

**HAWTHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH**  
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**Robert Natale**  
*Principal*

**Jamie Kahn**  
*Assistant Principal*

November 1, 2018

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

As you may know, the State of Illinois released its newly updated Illinois School Report Card on October 31, 2018. This report card is aligned with our nation's federal education law, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In order to assess each school's progress toward meeting ESSA goals, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) measures the performance of all students, as well as specific student subgroups, across a variety of academic and school quality indicators. This data is used to generate a school's composite score. Schools are ranked based on their composite scores, and this comparative ranking is a school's "official designation" for the school's report card.

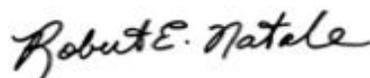
This year, **Middle School South earned a "Commendable" designation.** This means that our performance, as measured by the Illinois ESSA Plan, has no underperforming student subgroups.

We value each of the measures included in the Illinois ESSA Plan, and will continue to use these scores to ensure the success of all students. We also recognize that this system weights PARCC assessment data more heavily than the other academic indicators. At Middle School South, we use a variety of measures to determine how well we are meeting the academic needs of our students. We also consider each student's progress in daily learning activities and projects, as well as classroom-based assessment measures to develop a more complete picture of our academic performance. In addition, we strongly value the development of the whole child. Our students' social and emotional growth, participation in athletics and other extracurricular programs, enrichment programs, fine and performing arts, student leadership opportunities, service-learning efforts, and other positive contributions to our school community are all essential components of our success at Middle School South.

During the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year, Middle School South is working diligently to improve: instructional practices to maximize the potential of our students, students' social-emotional well-being, and our climate and culture. We are working toward these improvements in the following ways: incorporating the Personalized Learning framework, implementing our school-wide advisory program, establishing inclusive learning environments, and embedding our Positive Behavior Support system. Please consider visiting our website and signing up for our electronic newsletter. The electronic newsletter is a great way to see all of the wonderful opportunities our students are engaged in, our school improvement efforts in action, and the accomplishments of our students and staff on a regular basis.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. You are also welcome to visit our district website at [www.hawthorn73.org/hawthorn-information/essa](http://www.hawthorn73.org/hawthorn-information/essa) for additional information and resources to support your understanding of the Illinois ESSA Plan. We are looking forward to a successful year of growth and learning for all students at Middle School South!

Sincerely,



Robert E. Natale