 2011	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
English: Reading	90%	80%	*82%	Made AYP	Did Not Make AYP	Did Not Make AYP
Math	93%	93%	*85%			
Writing	96%	90%	*76%			
History	87%	78%	*82%			
Science	97%	95%	*87%			

Your child's school has been designated by the Virginia Department of Education as a School Identified for Improvement. This designation alone does not indicate a failing school, but provides a focus on areas for school improvement by the principal, teachers, and parents. Identified schools then become eligible for additional support from the district and state as they work to improve teaching and learning, attendance, graduation or participation in testing.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, when a school is designated as a School Identified for Improvement by the state, parents have the options of:

- Remaining at the school and actively participating in the school improvement process, or
- Seeking enrollment in one of the designated schools listed below.

The following schools are choice options for students who regularly reside in the Amelon Elementary School zone area: Elon Elementary and Pleasant View Elementary. While all parents will have the opportunity to indicate whether they want their children transported to other schools, there is no guarantee that all children will be able to attend other schools. The space at each grade level is limited and will be considered when making placement decisions. Transportation for students who have selected school choice is only guaranteed as long as the school remains in school improvement. If you would like more information about these schools, you are encouraged to access the Amherst County Public Schools web site (www.amherst.k12.va.us), or contact the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at 434-946-9340.

We are excited about the learning opportunities that will take place during this school year. Amelon Elementary School has worked very hard to improve the academic

achievement of all students and is initiating a variety of changes at the district and school levels to support academic achievement. We encourage parents to become involved in their child's academic programs. Parents can help by communicating with their children's teachers, ensuring that their children attend school regularly, assisting with homework, and by frequently reading to their children. We also encourage parents to serve on school committees, join the PTO, and volunteer in classrooms. We are positive that by all of us working together our Amelon students will be successful. We are holding an informational meeting on **Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 6 p.m.** to discuss this process and how we can work together to encourage student achievement. Please attend if you have questions and would like more information about the school improvement process.

If you choose to apply for a transfer, detach the bottom portion of this letter and return it to Amherst County Public Schools. You will be notified of the approval of your application and contacted to make transportation arrangements. If you need assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Sincerely,

Donna D. Lewis
Principal

Julie Rogers, Ed.D.,
Assistant Superintendent

Detach this portion and return to:
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Amherst County Public Schools
P.O. Box 1257
Amherst, VA 24521

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFER REQUEST

Please Note: There is no guarantee that your child will be able to enroll in another school if you submit this form. The application will be approved only upon condition of space availability at the receiving school. You will be contacted concerning the decision. This form is due by **August 11, 2011.**

_____ I request that my child, (_____), be transferred to:
student's name

(Check one)

_____ Elon Elementary

_____ Pleasant View Elementary

If you wish to have your child remain at the current school, no response is necessary.

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Student Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Telephone

_____ I am requesting transportation. (Please check if you are requesting transportation)

