July 2026

Dear Parents,

As mandated by law, we are hereby notifying our families that this year, as every year, New Heights is committed to providing your children with the highest quality education possible. To be more specific, public schools are obligated to, and rightfully so, recruit and retain only "highly qualified" teachers to provide instruction in all licensed areas. For example, in secondary classes grades 6-12, all science classes must/will be taught by a licensed science teacher who holds a valid teaching license or special permission in the state of Minnesota. The same is true for all subject areas: English; mathematics; social studies; art; foreign language; business education; and physical education.

We are informing you that each of our teachers holds a valid license to teach in the subject areas they are responsible for. In a very few cases, some teachers may occasionally need permission to teach a specialty subject or class that may require a variance or waiver issued from the state board of teaching; this may happen due to a teacher shortage in certain areas. In those isolated cases, the school principal must write a letter to the new PELSB board of teaching requesting the special permission, but must also demonstrate how/why the teacher is qualified to teach the particular class or classes. The teacher will not be permitted to teach these specialty classes unless given permission by the PELSB board of teaching and the special permission or waiver is granted. This ensures that all students are receiving instruction from teachers who meet the "highly qualified" standard, or by one who have been given special permission by the state board of teaching; which typically must be renewed every year and are usually granted only when the school or district can demonstrate they were unable to secure a normally licensed teacher.

At any time, anyone can inquire about the qualifications or credentials of any teacher employed by a public school. In fact, anyone at any time can simply go the MDE website and inquire about the license status of any teacher in the state of MN. All you have to know is the first and last name of the teacher and you can do your own research, at least to the point that the license has been updated and reported accurately by the department of education.

As New Heights is committed to providing a high-quality education, we believe the only way to do that effectively is to employ only highly qualified, certified teachers for each class and subject area. If at any time we fail to secure highly qualified teachers, or if we are unable to get special permission from the PELSB state board of teaching, we will disclose that information either through a direct mailing, or through our website, or both. That commitment includes all licensed staff areas and para-professionals.

As always, please contact the school with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Kearney-Superintendent