



October 22, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, educational reform in the State of Wisconsin will be changing the way schools and educators are evaluated and students are assessed, all to promote greater student achievement.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has issued a **School Report Card** for our school and for every public school in Wisconsin as part of the new statewide accountability system. The School Report Card, using multiple measures of student learning, provides valuable guidance on how New Berlin West Middle and High School is performing and where we can improve.

With the School Report Cards, each public school earns a “score,” called an accountability index score, from 0 to 100. The score is based on our performance in four priority areas:

- **Student achievement** in reading and mathematics on state assessments
- **Student growth**, measured by year-to-year improvements in reading and math achievement
- **Closing gaps** in performance between specific student groups (comparing English language learners, low-income students, students with disabilities, and members of racial or ethnic group with their peers)
- **On-track to graduation/postsecondary readiness**, using reliable predictors of high school graduation and postsecondary success

It’s important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability index score is not a “percent correct” measurement. Instead, in combination with other school data, the score will help us determine our greatest strengths and where we need improvement.

A school’s score determines where it falls on a spectrum of categories ranging from “Significantly Exceeding Expectations” down to “Persistently Failing to Meet Expectations.”

Based on our school’s score of 73.0, we were placed into the category Exceeds Expectations. Our report card shows that:

- Students at New Berlin West, as indicated on the Wisconsin Student Assessment System, continue to perform significantly above the levels of their peers around the state.
- Students and staff at West will benefit from a continued focus on literacy instruction across all curriculum areas as indicated by our score in both Reading Growth and on Reading Achievement.
- The collaborative efforts of students, parents and staff have resulted in excellent achievement in the areas of graduation rate, absenteeism, and overall WKCE participation. These are factors to be proud of.

We are confident the new School Report Card, as well as the many other changes being implemented in Wisconsin schools, will help our school identify our strengths and promptly move to address opportunities for improvement. More information on School Report Cards is available at the DPI website at www.dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html.

Please note: Our school is in a unique position in the State of Wisconsin as a 7-12 school being compared, in this report, with 9-12 schools throughout the state. You will note that some of the data is not readily comparable in this context. Please be aware of this if you choose to compare our report card to other middle or high school report cards. The School District of New Berlin has made requests with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to separate our data for more accurate comparisons.

If you have any questions about our School Report Card, please contact me. Thank you for your support of our school.

Sincerely,

John Budish, Jr.
Principal, New Berlin West Middle/High School
John.Budish@nbexcellence.org
262-789-6418