



Wildwood Elementary School
535 North Warner Avenue
Mahtomedi, MN 55115-2014
651-407-2400
Fax: 651-407-2425
www.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us

Dear Wildwood Families,

As you are probably aware, Mahtomedi students did very well on the 2011 MCA-II assessments, our state-required assessment of how students in grades 3-11 are progressing on statewide academic standards. ***We are excited to announce that all grades and all state-identified subgroups made Adequate Yearly Progress during the 2010-11 School year!*** We urge you to look at the MN Department of Education website to compare the performance of the Mahtomedi Public Schools to those of others in our region and across the state. We have consistently demonstrated outstanding student performance at all grade levels. We are proud of our students' accomplishments and the staff's hard work. In addition, we appreciate the support of the families and community.

Did our students meet the proficiency targets set by the state in reading and math?

As stated above, ***all grades and subgroups assessed made Adequate Yearly Progress!*** There are several groupings of students in the MCA-II assessment reporting to help us understand whether *all* students are making "adequate yearly progress" or AYP (in other words, making desired growth on our rigorous academic standards). Some of the possible student categories include each racial/ethnic group reported on student census information (e.g., White/Caucasian, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, Hispanic, Black not Hispanic); students considered eligible for free or reduced-price meals; students needing special education services; and students for whom English is a second language. While all of our subgroups were found to make AYP this spring, we did have one subgroup in the 2009-10 school year that did not make AYP in reading, which resulted in OH Anderson and Wildwood Elementary Schools entering the first year of state-mandated sanctions – *Stage 1.1: School Choice*. Since our Schools made AYP this year, we will now be in our 2nd, and "exit" year of the School Choice stage (i.e., *Stage 1.2*)

What is the MN Department of Education's Current Stance on Implementing the NCLB Requirements?

As you may have heard in the media or by our current Commissioner of Education, there is a growing sentiment that the current process for determining AYP results in both unfair labels and sanctions for schools. As a result, our state is actively pursuing a waiver from the punitive requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). A brief explanation of that waiver, as written by Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner of Education, is included with this letter.

What does this mean for your child?

Until our State waiver is approved, the designation of "Stage 1: School Choice" means that, for districts having additional elementary school options, parents are given the choice to enroll their children in an alternate elementary school within the district. For Mahtomedi, however, we do not have such an alternative. Rather, we are confident in our ability to continue building in-house academic options that fulfill the intent of this requirement. Our concerted



Wildwood Elementary School
535 North Warner Avenue
Mahtomedi, MN 55115-2014
651-407-2400
Fax: 651-407-2425
www.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us

efforts to raise achievement for students across subgroups were highly successful, and we anticipate that our students will continue to grow.

What are ways that parents can support Wildwood's students?

Parent support is essential to the success Wildwood Elementary School. The Title I school parent involvement plan will be updated soon. If you are interested in providing input in this plan or the school improvement plan, please call me, *Mark Hamre, Wildwood Building Principal, or Heidi Springborg, Special Programs Director (inclusive of Title I) (see contact information below)*. In addition, Wildwood and OH Anderson will have an annual meeting to inform parents about our Title I program, revise the parent involvement plan and parent compact and review parent rights under Title I. You can also be involved by volunteering at the school by participating on the one of our district or school committees. To express interest in such involvement, please contact the Wildwood Elementary School at 651-407-2400. The Mahtomedi Elementary PTO is another excellent way to ensure an ongoing voice in the educational priorities of our schools. For more information about the PTO, check either the Wildwood or O.H. Anderson websites. Finally, as always, we welcome parents and other caretakers who are interested in volunteering to support our students in their classrooms.

We are looking forward to the 2011-12 school year and remain committed to ensuring that every child is effectively prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Mark Hamre
Wildwood Elementary School Principal

Mark Hamre
Wildwood Elementary School
Principal
535 North Warner Avenue
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
Ph: 651-407-2400

Heidi Springborg
Special Programs Director
1520 Mahtomedi Avenue
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
Ph: 651-407-2019

Enc.: MN Department of Education AYP Waiver Letter