

Forrest County Agricultural High School
Elizabeth H. Pankay, Ph.D.
Superintendent

August 9, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school is committed to providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. Forrest County Agricultural High School has strong, dedicated staff committed to teaching the challenging academic content and interpersonal skills that help students develop into productive citizens.

In January 2002, the U.S. Congress passed a new federal education law called *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*. The federal law requires states to set specific requirements that schools must meet each year. To meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) each year, a school must test at least 95% of the students in each subgroup (all students, students with disabilities, limited English proficient students, economically disadvantaged students, and students in each of five racial/ethnic subgroups) and each subgroup must meet the student proficiency standards based on scores from the tests administered at certain grades or in certain courses – the Mississippi Curriculum Test (MCT), 2nd Edition; the Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) tests in Algebra I and English II; and the MS Alternate Assessment of Extended Curriculum frameworks (MAAECF) Alternated Assessments. In addition, schools with a graduating class must meet the required graduation rate and schools without a graduating class must meet the required attendance rate. Forrest County Agricultural High School failed to meet the AYP goals in English II. If a school does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same area (reading/language arts, mathematics, or graduation/attendance rate), it is identified as “in need of improvement” – Year 1. Based on Preliminary 2010-11 AYP Results, Forrest County Agricultural High School has been identified as “in need of improvement” – Year 1.

While we are not able to provide another school in our district or a neighboring district for your child to attend, we are offering before and after school tutoring services for eligible students. Students who have failed one or more state mandated subject area tests will be required to participate in SATP tutoring. **If your child has failed one or more subject area tests, please complete and return the enclosed form.** Snacks and bus transportation will be provided for the after school tutoring sessions.

We are working hard to ensure that all students meet the academic goals set forth by Congress and the Mississippi Department of Education. We are developing a rigorous school improvement plan and teachers are being provided high quality training. We want you to know

that the Mississippi Department of Education will support the district improvement process through a comprehensive professional development program. We encourage you to provide input as we strive to help all of our students succeed now and in the future. To find out about ways you can get involved with our school, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Yankay.

Parents are not only critical to a student's success, but to the success of the school as well. NCLB recognizes this, detailing the parents' responsibilities in becoming active members of the school community. Under NCLB, parents are to be a part of the school's improvement processes. Parents may help create the school's Parent Involvement Policy, the school's roadmap to increasing parental involvement and building capacity among parents to help their children achieve at high standards. Parents may also help write the school's School Improvement Plan, the plan to raise student achievement in the school. It is clear that parents, as well as school, district, and state staff, are accountable for raising student achievement. In addition, to becoming involved in drafting the school's School Improvement Plan and Parent Involvement Policy, there are various other school-based programs in which you can become involved. You can become more involved in your child's school by:

- Participating in parent involvement activities that assist you in learning how to increase your child's achievement level.
- Visiting your local school
- Keeping well informed about what is going on in your child's school by reading school newsletters.
- Becoming a parent volunteer at school.
- Talking with your child's teacher about other ways you can help in the classroom and at home.
- Calling to discuss your child's progress reports with teachers.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education. It would be our privilege to continue working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Yankay, Ph.D.
Superintendent

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
FORREST COUNTY AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Please complete the following information to enable us to schedule tutors and bus transportation.
Return this form to the principal's office by Friday, September 2, 2011.

Student's Name _____

Student's Address _____
Street Address City Zip Code

Bus Transportation Needed: _____yes _____no

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

My child needs help with: (Check all that apply.)

_____ Algebra 1

_____ Biology 1

_____ English II

_____ U.S. History

_____ Another Subject (Name the subject _____)

_____ I do not wish to have my child participate in the after school tutoring program.

Parent's Signature

Date