

September 30, 2008

Dear Parent and/or Guardian;

You should have recently received a mailing from Mountlake Terrace High School that included your student's most recent WASL score report and a factual sheet containing key information pertaining to your student earning a high school diploma. We would like to acknowledge all of the work your student has been doing to progress down the path towards graduation, while juggling their course work, credits, and assessment requirements.

While the earning of 22.0 credits in specific categorical areas, is key to graduation, so is meeting standard on the Reading and Writing WASL, and either meeting standard on the Math WASL or taking and earning 1.0 credits of Math both during your junior and senior years and attempting the Math WASL yearly. Another widely used way for students to demonstrate their learning is the Collection of Evidence (COE). The COE is similar to a portfolio in that it is a collection of work completed by the student in a specific subject area. The difference is that each one of the portfolio pieces has been carefully designed by an instructor to demonstrate skills related to identified standards covered on the WASL and that students complete all pieces while under the direct supervision of the teacher.

At Mountlake Terrace High School we have enjoyed amazing success with our COE program. Nearly all the COE portfolios we have submitted to the state have met standard, allowing those students to meet state requirements for that specific WASL area. In addition, we award 0.125 elective credits to all students who complete and submit a COE portfolio in the program.

This year we will be again offering fall COE sections. These groups will meet twice a week for between six to seven weeks, from 2:00-3:30pm. Any variability to this schedule will be communicated to the student participants by the COE instructor. This year the groups will be meeting:

- Math COE– 2 groups (Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs)
- Writing COE (Tues/Thurs)
- Reading COE (Tues/Fri)

We will be inviting your student to the theatre in the coming week to review this information and hope that your family will consider this as an assessment option. Please know that space is limited and that we will begin sign-ups on October 7th, 2008. Participating students and their parents should also know that attendance is critical and that students will be dropped from their COE group after two absences.

It is our hope that the COE program offers your student one more way to demonstrate at standard performance in Reading, Writing, or Math to meet state assessment requirements. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Scott Morrison or Erin Murphy.

Sincerely,

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