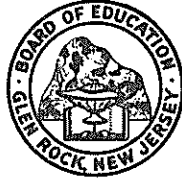


GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Paula Valenti, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

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February 19, 2016

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

I'm writing to you regarding the 2016 PARCC assessments. Glen Rock students, parents, and teachers are very familiar with New Jersey Department of Education yearly assessments and Glen Rock students have historically performed well on these tests; I expect they will continue to do so. Parents will receive communication from their school principal regarding specific test times, along with expectations for testing days.

Because the PARCC assessments are computer based, Glen Rock teachers have been infusing classroom instruction with computer skills across content areas and grade levels; they are doing a great job! Testing has evolved, and today a students' performance will allow for interpretation that is more diagnostic. This should result in a more individualized picture of how a student performed and what interventions or guidance is needed to prepare him/her for college and/or a career.

I do not see a downside to having Glen Rock students participate in PARCC testing, and I encourage you to permit your child to take the PARCC assessments. Participation in the assessments will result in a score report for your child, and teachers will be able to see how their students performed compared to other participating students.

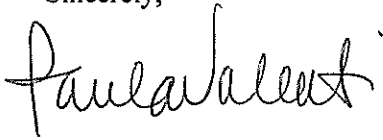
This month the NJDOE released the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) 2015 Accountability Results* for districts and schools. Schools are required to have PARCC participation rates of 95% or better. The reports detail PARCC participation rates for the district, its schools, and all sub-groups. Districts, and schools, with participation rates below 95% must prepare Corrective Action Plans for Board of Education approval, and submission to the NJDOE Bergen County office by March 4, 2016. Glen Rock is required to prepare a district Corrective Action Plan, and three separate school Corrective Action Plans; these plans will be presented for BOE approval at the February 22 BOE meeting.

To further the conversation about the PARCC assessments, I have scheduled a PARCC presentation for parents by representatives of the Senior Workforce Consultants for the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, April 7, 2015. I encourage all families to mark their calendar and plan to attend this informational session. More detail will follow at a later date.

So why not give this new system a chance? It is my hope that the New Jersey State Department of Education will listen to feedback as they move forward with these tests in years to come.

I am asking you to partner with the district, have a conversation with your child(ren) and encourage them to put forth their best effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Valenti".

Paula Valenti, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

C: Principals
Director of Student Personnel Services
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Director of Special Services