

CABOT SCHOOL.....transforming education for 21st century learners

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Cabot School was identified by the Vermont Department of Education as a school in need of improvement (Year 2 School Improvement) based on student performance in reading for students who receive free and reduced meals and in math for all tested students. AYP (average yearly progress) is determined using NECAP scores from fall 2012 assessments. The supervisory union, with guidance from the Vermont Department of Education, will be providing technical assistance as we carry out the required actions issued by the DOE.

In the design of No Child Left Behind, the target scores for schools increase every year. By next year, the expectation is that all students will be proficient in reading and math. The targets have increased so quickly that now there are now over 200 VT schools that are designated “in need of improvement.”

The good news for this year is that grade 11 math scores were comparable to grade 11 math scores statewide. We believe this is directly related to our teaching Algebra II before students take the NECAP assessment. Our next goal is for all students to know addition, subtraction and multiplication concepts fluently by the end of grade 3. This has been a weak area and we have now received extensive professional development and consultation to remediate the problem.

Reading scores have been fairly consistent but with the target increasing, we have not kept up. Three elementary teachers have now received comprehensive training in Leveled Literacy Intervention that will be implemented in grades K, 2 and 3-6. With grade 11 reading scores below the state average and a common core standard that expects students to read and analyze more complex text, we will begin assessing exile levels for secondary students so that the most challenging reading materials are provided.

As a school in need of improvement, we are required to provide free tutoring to students who are eligible for free lunch. The tutoring is provided by approved agencies who hire teachers as instructors. If you want your child to have free tutoring during the first semester of this school year, fill out the application and mail it to the supervisory union office. In January, there will be another opportunity to request tutoring. There is a 25-page list of approved agencies that will be sent to you via email or by USPS if we do not have your email address. **The deadline for applying for tutoring this fall is September 27th.** You can call Pat Knoerl, Curriculum Director at WNESU with any questions. 454-9924 ex. 308

Teachers will develop course syllabi at every level to better inform parents of learning outcomes and expectations. You can reinforce your child's learning by encouraging conversation and providing enriching experiences in the areas they are studying. Family support is instrumental in your child's success. The simplest way to support learning is to make sure your child has excellent attendance, coming to school everyday and on time. Please call your child's teacher as soon as any concern arises and we will call you when we have a concern about your child. Educating the children is a job we need to do together.

Sincerely,

Karen W. Stewart