

Roxbury Township Public Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

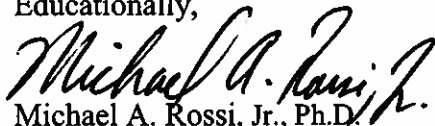
I hope that the academic year was a successful one for your children. Looking ahead, I want to communicate regarding some important components of the educational experience for our K-8 students. As indicated in previous letters, the district will be moving toward a greater digital platform. That initiative will include on-line grade books (5-12), homework links (K-12), digital student portfolios (K-12), and, overall, a greater emphasis on technology as a teaching and communication tool. This initiative will be unfolding during the course of the 2009\2010 school year with the goal of complete implementation by September 2010.

Another facet of our educational design is framed around the belief that all children can succeed and that we must create multiple opportunities and pathways for all learners to be successful. Toward that vision, beginning in September 2009 all students in grades 5-8 will be heterogeneously placed into classes with the exception of mathematics in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students will continue to be grouped heterogeneously in K-4. Math in grade 6 will consist of two courses, Math Six and Algebra Readiness. Math in grade 7 will consist of two courses, Math Seven and Pre-Algebra. Math in grade 8 will consist of two courses, Algebra I and Pre-Algebra. All other courses will be taught through mixed grouping. Starting in September, all student skills in grades K-8 will be benchmarked against district, state, and national standards in the core subjects. The results of these assessments will guide our instructional practices and provide a clearer indication of student progress as we archive the information in the digital portfolios highlighted above.

The philosophy driving our approach is based on decades of sound research and guided by best practices around the country. As stated, it is our belief that all students can reach great heights academically and we must provide them every opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills while in their formative years. In an effort to help you better understand how we deliver instruction, we will be providing some educational workshops for parents next year that are connected to the educational and technological initiatives we are launching.

Again, I hope the year was rewarding for your children and we look forward to greater accomplishments in the future. I hope to see you at our educational forums next year and should you have any questions, please email me at mrossi@roxbury.org or our Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. James Heinegg, at jheinegg@roxbury.org.

Educationally,



Michael A. Rossi, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools