



Murfreesboro City Schools

Administrative Offices

Dr. Linda Arms Gilbert, Director of Schools

2552 South Church Street, Suite 100

Murfreesboro, TN 37127-6342

615-893-2313 Fax 615-893-2352

Date: August 8, 2011

Dear Parent:

Mitchell-Neilson Elementary is a proud school with a long history and a bright future. Its graduates have formed the foundations of this community, and its students and teachers continue to model excellence. This letter is to inform you of the current status of the school and what is being done to ensure that excellence is the standard for the present and for the future.

For the 2011-2012 school year, the school has been identified by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) as a high priority school in School Improvement I. During the last school year, the state adopted new, more rigorous standards. Over half of the schools in Murfreesboro City met the state goals based on those standards. Across the state, forty-one percent of students met the goal in math and forty-eight percent met the goal in reading. MNE's students did not meet state and federal goals in math or reading with the economically disadvantaged subgroup. Thirty percent of our economically disadvantaged students were proficient or advanced in math while the state's target was to have forty percent proficient or advanced. We also did not meet the state and federal goals in grades 3-6 in reading/language arts with the economically disadvantaged subgroup. Forty percent of our economically disadvantaged students were proficient or advanced while the target was to have forty-nine percent. Because the targets were not met, the school did not make AYP on the tests taken last April—whose results were released July 29, 2011. This means that Mitchell-Neilson Elementary is now identified as a "high priority" school in School Improvement 1.

With assistance from the state and district, Mitchell-Neilson Elementary has already begun to implement practices to improve our instruction in math and reading. Structured assistance and interventions for students needing additional help in reading and/or math will take place on a daily basis throughout the school day, enabling every student to have additional instruction in skills that need extra support. The SPIRE and "My Sidewalks" Reading Intervention programs have been implemented. Dr. Caresa Brooks, who ran the Reading Clinic at Vanderbilt University, will operate a similar Reading Clinic at Mitchell-Neilson. A school psychologist, a full-time social worker and a Family Learning and Resource Center are now in place on our campus to provide additional support for students and parents. After-school tutoring programs have been instituted to truly extend the school day and provide meaningful learning opportunities for our students. We have also adopted a research-based, school wide Bullying Prevention Program.

Mrs. Robin Newell has recently been assigned to Mitchell-Neilson Elementary as the school principal. Mrs. Newell has been the principal at Mitchell-Neilson Primary for the past three years. She has implemented many programs at the Primary school that have increased student learning. Her strong background in reading will enable her to support the students and teachers at Mitchell-Neilson Elementary.

Because Mitchell-Neilson Elementary is a Title I high priority school, your child is eligible to (a) remain at MNE, (b) transfer to either Black Fox or Northfield, or (c) if your child is currently zoned to a different school in the district, you may return to that school. For your information, Northfield Elementary had fifty percent of its economically disadvantaged students scoring proficient or advanced in math and in reading. Black Fox Elementary had fifty-four

*Bellwood-Bowdoin Preschool • Black Fox • Bradley Academy • Cason Lane Academy • Erma Siegel
Discovery School at Reeves-Rogers • Hobgood • John Pittard • Mitchell-Neilson Elementary
Mitchell-Neilson Primary • Northfield • Scales*

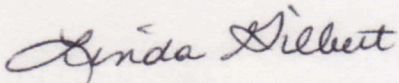
percent of its economically disadvantaged students scoring proficient or advanced in math and fifty-one percent in reading.

We encourage you to remain at Mitchell Neilson. We strongly believe that we have programs and interventions in place that will guarantee student learning. However, if you choose to transfer your child, the district will provide or pay for transportation to and from Northfield or Black Fox as long as MNE is a high priority school identified for improvement. If MNE meets achievement goals for two straight years, it will no longer be a high priority school. In that case, your child will be allowed to remain at the new school until he/she completes the highest grade. If funds are not available for all students to be transported, priority for transportation will be given to lowest-achieving students from low-income families. If requests for a choice school exceed that school's capacity, priority for first choice will be given to lowest-achieving students from low-income families.

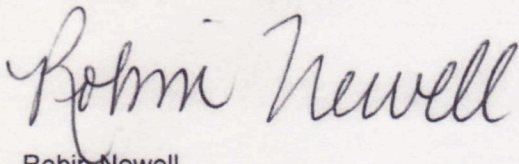
Thank you for what you are already doing to increase your child's academic achievement. We encourage you to help by enrolling your students in after-school programs. Your attendance at parent meetings and workshops is very important. Please request a parent conference ANY time to discuss your child's academic progress.

If you would like for your child to transfer, you must complete the attached form and return it no later than Monday, August 22, 2011 by hand delivery or mail to the Mitchell Neilson Office 711 W. Clark Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129. The Finance and Administrative Services Office of the district will notify you by phone and mail to provide transportation information and the date your child may start attending the choice school. Please contact Crystal Farris at (615) 893-2313 if you have questions or need more information. An informational meeting will be held at Mitchell-Neilson Elementary on Thursday, August 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Sincerely,



Dr. Linda Gilbert
Director of Schools
Murfreesboro City Schools



Robin Newell
Principal
The Mitchell Neilson Schools

Enclosure: School Choice Request Form