

First Flight Elementary School

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Freda Ballard, Principal
Debbie Shephard, Assistant Principal

November 6, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last year the state of North Carolina implemented a new, more rigorous curriculum in every grade level and subject. To go along with the more advanced curriculum, the state developed tougher tests that require a student to apply information, rather than just to memorize it. The State Board of Education then increased the number of test questions a student must answer correctly to be considered "proficient" (on grade level). More information can be found on our website under the tab for parents.

As a result of a new curriculum, harder tests, and raised standards for proficiency, test scores across the state have dropped significantly. The same is true for our school system and our school. The teachers and I will be using last year's results to plan future instruction.

When you receive your child's individual test report later this month, do not be alarmed if his or her scores are lower than in the past. Because of the numerous changes noted above, scores for 2013 cannot be compared to previous years' results, nor will they be used to identify students for special programs or classes. If you have questions after your review of your child's scores, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or me.

Sincerely,



Freda Ballard
Principal