

## Portsmouth Junior/Senior High School

Dear Parents,

In January 2002, Congress passed a new federal law, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about how this law affects you, your child, and your child's school.

The Portsmouth City School District will be designated as "Effective" on the 2008 Local Report Card. Portsmouth Junior High School/Portsmouth High School (PJHS/PHS) is Continuous Improvement. These are the State of Ohio compliance rankings. The district report card can be viewed at:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/reportcardfiles/2007-2008/DIST/044669.pdf>

PJHS/PHS exceeded the state's value added goals for 2007-2008. This means on average that a student at PJHS/PHS increased more than one year's growth. However a district and/or building can meet high marks by state standards but not make "adequately yearly progress" (AYP) thus be designated as a district and/or building that by federal standards will need improvement. In the Portsmouth City School District, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has identified PJHS/PHS as a building in school improvement for the 2008-2009 school year <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/reportcardfiles/2007-2008/BUILD/140350.pdf>. Even though students on Individual Educational Plans (IEP) made a lot of progress last year, it was not enough to meet AYP for math and reading. Economically disadvantaged students did not make AYP in reading, also. The district will provide eligible students attending identified Title I schools with the option to receive Supplemental Educational Services (SES). Supplemental Educational Services are classes or tutoring that provides additional academic assistance to a child at a time outside of the regular school day. These services support and align with the instruction provided by the school and will help students increase their academic achievement to meet state grade-level standards. Transportation to and from tutoring is the responsibility of the parent. You can check the list of ALL ODE approved providers via the ODE Web site link: <http://dnet01.ode.state.oh.us/ses/ProviderLookup.aspx>.

Since your child is a student at PJHS/PHS which is a Title I building, your child may have the option to use Public School Choice (PSC), also. To ensure fair and equitable access to students, the district will give priority to students based on low social-economical status and educational need. The lowest-achieving eligible students will receive the services first – up to the amount of funds available through Title I for this purpose.

The Portsmouth City School District has implemented the Reading First which has received national attention for change. PJHS has added the Making Middle Grades Work and PHS is a High Schools That Works model. Additional intervention staff, scientific researched based (SBR) materials and professional development has been implemented.

If you are interested in this program or other Supplemental Educational Services (SES) or Public School Choice (PSC), you need to request and complete a Parental Request Application for either service. To ensure confidentiality, the application is available at the PJHS/PHS Guidance offices. Parents must complete and return the 2008-2009 Parental Request Application to the school office by **November 30, 2008**. Transportation to and from SES tutoring is the responsibility of the parent. Please contact our district office at 740.354.5705 if interested.

### **Background Information**

NCLB requires districts to adopt grade-level standards, to use the most effective methods and instructional strategies for teaching your child, and to assess students' progress each year as mandated by the state. The ODE has identified "School Improvement" buildings as schools that did not make "adequate yearly progress" on the local report card for two consecutive years.

PJHS/PHS strives to improve student achievement. All teachers participate in on-going professional development that promotes effective strategies for meeting the identified needs of their students. Teachers use state and district test information to help them monitor student progress and to identify students who need additional interventions. In addition, PJHS/PHS offer these programs/activities to increase student achievement:

- Intervention during school day
- Tutoring after school

Portsmouth City School District supports the program at PJHS/PHS with several district responsibilities:

- Standards-base aligned curriculum
- Assessment for monitoring students' progress
- Assistance from district office personnel
- Professional development opportunities

Parents can contribute to academic improvement at PJHS/PHS by participating in school activities that include the School Improvement Plan and the Home-School Compact. Parents also share in the responsibility to increase their child's academic achievement and support learning at home and at school through the following practices:

- Monitoring attendance
- Supervising homework completion
- Limiting television viewing
- Volunteering in the classroom
- Participating in school and district training to meet the needs of their children

Portsmouth City School District will continue to work with your child and the staff at PJHS/PHS. Improvement efforts to achieve academic success will be ongoing.

For further information, please contact PJHS/PHS at 353-2398. You may also call Betsy Fannin, Director of Special Programs at 354-5705 at the district office for more details.

Sincerely,

Eddie Scott, PHS/PJHS Principal

Tom Smith, PHS/PJHS Vice Principal

Betsy Fannin, Director of Special Programs