

MADISON HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

287 Learning Lane
Madison Heights, VA 24572

(434) 846-2151

(434) 845-5109 (FAX)

Charlotte R. Gilbar, Principal
Elizabeth Brown, Assistant Principal

August 2, 2011 (revised)

Dear Parent / Guardian:

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year to begin August 15, 2011. I look forward to seeing all students and their parents during Open House Thursday, August 11, between 1:00 and 7:30.

I am pleased to report that we continue to see gains in student achievement at Madison Heights Elementary. We still have work to do to catch up with the annual higher pass rates required under the federal "No Child Left Behind Act," however we continue to be fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education. Hard work on the part of students, parents, community members and staff has brought Madison Heights forward in overall student achievement and we will continue this positive trend in the coming year. We will continue to provide additional support for reading through Title I reading teachers. They will be co-teaching in the general education classrooms with an emphasis on differentiated instruction and on-going assessment.

As you look to the new year, parents, I ask you to take a few minutes to consider the information about school choice and supplemental services presented below. 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 9th, at 6:00 P.M.

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

Sincerely,

Charlotte Gilbar
Principal

Information about School Choice:

Madison Heights 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 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 2008-2011

SOL Scores					AYP Ratings			
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (preliminary)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
English: Reading	74.55%	81.54%	79.54%	80%	Made AYP	Did Not Make AYP	Did Not Make AYP	Did Not Make AYP
Math	70.08%	83.84%	86.48%	82%				
Writing	73.91%	83.56%	82.89%	78%				
History	63.80%	83.11%	77.06%	74%				
Science	81.45%	89.93%	89.51%	88%				

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 choice options for students who regularly reside in the Madison Heights 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 will only be available if Madison Heights 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 434-946-9387.

We are excited about the learning opportunities that will take place during this school year. Madison Heights 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. Some specific changes that we are making include more time for reading instruction in the master schedule, Title I reading specialists will co-teach with general education teachers, and an emphasis on differentiated instruction. We encourage parents to become involved in your child's academic programs, and are holding an informational meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2010 at 6 p.m. to discuss this process and how we can work together to encourage student achievement.

If you choose to apply for a transfer, 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:

Charlotte Gilbar, School Principal, at (434) 846-2151, or
Julie Rogers, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, at (434) 946-9387

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 26, 2010. **Please note the changes in the choices there was a misprint on the first letter. We apologize for any inconvenience.**

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

_____ I request that my child be transferred to Pleasant View 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 2011-12

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Telephone