Dear Parent/Guardian:

In 2011, the Oklahoma legislature adopted an A-F School Grading System. The A-F Report Card is comprised of three sections each worth one-third of the overall calculation: Performance, Student Growth, and Whole School Performance (based on Spring OCCT results). There are 5 categories which include: Performance, Student Growth, Bottom Quartile Growth, and Whole School Performance). Each category is awarded a letter grade of A, B, C, D or F and subsequently combined to award a final letter grade for schools. An A-F Report Card Guide is available on the Oklahoma State Department of Education’s website at: http://ok.gov/sde/f-grading-system.

Since the A-F system was established, our school district scores are as follows:

- 2011-12: C+
- 2012-13: F
- 2013-14: C
- 2014-15: B+
- 2015-16: B
- 2016-17: ___

The first year of A-F reporting Forest Grove School received a C+. The next year we received a final Letter grade of “F” and we were designated a Priority School. A Priority School is any school that either (1) receives a letter grade of “F” based on the State’s A-F School Grading System (2) is a Title I school in the bottom 5% of Title I schools (3) is a Title I – participating high school, Title I-eligible high school, and/or non-Title I high school in the State with a graduation rate below 60% for three consecutive, or (4) is a school that receives School Improvement (SIG) funds to implement a school intervention model.

This was the first time we had received this designation. We developed intervention strategies at Forest Grove since we received this designation as a Priority School in 2012-13 and in 2013-14 we received a C. In 2014-15 we received a B+, and in 2015-16 we received a B. Because of our progress on the A-F report card the State Department of Education recognized us as a “High Progress Reward School” in 2015, and the Governor awarded us with the “Spotlight on Achievement Award” for 2016.

This year our scores will not be available until October at the earliest. We know that both the grading system and the test have changed for this year, so we have little understanding of what our final grade will be, based on the new calculations. I am confident that we will continue to maintain a high level of success once we know how we will be evaluated in the coming years.

Forest Grove School District has already taken steps to ensure that our students have the best chance to succeed and ensure that Forest Grove does not appear on any designation list in the future. We adopted the following district initiatives to address student academic growth since our 2012-13 designation was released. Best practices have been implemented at our school and each teacher employed with the district received training over strategies and the implementation of these strategies:
1. We hired a full-time principal to better address curriculum needs and support our teaching staff.
2. We purchased additional technology i.e. laptops and tablets to improve access to curriculum, learning, and to improve test preparation strategies and best practices.
3. We implemented 90 minute blocks of reading and mathematics (daily).
4. We implemented intensive reading intervention in grades K – 3rd for 30-45 minutes per day.
5. We implemented Write to Learn web-based learning strategies 5th – 8th grades (daily).
6. We purchased new curriculum and textbooks in all grades.
7. We purchased STAR Early Literacy to serve grades K-3rd and we benchmark test monthly.
8. We purchased Buckledown benchmark materials for student’s grades 3rd – 8th in all subject areas and benchmark test monthly.
9. We provide after school tutoring in math and reading.
10. We also inform and encourage parents about ways to improve reading and math skills at home. These services will continue to be provided by the Forest Grove Public School System as part of our effort to assist students. Parental involvement is crucial to the success of students during their school years and beyond. Some ways parents can become more involved include:

1. Read with your child each night.
2. Listen to your child read each night.
3. Take your child to the library regularly.
4. Drill your child over grade level sight words.
5. Drill your child over grade level math facts.
6. Check your child’s homework each night.
7. Ask your child each night if they have/need help with homework.
8. Attend Parent/Teacher Conferences regularly.
9. Attend school wide events regularly.

The ESEA Flexibility Waiver requires schools to notify parents/guardians of children in Title I Priority Schools of the option to transfer their child, with transportation included, to higher-performing schools. This means a parent or guardian may choose to send their child to a higher-performing school that is able to accept, if the requested school is not already full according to state and district guidelines regarding class size. Students and transportation costs will be covered by the school district. If a parent would like to transfer his/her child to another school, they may contact Forest Grove School. Transfer papers will be available to fill out at Forest Grove School’s administration office during regular school hours 8-4 Monday – Thursday.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Smith
Superintendent
Forest Grove School