

Bryan Station High School
Mr. Mike Henderson, Principal
John Barnes, Associate Principal
Tammy Hopkins, Associate Principal
Dr. Janice Wyatt-Ross, Associate Principal

October 19, 2011

Dear Bryan Station High School Families:

Let me begin by thanking each of you for entrusting us with your teenagers. Our school is filled with wonderful kids who have unlimited potential and it is a joy to be a member of the Defender community.

Today the Kentucky Department of Education announced that, based on our state test scores, Bryan Station High has been identified as a “persistently low achieving” (**PLA**) school. We knew that this was a possibility unless we made significant gains on the state test last spring. When the results came back last month with just slight improvements, we were disappointed.

Our students are capable of so much more and we are committed to putting in the time, effort and hard work it will take to turn our school around. Today’s state announcement is truly the beginning of a new path for Bryan Station. It’s a new day and we will work diligently to help more of our kids achieve college and career readiness by the time they graduate from Bryan Station High.

As part of the state designation, we will receive a leadership audit in late November or early December. During the audit process, officials from the Kentucky Department of Education will look at what’s working here and what we need to change. Some of our parents will be interviewed as part of the process and I hope you will be honest and candid. Only by truly examining our work will we be able to do what’s right for our kids.

As a “persistently low achieving” school, we will be required to implement one of four change models. Once the state completes its audit, our superintendent and board of education will work with the department of education to determine whether to follow the Turnaround Model, Restart Model, Close/Consolidate Model or Transformation Model. The decision about which direction to take has not been made yet, but we will keep you up to date as information becomes available.

We do not know what the future holds for us. However I want you to know that one of the reasons I applied to be the principal at Bryan Station High School is because my heart is in this work. For the past two years I have worked with the Kentucky Department of Education, assigned to “persistently low achieving” schools to help them make progress. I have seen the gains that can be made and I know we can do it here at Bryan Station High School.

Our focus will be on making sure we connect with our kids, deliver high quality instruction, monitor student progress, and push kids to reach higher expectations. The work will be hard. We will ask more from our students and ourselves than we have in the past. But the rewards will be great.

So let’s get started.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mike Henderson, Principal

201 Eastin Road, Lexington, KY 40505
(859) 381-3308 Fax (859) 381-3330
www.bshs.fcps.net