

December 6, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has released a new accountability report card for every school in the state of Maryland. The Maryland Report Card for Gaithersburg Middle School can be found at this link

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/gaithersburgms/>

The Maryland Report Card is designed to measure school success in several ways, including state test results in English Language Arts and math; postsecondary readiness; progress of English learners in achieving English language proficiency; graduation rate; and students with access to and earning credit for a well-rounded curriculum.

Below are a few resources to help you understand the Maryland Report Card:

- [MCPS Video – Understanding the Maryland Report Card](#)
- [MSDE Report Card Overview](#)
- [MD Report Card – Local Interpretation Guide](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

As Superintendent of Schools Jack Smith noted in his [message to the community on November 30](#), while the Maryland Report Card does provide important information about our schools, it only provides a limited view into the progress of our more than 163,000 students.

To better understand how our schools are serving all of our students, MCPS has developed an [Equity Accountability Model](#) that provides a more detailed and focused report of school success. The Equity Accountability Model uses [multiple and frequent measures](#) of students' progress to determine if a school is meeting the needs of ALL students with a special emphasis on reducing and eliminating disparities in student achievement. Data for the MCPS Equity Accountability Model will be published in January.

We will be giving a presentation on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 PM in the media center at GMS for community members interested in learning more about our school's performance on the Maryland Report Card and what families can expect to see in the MCPS Equity Accountability Model.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ann Dolan
Principal