

October 1, 2013

Dear Atlantic Middle School Families,

I hope everyone has had a healthy and happy start to the school year. Amazingly, we are entering the second month of the school year. The month ahead will be filled with many exciting learning and extended day activities. Atlantic offers a multitude of before and after school programs. Each program provides students the opportunity to excel in academics, athletics, and the fine arts. The Cross Country Team is hard at work preparing for their first race. The wonderful music from the Band and Chorus can be heard throughout the halls. The after school programs have something for everyone: Art Club, Math Club, *Young Writers* Literary Magazine, Drama, and Early Morning Gym to name a few.

The spring 2013 MCAS scores were mailed to homes last week. The Department of Education included more information than in the past on the Parent/Guardian Report. The report indicates the Student Growth Percentile (SGP) as well as the student's scores compared to the school, district, and state average. The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) answers the question, "How much did a student grow over the previous year compared to his or her academic peers?" SGPs are percentiles calculated by comparing one student's history of MCAS scores to the scores of all the other students in the state with a similar history of MCAS scores. The addition of student growth data gives educators and parents a more complete picture of how each student performed in the past academic year.

I am pleased to have you as partners in this educational year. The Atlantic Middle School staff will do our best to assure that your child experiences academic, social, and emotional growth. As the year progresses, I encourage you to call if you ever have a question or concern.

Sincerely,

Maureen C. MacNeil
Principal
Atlantic Middle School