

2013-14 School Year

Dear Parent or Guardian:

School staff and district administration would like to welcome you and your family to a new school year. We are looking forward to an exciting new year of teaching, learning and achieving.

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Under the law, there is also a parents' "Right to Know" which requires all districts to notify parents of all children in all Title I schools that they have the right to request and receive timely information on the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers. This requirement applies to all Title I schools. Watervliet is a Title I school district.

Under NCLB, teachers must be certified or licensed, have a bachelor's degree, and demonstrate subject matter knowledge, either through a state test or by majoring in the subject in college. It is important to note that NCLB standards apply to the subject matter taught by teachers. A teacher may be qualified to teach one subject but not another. Parents have the right to know whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived. They have the right to know the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree and whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

A school that receives Title I funds shall provide to each individual parent information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the State academic assessments as required under this part and timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

District administrators and teacher union leaders are working together to meet these requirements. Because research and common sense tell us that quality teaching is the single most important factor in helping students learn and achieve, we are committed to recruiting and keeping caring, competent school staff.

I look forward to working with you and your children to make this school year even better than the last. Please call us with any questions and suggestions you may have. We take very seriously our partnership with parents in providing the best educational experience for all our students.

Sincerely,

Principals

Mrs. Terri O'Brien – WES – 629-3400

Mr. Ryan Groat - WHS - 629-3300