

Dear Families:

12/18/07

We are committed to keeping you informed about our school's progress. In last Friday's folder a copy of the state's School Accountability Report (SAR) which was prepared by the Colorado Department of Education using information about last year's school performance. This report is also available on-line at:

<http://reportcard.cde.state.co.us/reportcard/CommandHandler.jsp>.

Using 2006-2007 data, the report includes information about school safety and environment; student achievement; discipline; student attendance and time spent in the classroom; staff; and district revenue and expenditures. Student achievement is reported in several ways:

- 1) an overall performance rating;
- 2) an academic growth rating;
- 3) percentage of students attaining each Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) performance level by grade level and content area; and,
- 4) by indicating whether our school met federal requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress in reading and mathematics.

The overall performance rating of excellent, high, average, low or unsatisfactory is based on CSAP scores from the 2006-2007 school year. High School ratings also include scores from the eleventh grade ACT tests in reading, writing and math as given to all high school juniors by state law. The academic growth rating of improvement, significant improvement, stable, decline or significant decline is based on the annual progress of a matched group of students with CSAP scores from spring 2006 and 2007.

The state used complex calculations to assign these ratings. For more information about these ratings and answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the state's reports, please see "SAR Questions and Answers 2007" or visit the following web site:
http://reportcard.cde.state.co.us/reportcard/help_left.jsp?ContentType=FAQ_GNRAL&Topic=NoTopic.

This report includes important information for us; however, it is only one piece of information. We also place a high level of importance on parent satisfaction, school climate surveys, staff attitudes and the many measures of student achievement that we continually monitor as a part of our improvement process. Some of this information is reported on the enclosed customized school report card, which we are distributing to complement the state document.

If you have any questions about our school's progress, I invite you to talk with your child's teacher or to give me a call. We appreciate your continued support of our school and your contributions to making our school the best place for students to learn.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Lohndorf
Principal, High Peaks