

Vandalia Elementary School
1017 West Fletcher
Vandalia, IL 62471
618-283-5166
Stacy South, Principal

July 15, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Vandalia Community Unit #203 is committed to providing a high quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends Vandalia Elementary School which receives federal Title I funds. These funds allow us to provide resources that will help your child meet state achievement standards. Although we made improvements from the previous year, in the 2011-2012 school year VES did not meet the adequate yearly progress (AYP) target in Reading. However, we did make AYP in Math with a 83.8% which exceeds the state target.

Your child's school is in restructuring which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for at least 5 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity, being taken over by the state, and implementing any other major restructuring of the school's governance.

Our district's 2011 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school (as posted on the website) show how your child's school compares to other schools in our district and state. Your child's school has been identified because VES did not make AYP with all students; but 67%% of all students met the requirement, but the standard is raised every year and is currently set at 85%. The school is working to improve its academic program in the following ways:

- Professional development opportunities for teachers in the area of Guided Reading
- Implementation of small group instruction for students who are identified as working below grade level
- The increased utilization of Title I Reading teachers to provide remediation for students identified as working below grade level
- Faculty participation in book studies for the purpose of increasing student achievement and enhancing awareness of students' needs
- Implementation of carefully monitored targeted interventions designed specifically to address students' areas of weaknesses

Furthermore, the district and the State Board of Education are working with your child's school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrator within your child's school. In addition, the school is being supported by the System of Support/Federal AARA Grant.

The *No Child Left Behind Act* provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, no other public schools are available in VCUSD #203 and no surrounding districts have approved our request to receive Vandalia students. We will be offering some supplemental educational services to support your child's needs. Quality education is important to all of us. We appreciate your input and assistance.

Please call Rich Well at 283-4525 if you have question about these services.

Thank you,

Rich Well
Superintendent, VCUSD #203