

# *Sachem Central School District at Holbrook*

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Superintendent of Schools

*Samoset Middle School*  
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Dear Parents/Guardians of Samoset Middle School Students:

We are dedicated to providing all students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and life. To ensure your child's success, we have set high standards that are reflected in what is taught in our classrooms. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that adequate yearly progress (AYP) in English Language Arts and Mathematics be measured in the State of New York. We were recently informed by the State Education Department that Samoset Middle School has been designated as a school in Need of Improvement (Year 1) in English Language Arts for our Samoset students with Disabilities population.

AYP is based primarily on the results of the New York State Assessments examination given in grades 3-8. Schools must meet the state's academic proficiency benchmark, as well as other indicators such as test participation and attendance to make AYP.

Samoset Middle School has been designated a "School in Need of Improvement" (SINI Year1) in English Language Arts under NCLB because in 2009-2010 our Performance Index (PI) did not meet the State Annual Measurable Objective for Students with Disabilities in English Language Arts.

The intention of NCLB is to encourage schools to address all subcategories of student to achieve success. We will continue to strengthen our curriculum and focus on using the most effective teaching techniques possible to ensure student success. All schools in need of improvement must assemble a School Quality Review Team that identified areas of need, programs, and activities to help increase student achievement. As a parent you are encouraged to contact me to provide input to our school improvement process. In addition, you can become involved in supporting our efforts by encouraging your child to attend school regularly, complete all assignments, and to make use of extra help opportunities. As always, please confer with your child's teachers regularly if you suspect any academic or emotional concerns.

Some of the steps we have taken to address our SINI status involve the following:

- Creation of School Quality Review Team and subsequent School Quality Review Report including recommendations for achievement.
- Individual student and transcript review for students with disabilities emphasizing assessment performance/participation.
- An increased emphasis on ELA curriculum with the goal of promoting higher level thinking skills and increased expectations for assessment performance.

We will continue to communicate with you regularly on our school improvement efforts and hope you can join us as we work toward achieving our goals.

Sincerely,



Mary T. Cavanaugh, Principal