

Central Elementary School

Phone: (434) 946 – 9700 Fax: (434) 946 – 9702
575 Union Hill Rd.
Amherst, VA 24521

July 27, 2011

Dear Parent / Guardian:

I am pleased to report that Central Elementary School students continue to show academic progress and preliminary figures show that we continue to be accredited by the Virginia Department of Education, in all areas of achievement.

While our pass rates were not as high as we hoped in the spring, 2011, we have specific plans in place to ensure continued progress in the coming year. We also continue to strive toward the benchmarks set by the federal government under “No Child Left Behind” which presents expected pass rates for spring 2012 at 90% for math SOL testing, and 91% for reading SOL results. Given that we are still below the annual federal target, we are offering the school choice and supplemental educational services options once again.

Please take a few minutes to consider the information about school choice enclosed and return the form if interested.

Please also be sure to make plans to attend Open House on Thursday, August 11th, and, if you have questions or just want more information about school choice or supplemental educational services, please plan to attend our informational meeting Tuesday, August 2nd, at 6:00 P.M.

Feel free to call if you would like to discuss our progress. I look forward to working with you and your families to make this a great educational year for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

Kathy Pierce
Principal

Information about School Choice:

Central 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 areas of reading and math 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:

SOL/AYP Results 2007-2011

SOL Scores						AYP Ratings				
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11*	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
English: Reading	70	79	75	79	81	Did Not Make AYP	Made AYP	Did Not Make AYP	Did Not Make AYP	Did Not Make AYP
Math	70	75	87	89	82					
History	70	76	81	80	80					
Science	85	86	84	83	92					

*Preliminary Scores

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,
- Remaining at the school and applying for after-school supplemental services, or

- Seeking enrollment in one of the designated schools listed below.

The following schools are available in your child's transportation area: Amherst Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School. 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. Please note that 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 Amherst or Pleasant View Elementary 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 434-946-9387.

We are excited about the learning opportunities that will take place during this school year. Central Elementary School has worked very hard to improve the academic achievement of all students, and is implementing a variety of targeted initiatives at the district and school levels to support academic achievement. We encourage parents to become involved in your child's academic programs, and are holding an informational meeting on August 2nd at 6:00 PM to discuss this process and how we can work together to encourage student achievement.

If you choose to apply for a transfer to one of the named schools, detach the bottom portion of this letter and return it to Amherst County Public Schools. If the school choice option is not your preference but you want to pursue supplemental educational services for your child, please mark the box addressing supplemental education services before returning the form. You will be notified of the approval of your application and contacted to make transportation arrangements for school choice or provider arrangements for supplemental educational services. If you need assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either:

Kathy Pierce, School Principal, at (434) 946-9700, or
Julie Rogers, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, at (434) 946-9387

Detach last page and return to:
Amherst County Public Schools
P.O. Box 1257
Amherst, VA 24521

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFER OR SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES 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 and appropriate programs at the receiving school. You will be contacted concerning the decision. This form is due by August 26, 2011.

_____ I request that my child be transferred to Amherst Elementary School.

_____ I request that my child be transferred to Temperance Elementary School.

_____ I request that my child remain at the school and receive supplemental services.

_____ My child receives the following special services / programs: (please list)_____

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

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Student Name (print)

Grade level for 2011-2012

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Telephone

Return to : Amherst County Public Schools
P.O. Box 1257
Amherst, VA 24521