

# WHARTON BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.wbps.org](http://www.wbps.org)

"In partnership with the community, the Wharton School District is committed to educational excellence and guarantees challenging learning opportunities for all students to become life-long learners and productive and responsible members of society."

## Marie V. Duffy Elementary School

"Governor's School of Excellence"  
Pamela S. Blalock, Principal

## Alfred C. MacKinnon Middle School

Christopher J. Herdman, Principal

Dennis Mack  
Superintendent

Pamela Hinman  
Business Administrator

Alan Bocchino  
Supervisor  
Curriculum/Instruction

Marie Giantomasi  
Director  
Special Education/CST

Board of Education  
Stuart Goulden  
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Child Study Team  
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September 1, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* is our country's most important federal education law. In 2001 this law was reauthorized and is now called the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*. *NCLB* was designed to make changes in teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools.

The law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you at your request.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers who teach in core content areas must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have the following:

1. A four-year college degree
2. A regular teaching certificate/license
3. Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject they teach

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Wharton Public School District. All our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. The state of New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level. Most teachers already meet this legal definition of highly qualified. Teachers in the state of New Jersey are required to meet this definition.

To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly qualified teacher, the state of New Jersey and our school district are working together to help teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. Teachers may take a content Praxis test, or they can demonstrate their expertise through a college major in the content. A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. **We are pleased to report that all our current teaching staff meet the criteria of highly qualified.**

This law also requires us to notify parents if their child is being taught for four (4) or more weeks by a teacher who does not yet meet the federal definition of highly qualified. At the present time this is not the situation. If this situation does arise, you will be notified.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on *NCLB*, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) Web site at [www.ed.gov/nclb](http://www.ed.gov/nclb).

By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

Alan Bocchino, M.Ed.  
Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction  
Title I Supervisor