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THE STADIUM SCHOOL

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until: Tuesday, July 15, 2010 Contact: Ronald N. Shelley

DISAPPOINTING BUT ENCOURAGING SIGNS MARK MARYLAND STATE ASSESSMENT (MSA)

*Steady increases in 6th and 7th grade reading scores;
however significant decreases in 7th and 8th grade mathematics.*

BALTIMORE (June 25, 2010) – The Stadium School students achieved slight increase in 6th grade and 7th grade reading; however significant decreases in 7th and 8th grade mathematics.

There is huge disparity between achievement in reading increases and mathematics decreases on the MSA. It is evident that the reading instructional program at TSS is working; both 6th and 7th grade posted a 5 point gain in the percentage of students reading at proficiency and advance levels. The 6th grade scores increased from 74.5% in 2009 to 79.6% in 2010 or by 5.1 percent; while the 7th grade scores increased from 74% in 2009 to 79.8% in 2010. The 8th grade, however, displayed a 15 point decrease from 83.3% in 2009 to 68.6% in 2010.

The mathematics scores are disappointing to say the least. While TSS students displayed a slight decrease in 6th grade mathematics going from 64.3 in 2009 to 58.7 in 2010 or a 5.6 percentage drop. This was not a huge decline; however both 7th and 8th grade students showed double digit decreases. The 7th grade students went from a respectable 61.5 in 2009 to 51.1 in 2010 or a 10.4 decrease. The most astonishing drop came from the 8th graders, who went from at proficiency/advance rating of 85.3 in 2009 to 35.3 in 2010; a 50 point decrease.

Consequently, TSS made Annual Measureable Objectives in the following:

Reading: All Students 76.10

Reading Subgroup: African American Students 76.2 %

Attendance: All Students 95%

TSS did not make Annual Measureable Objectives in the following:

FARMS Subgroup: Reading and Math, 74.10% and 45.7% respectively. The reading score was 0.1% from meeting the requirement

Special Education Subgroup: Reading and Math 34.40 and 12.10

Math Subgroup: African American Students Math 47.80

Rationale:

As a whole, steady progress was made in reading scores, with 76.1% of students scoring at proficient and advanced levels on the test. In 6th and 7th grade level, there was an increase of 5% at each grade level and improvement was also noted in special education reading scores, although the improvement there was not enough to meet the target goal. In last year 2009, we saw the largest gains in reading and math in school history. Much of this success was attributed to teachers preparing students for testing, and also more specifically, to a substantial increase in instructional time in reading and math at every grade level. During 2009, Title II funding was used to employ math resource teachers at each grade level to reinforce basic math skills via the TAI curriculum, while the primary grade level math teachers delivered the core curriculum. Title II funding was cut for 2010, which forced some staffing changes, including the reassigning of the math resource teachers to other positions.

Consequences:

Stadium School has a history of thriving through difficult circumstances and overcoming obstacles presented from year to year. This year's drop in test scores will be no different. Our strength as a school is our ability to identify and embrace our strengths and weaknesses and develop action plans to address each. For this coming school year, we will be reassigning our resources to ensure that our reading scores continue to increase and to assure a substantial gain in math scores. To date, we have already hired an additional special educator for this year. We have also hired two new math teachers, and we have a new Title I math position as well being added to the staffing roster to work with our FARMS students. Budget monies are being redirected to provide a 100% increase in instructional time in math by reinstating the basic math skill-based TAI program.

We are confident in our plans for this coming school year and in our continuing ability to prepare students for success. Stadium School has a strong track record of producing students who are ready for the world, as is demonstrated by the 85% of our 8th graders who were accepted to the city's best high schools.

We will continue to need your support in continuing this three-fold partnership of student, community, and staff to ensure the best for our children.

For more information, or to join the School Family Council, please contact Principal Ronald Shelley.