Dear, Parents,

As you may know, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) released new math standards of learning this year which are designated to give students the “most rigorous mathematical knowledge and skills to pursue higher education and to compete in a technologically sophisticated work force.” These revised standards, along with the revised tests, prompted Dr. Patricia I. Wright, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to say, “Virginia’s public schools are beginning a new trend line with the implementation of more challenging standards and assessments” and moreover, the student results “...will be an indication that we are now expecting more of students, not that they are learning less.”

The VDOE predicted that many school divisions around the state would experience substantial declines in math scores due to the increased rigor and limited practice time. Teachers have worked extremely hard to prepare students for these new assessments by introducing new resources, experiences and strategies, many of which were released by VDOE during the current school year. Hence, as final student results are released, please know they do not begin to reflect the work and determination of the NNPS Mathematics Department this year. Teachers worked collaboratively within schools, across subject areas, and across grade levels, and across the district to make certain our students grasped conceptual understandings and real life connections in mathematics.

In our written curriculum, we ensured the implementation of more challenging standards and assessments and our students responded to this new intensity. Dr. Wright stated “Virginia teachers are working hard to help students meet the commonwealth’s new expectations for learning and achievement in mathematics. These new standards and assessments are an essential component of Virginia’s plan to ensure that graduates of the commonwealth’s public schools are college and career ready” which supports our district’s focus on preparing students to graduate college, career, and citizen-ready. We know that understanding mathematics is the key to preparing our students for the future.

Over the past two years we have been proactive in preparing for this increased rigor in our written, taught, and assessed curriculum. Throughout the summer we will continue to concentrate with even greater detail on the analysis of this year’s achievement data to guide our next steps. Through meaningful professional training focused on our instructional practices and strategies we will continue the momentum we have begun.

For more information about these changes, please use the following link to the VDOE document, What Parents and Students Should Know About the New Virginia Mathematics Standards of Learning: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/mathematics/parents_students_should_know.shtml

Thank you for your continued support of your child’s education.

Sincerely,

**Letha Brooks**  
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