



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

SOUTH PLANTATION HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. David V. Basile, Principal
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August 6, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope this letter finds you well. I have at times this summer been asked questions about our school grade for 2008-09 and I would like to set the record straight and ease any anxiety you may have. As you may or may not know, our school grade is a "D." How did we become a "D"? School grades are presently calculated solely on FCAT test scores. For high schools that will change this year. Presently there are eight breakdowns of testing data that get added together to create a score. So, basically, we work off a point system. Since 1998-99 South has been a D twice, a C eight times and a B once. As points go, this year we scored our highest amount of points since the new calculation system started in 2006-07. We actually were 12 points from a B. Most of the eight indicators went up or stayed the same. The reason our grade is a D is because a few years back the state changed the rules. They started a rule that said that if your lowest quartile in reading or math did not make a certain level of learning gains, then your school grade would automatically drop a letter grade. That is what happened to us, just as it did last year to Piper, Stranahan, Mc Arthur, and S. Broward, and just like it did to Western, Cypress Bay, and Coral Springs this year. We needed to go up one percent and we went down one and thus our letter grade dropped. That is it. So, as we progress through the summer, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the staff of South Plantation High School is working tirelessly to get ready for the arrival of your child on August 24th. Please do not let a "point system" diminish all the great accomplishments that have been attained at South.

For parents of incoming freshman, we will be having a 9th grade orientation on Thursday, August 20th at 6:00 PM. For all other parents, please visit our school website, www.southplantationhigh.net, for school information and updates. Should you have questions or concerns over the next couple of weeks, please feel free to call the school at 754-323-1950 for assistance. I am eagerly looking forward to the opening of the 2009-2010 school year.

Sincerely,

David V. Basile, Ed.D.
Principal