



Pollard Middle School

Ms. Megan Bonomolo
Grade 8 Assistant Principal

Ms. Tamatha Bibbo
Principal

Mr. Jeremy Greenwood
Grade 7 Assistant Principal

February 1, 2018

Dear Parent, Guardian or Caretaker:

We are pleased to enclose a copy of our school's 2017 report card. It contains information about school and district accountability, achievement, our students and teachers, and other important measures of school performance.

The first page of the report card contains important accountability information:

Accountability and Assistance Levels: Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest rating being Level 1 and lowest rating being Level 5. Our school has been given an accountability designation of **"no level"** because students in our school participated in the 2017 Next-Generation MCAS tests.

The first page of the report card also shows how students in our school are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. Achievement and progress information is reported for our school and is also compared to the performance of our district and the state.

The second page of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state. Also included are other important measures of school performance, such as attendance, suspension rates, and high school performance.

We are committed to ensuring that all students are achieving at high levels. To improve student achievement at Pollard, we continue to reflect on our teaching and instructional practices and work towards meeting the needs of every student. 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 2017 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. In **Science**, we are continuing our commitment to aligning our work to the newly adopted Massachusetts Science Frameworks. Teachers are implementing the new curriculum in grade 6 and rolling in new units for grades 7 and 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 will be prepared to take their science test online this spring.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Encouraging your child's learning at home
- Attending parent-teacher meetings and other special meetings
- Serving as a volunteer in our school or district
- Encouraging other parents to become involved

Finally, if your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

For more information about what we are doing to improve student achievement or to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers, please feel free to contact us at 781-455-0480 For a full copy of this report card, or to see report cards for other schools, visit profiles.doe.mass.edu.

Sincerely,

Tamatha L. Bibbo

Principal