



Pollard Middle School

Ms. Megan Bonomolo
Grade 7 Assistant Principal

Ms. Tamatha Bibbo
Principal

Mr. Jeremy Greenwood
Grade 8 Assistant Principal

March 7, 2019

Dear Parent, Guardian or Caretaker:

We are pleased to enclose a copy of our school's 2018 report card. Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your student's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. A link to our school's report card is available at <http://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2018/01990405>.

The report card includes multiple measures of a school's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It represents a new way of looking at school performance, by providing information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more.

Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our school. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is need for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school. Our overall accountability percentile is 95% for MCAS testing. This percentage indicates how a school is performing overall compared to other schools that administer similar MCAS tests. Ultimately, Pollard performs better than 94% of elementary and middle schools statewide. You will also notice that Pollard is at 85% for meeting or exceeding targets for most accountability measures.

At Pollard, we offer a compacted curriculum **Mathematics** course to challenge those students who exceed expectations and continue to provide targeted instruction and remediation for students who may need more support. We are fully aligned to the Common Core and Standards of Mathematical Practice with our standards-based level and accelerated courses. In **English Language Arts** we are fully aligned to the Massachusetts State Frameworks. This means working with colleagues to emphasize critical reading, writing, and speaking skills in all disciplines. In **ELA** we have added new analytic writing tasks, including synthesizing analysis from multiple texts; increased the use of supplementary nonfiction across multiple units; revised our common assessments; begun re-evaluating our language arts scope-and sequence, and placed a special emphasis on inferential thinking in all units of study. These steps will ensure that our students will acquire critical reading and writing skills and be challenged at high levels. Finally, in **Science**, we are continuing our commitment to aligning our work to the recently adopted Massachusetts Science Frameworks. Teachers are implementing the new curricula in grade 7, and adding new units for grade 8. With each new unit, we have time built in to reflect on the outcomes and ensure that the targeted content and skills have, in fact, been met. These efforts support students as they develop their scientific reasoning skills and recognize key themes that transcend multiple content areas in science and engineering. Our transition to new content and skills matches the MCAS transition in store for the coming years, and students are prepared to take their science test online this spring. To improve student performance in our school, we offer both Math Support and an after school Launching Scholars program, and we continue to work with individual students and small groups of students to enhance their writing, reading and math skills in learning centers. We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school by volunteering for our School Council or providing feedback. We see parents as critical partners in the success of our students and school, and we are grateful for your continued support.

If you have questions about our school's report card, would like to become involved in school, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact us at 781-455-0480. To see our district's report card or to search for other schools' report cards, visit reportcards.doe.mass.edu.

In Partnership,
Tamatha L. Bibbo
Principal