

Arthur T. Cummings School

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Dear Parent / Guardian:

Please find the attached 2-page overview of our school's 2016 "report card". Report cards answer important questions about a school's overall performance and contain specific information about student enrollment and teacher qualifications, student achievement, accountability, how a school is performing relative to other schools in the district and the state, and the progress made toward narrowing proficiency gaps for different groups of students.

The 2016 complete school report card can be accessed at:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/rc.aspx?linkid=37&orgcode=03460020&fycode=2016&orgtypecode=6>

In this report you will find the following important information about our school:

Student enrollment and teacher quality: This section of the report card provides information about the students and teachers in our school as compared to the district and the state.

Student assessment on MCAS and other tests: This section of the report shows how our students are performing on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests as compared to the district and the state.

School and district accountability information: This section of the report contains three important pieces of information:

- **Accountability and Assistance Levels:** Schools and districts are placed into one of five accountability and assistance levels (1-5), with the highest performing in Level 1 and lowest performing in Level 5. Our school has been placed into Level 2 because our students are narrowing gaps but not meeting state-assigned targets.
- **School Percentiles:** A school percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number shows the overall performance of our school relative to other schools that serve the same or similar grades. Our school percentile is 31. This means that our school is performing higher than 31 percent of other schools with a grade range of 3-5.
- **Progress and Performance Index (PPI):** The PPI is a number that indicates our school's progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, or, in other words, helping *all* students reach proficiency and be prepared for success after high school. Massachusetts has set a goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the years 2011 and 2017. For a group of students to be considered to be making sufficient progress toward narrowing proficiency gaps, its cumulative PPI must be 75 or higher.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. Some of the ways you can become involved are:

- Encourage your child's learning at home.
- Read the action plan and review the MCAS presentation Winthrop Cable Television.
- Attend PTO meetings and events that emphasize the importance of education.
- Serve as a volunteer in our school or district.
- Encourage other parents to become involved.
- Communicate frequently with teachers and ask how you can best support your child's learning across content areas.

For more information about our school's report card or to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers, please feel free to contact us at 617-846-5543.

Winthrop's district report card can be accessed online at:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/reportcard/rc.aspx?linkid=38&orgcode=03460000&fycode=2016&orgtypecode=5&>

and a print copy can be viewed at our school office, Superintendent's office, or Town Hall.

Sincerely,

Ryan P. Heraty

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