

Dear Parents:

The past few weeks have certainly been challenging and draining for all of us as we experience the different strong reactions to our plan for expansion. We have been put through the ringer. Here are some of the steps we are taking to get our accurate, true story out.

Yesterday we hosted a meeting with the press. Reporters from Two River Times, The HUB, Red Bank Green and the Asbury Park Press. Roger Foss, David Block and myself shared information, answered questions and had what seemed like a quality conversation with them. Michael Nunes from the HUB asked to tour the school and left saying, " I wish I had gone to a grammar school like this." Hopefully, what goes to print reflects the facts and our honest answers and position on why expansion matters.

Friday or Saturday you will receive our mailer at your home. We sent it to every postal patron in Red Bank to eliminate the claim that all families don't know about charter. Note that a generous supporter contributed the funding to print and mail it. The piece is factual and accurate. Please also take the extra minute to read the new application and become familiar with it.

We have prepared an Op Ed and are working to refine the final copy. Watch for it in the Two River Times next week. It is a considerable task to capture our large story in one piece but it will speak our truth.

Today a letter about our school-wide performance on the PARCC came home. It is factual per the New Jersey statewide report compiled by the Department of Education. It speaks for itself. As always, we are committed to using testing data as a piece of information that helps direct our curriculum, instruction and support for individual learners.

I am very available to meet anyone who would like to have more information or to clarify anything further. May I offer to visit your home with a member of the Board to have informal conversations over coffee about our school and fortify one another through these next weeks. I'd welcome that opportunity. Simply give a call and we can be available at your convenience. To those who have come in to talk, thank you. Your insights are helpful and valued.

We are off for a well deserved, needed break. Enjoy your children and believe that as **A FAMILY, CHARTER** is strong and at its' best.

Regards

Meredith and the Board of Trustees



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

In January you received your child's results in English Language to (ELA) and Mathematics for the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessment. The PARCC assessments serve as an "educational GPS system," assessing students' current performance, and pointing the way to what students need to learn to be ready for the next grade level and, by high school graduation, for college and/or a career. The PARCC is an online assessment that replaced the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) As I explained, this first year of testing was a transition year for the state of New Jersey. For RBCS, it was our first experience with the test because, although we applied, we were not selected to participate in the field test administration. We now have additional school-wide data that I am eager to share with you.

In the aggregate for grades 3 through 8, 49% of RBCS students met or exceeded expectations on the ELA assessment. This is within one percentage point of the statewide number for all public schools.

In mathematics, across the state scores across the state were lower than in ELA. At RBCS, the aggregate for grades 3 through 8 showed 38% of RBCS students met or exceeded expectations on the Math assessment. This is within one percentage point of the statewide number for all public schools. This percentage does not include our cohort of 8th graders that took the Algebra I test, 100% of these students met or exceeded expectations. This surpasses the statewide number of all public schools by 64 percent.

The Department of Education conducts the comparative of charter school results on state testing to that of their sending district. Failure to outperform the district results in probation and possible closure of a charter school. An analysis shows:

- Red Bank Charter School students outperformed Borough students in 10 out the 12 PARCC assessments taken in grades 3-8 in 2015 (5 out of 6 in ELA; 5 out of 6 in Math).
- In Grades 4-7, RBCS had more than double the percentage of students meeting or exceeding on the Math assessment when compared to Red Bank Borough.
- In the aggregate for grades 3 through 8, 49% of RBCS students met or exceeded expectations on the ELA assessment. This is within one percentage point of Statewide number for all public schools. Only 30% of Borough students met or exceeded expectations.
- In the aggregate for grades 3 through 8, 38% of RBCS students met or exceeded expectations on the Math assessment. This is within one percentage point of Statewide number for all public schools. Only 20% of Borough students met or exceeded expectations.

- In the first year of PARCC, RBCS scored within one point of the Statewide average in both ELA and Math in meeting or exceeding expectations

There is much we all have to learn as we wrap our heads around this new more demanding on-line assessment. There is a whole new approach to mathematical problem solving, reading and writing analysis and to the technology skills necessary to take the test.

In the next few weeks, as a faculty we will be dissecting these data further to guide curriculum and teaching strategies. Most importantly, it will be used to identify and support the needs of our individual learners. These results are a new baseline from which we can move forward. At RBCS, we understand that the PARCC assessment is just one way to help measure student progress and give us a sense of where and how we are succeeding and where and how we must improve.

I again thank the CCO for responding to our need for computers. When this mandate was first announced two brief years ago we had a tech lab and 20 laptops. Today we have technology in the hands of almost every child!

Regards,



Meredith Pennotti

Additional Resources:

Information about the PARCC assessment:

<http://www.parcconline.org/resources/parent-resource>

New Jersey specific information:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>