



Joseph B. Cavallaro

Intermediate School 281

Stephen Rosenblum, Principal

8787 24th Avenue • Brooklyn, NY 11214

Tel.: (718)996-6706 • Fax: (718) 996- 4186

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is a federal law to improve education for all children. It holds schools responsible for results, gives parents greater choices, and promotes teaching methods that work. The New York City Department of Education is committed to helping all schools reach high standards for student achievement and giving every child in every school a quality education. We are making progress, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done for all our children. In January 2007, the New York State Education Department identified (**Joseph B. Cavallaro**) as a Title I School in Need of Improvement – Year 1, as required under NCLB rules. This means that our school has, so far, not made what is called adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward meeting the State proficiency level in **English language arts**.

Every effort is being made to provide the highest quality instructional program to best meet the needs of your child. I am confident that the interventions and exciting new programs that have been introduced citywide and at our school will make this school year a successful experience for your child. Some of the interventions and programs that are being implemented are:

- Professional development opportunities for all teachers which will focus on new strategies to help struggling students;
- We have developed an extended day program which will target at risk students and their individual needs. Through the utilization of data, we will focus on areas of instruction that have been identified as personal weaknesses or those areas that the children need improvement.
- Literacy and mathematics coaches in our school work with teachers everyday to improve the quality of their teaching;
- To continue with the reduction of class size in English Language Arts and Mathematics to address the needs of ALL students to meet and exceed state standards in reading and math.
- Continued recruitment of highly-qualified and certified teachers to staff our classrooms;
- To continue our partnerships with the Neighborhood Improvement Association to provide students with an after-school extra-curricular program

I ask that you support your child by making sure that she/he comes to school every day on time. Make sure that all homework assignments and school projects are completed on time. I also invite you to participate in all school activities. Stay in close contact with our Parent Coordinator and your child's teachers to monitor your child's academic progress. Tell teachers you want to hear from them as soon as problems occur so you can work together to find solutions. I also encourage you to become active in the school's Parents' Association and School Leadership Team.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, NYCDOE offers students enrolled in a school identified for improvement the option to request a transfer to another public school that is not identified as needing improvement. Federal law requires that NYCDOE give priority to the lowest achieving students from low-income families when making transfer offers. Further information and applications will be sent to the parents of eligible students at a later date.

If you would like information on how our school compares academically to other schools in the district, you can request a printed copy of the school's report card from our Parent Coordinator, Ms Kathy Fariello. She can be reached at 1(718) 996-6706. All school report cards can also be viewed online on the Department of Education's website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/SchoolReports/default.asp>.

I would like you to attend a meeting that has been scheduled to answer any questions you may have about the school improvement interventions and programs described above. At this meeting, we will also provide additional information about the Public School Choice transfer process.

This meeting will be held on: **Date: February 13th Time: 7:00 PM Location: Auditorium.** Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Our entire school staff is looking forward to a successful year for our students and school community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 1(718) 996-6706

Sincerely,