

September 19, 2016

Dear Gordon Parks High School Families,

The Minnesota Department of Education recently released their Multiple Measurement Ratings (MMR), an assessment of school progress across the state.

MMR ranks schools based on: 1) the number of students in each school who are reaching academic targets for their grade level, 2) how much growth has been made by individual students toward grade-level standards, and 3) the gap between the academic performance of the lowest and highest-performing students in the school. The MMR rating is calculated from each school's performance on the annual Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) exams. For high schools, the MMR also reflects graduation rates.

As a result of our MMR rating, Gordon Parks High School will continue to be a Focus School. Focus Schools are part of the 10 percent lowest performing schools that receive Title I funding. Our school received this designation because of low test scores as reported in the MCA exams and for being among the 10 percent of schools in the state making the largest contribution to the state's achievement gap.

The 2016-17 school year will be a year to focus on supporting *all* students to help improve their academic performance and elevate our school's state designation. In order to accomplish this important work, we will bring together our improvement team, which includes staff, community members and parents. **Parents are highly encouraged to be a member of the improvement team. If you are interested, please call me at 651-744-1212.** If we can demonstrate significant improvement in the years ahead, Gordon Parks High School will no longer be designated a Focus School.

Gordon Parks High School is dedicated to providing *all* students with an excellent education. Please join us in supporting your child's work in the classroom by talking with your child's teacher and by engaging in events and opportunities at our school. Our Family Engagement Plan is available on our school's website at gordonparks.spps.org, where you'll also find other ways you can be involved in your child's education.

We look forward to a productive year.

Sincerely,

Traci Gauer, Principal
Gordon Parks High School