



**Department of
Education**

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor

October 19, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Each year, students in grades 3-8 take New York State tests in English language arts (ELA) and math. These tests measure how well each student has learned the skills expected at his or her grade level. Working with your child's teachers, you can use the results of these tests to understand how well your child is performing, and to identify areas in which your child needs extra help.

Please see the attached **Parent Report**, and, if applicable, the **Translation Guide**, to review your child's results on last spring's ELA and math tests. These reports can help you gain a better understanding of your child's current strengths and weaknesses as measured by the New York State Learning Standards. They can also be a helpful starting point for conversation with your child and your child's teachers about his or her academic progress.

It is important to note that this year, New York State changed how the ELA and math tests were graded. City students generally earned scaled scores, or actual scores, that were about the same as last year. However, according to the new grading system, a scaled score that last year was high enough to earn a level 3 (or "proficient"), this year would only earn a level 2 (or "basic"). As a result, a student whose State test result dropped did not necessarily learn less than in previous years. The score just translated to a different level than before. This tougher grading system has resulted in a significant drop in overall grades – not just at our school, but across the City and the entire State.

For more information about your child's results, you can also log in to **ARIS Parent Link** at www.arisparentlink.org. ARIS Parent Link is an online tool with up-to-date information about your child's academic progress. ARIS Parent Link has the same performance information that is on the Parent Report, plus a more detailed proficiency rating related to your child's results on the NY State tests. You can also see your child's course grades, periodic assessment results, enrollment history, and attendance information, as well as the Progress Report, NYC School Survey results, and State Report Card for our school.

With easier access to information about your child's learning, you can continue to be an active partner in your child's education. We hope that you find the Parent Report and ARIS Parent Link to be helpful resources. For questions regarding the Parent Report, or for information about how to log in to ARIS Parent Link, please feel free to contact the Parent Coordinator at our school.

Thank you,

Principal