August 7, 2013

Dear Rivendell Academy Families,

The yearly NECAP testing is linked to a goal set by the state of Vermont. Any school that does not meet a pre-established target (Annual Yearly Progress or AYP) in reading and/or mathematics for two consecutive years becomes designated as a school in improvement. Furthermore, the AYP target increases every three years. The ultimate goal is for every student to test proficient in reading and math.

The Academy did not hit the AYP target in mathematics in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, designating us as a school in improvement. The upcoming school year is our second year of school improvement. Because this is a multi-year process, we remain identified under the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) accountability system. If we meet the AYP targets again this year, identified status will be removed.

Armando Vilaseca, the Vermont Secretary of Education, has sent us letters of commendation indicating:

- we have met the AYP targets for last year and
- the percentage of all our students in the proficient or above category for NECAP scores in both reading and mathematics is 15% - 20% above the state average.

Our scores put us in the top 10% of all schools in the State of Vermont. Over the past two years, we’ve made changes that have helped us address improvement status. Among the changes, we have integrated mathematics and science in grades 7 and 9 and hired new faculty. More significantly, our improvements are not a result of “teaching to the test.” Rivendell teaches students to think.

Parents can monitor students’ grades on the parent portal and contact the school immediately with concerns about your son’s or daughter’s performance in any subject. Parent communication is always welcome.

Sincerely,

Keri J. Gelenian
Head of Schools
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