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Federal Programs

400 North Church Street
Monroe, NC 28112
Phone 704.296.0823 Fax 704.289.3676
www.ucps.k12.nc.us

July 8, 2011

Dear Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to let you know that, according to 2010-2011 student assessment results, Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts is a Title I School Improvement school for 2011-2012 under the federal *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) law. Please read this letter to find out about options that you may have.

According to 2010-2011 students test results, Benton Heights School of the Arts did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal *No Child Left Behind* law for three years in math.

Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts receives federal Title I funds designed to help students who are not achieving at grade level in high-poverty schools. As a Title I school, Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts must make AYP or face consequences. The bar of expectation for student achievement was raised for 2010-2011 and we did not meet all of the federal goals. Thirty-two of the fifty-two schools in our district made AYP for the 2010-2011 school year.

Your child's options for the 2010-2011 school year are to:

1. Remain at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts

The staff at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts has a relationship with your child and wanted to continue serving your child. If you want your child to remain at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts you don't need to take any additional action.

2. Enroll your child in another school, designated by the district, with transportation provided.

Transfer options for your child are : (1) Shiloh Elementary which follows a year-round schedule, (2) Poplin Elementary which follows a traditional calendar. More information on these schools is enclosed and is on the Web at www.ncreportcards.org/src/. The district selected your transfer options and based that decision on the total academic program at the school site and the close proximity to your attendance area.

Please complete and return a "Request for School Transfer" form (enclosed) for each child requesting a transfer by July 21 and return to your child's school. The district will respond to your request by July 22 with a phone call followed by written notice regarding your child's school assignment and transportation availability. You then will have an opportunity to communicate whether you accept the approved choice or want your child to remain at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts. If a requested transfer is approved, your child will be allowed to attend the choice school through the fifth grade, however, once Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts exits school improvement, transportation will not be provided to the choice school. Your child will also be required to attend the middle school in your attendance area.

If you are the parent of an exception child, please contact Lori Cauthen Director of Exceptional Children at 704-283-3596; or if you are the parent of an English language learner, please call Al Roldan, ESL Case Manager at 704-289-5460 for the available public school choices that best meet the needs of your child. (Education records are confidential and access is limited to school officials having a genuine need to know.)

3. Remain at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts and receive free tutoring services.

The free tutoring program for students who receive free or reduced-price lunch and choose not to transfer from Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts will be offered after school by several state approved providers.

A brief description of tutoring providers and their services will be sent to you at a later date along with an enrollment form. If there is not enough funding for every child requesting services, eligible students with the greatest need will receive first priority for the after school tutoring. Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts will host a parent meeting to provide information and answer questions that you may have about the free tutoring services. You will be notified of this meeting at a later date. (The public identity of any child, who is eligible for, or receiving, these free tutoring services remains confidential until the child's parent(s) or guardian(s) gives written permission).

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The many successes at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts cannot be measured in one test and we appreciate your past and continued support. I am pleased that our school continues to be recognized as a “High Growth” school under the North Carolina ABC’s.

However, we are concerned about the academic progress of all of our students. We’ve identified the following instructional strategies in which to focus, with district and state assistance: *We will continue to provide our teachers with professional development opportunities that enhance your child’s education. Opportunities for students to participate in tutorial services after school will be provided for your child. Extracurricular activities that enhance your child’s educational experience will continue to be part of their experiences at BHESA. Our intervention team will continue to work with students that are at risk of falling behind their peers in their literacy and math skills.*

Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts and the local district are working together to ensure that we have aligned our instruction with and fully implemented the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, and that we are providing for all relevant staff, appropriate, scientifically, researched-based professional development that may improve academic achievement of low-performing students.

We welcome your involvement at Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts. There are many ways to participate including becoming a member of the Parent Teacher Organization offering your input to the School Improvement Team, volunteering, attending parent conferences with your child’s teacher(s), making sure your child is prepared and attends school each day, and monitoring your child’s homework and class grades.

Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts will have its annual meeting to develop our Title I parent involvement policy and to review other information on August 9, 2011. The Title I district-wide parent involvement policy will be reviewed this fall and parents are invited to be a part of that review process.

If you have questions about any of these options, please call Jane McNeely-Sowell, Director of Federal Programs at 704-296-0823 or jane.mcneely-sowell@ucps.k12.nc.us. In addition, more information about public school choice and free tutoring services, also known as supplemental educational services, can be found on the Web at www.ncpublicschol.org/nclb.

We are looking forward to a year of educational success and continuous improvement for all of our students. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for each student.

Sincerely,
Michael Harvey
Principal

C: Superintendent, Title I Director, Public Information Officer
Enclosures: NC School Report Card Snapshots for Benton Heights Elementary School of the Arts, Shiloh Elementary, Poplin Elementary, School Transfer Form, Public School Choice Fact Sheet

[Note: Enclosing the NC School Report Card Snapshots of the choice school(s) will meet the NCLB requirement of informing parents about the academic achievement level of students at the choice school(s) and provide AYP and other necessary data in sufficient detail.]