



## KEANSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### CARUSO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

81 Frances Place  
Keansburg, NJ 07734  
732-787-2007 Ext. 6000  
732-471-5791 FAX

**Elyse McMahon**  
Principal

**Sean Brophy**  
Vice Principal

**Kathleen O'Hare**  
Director of Operations

**John D. Covert**  
Superintendent

August 19, 2019  
John Covert  
100 Palmer Place, Keansburg, NJ 07734

Dear Parents and Families,

Our school district was recently notified by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) that Caruso Elementary School has been identified as a school in need of Targeted support and improvement.

Expectations for a high-quality education are outlined in the federal education law, the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, and in New Jersey's corresponding state plan, which was developed in collaboration with parents, educators and broader community members throughout New Jersey. This state plan describes how the NJDOE must identify schools most in need of improvement and then work with the district to support schools so that each and every child can learn and thrive in the school community.

New Jersey holds all of its schools to a high standard of performance so that your child, and every child, receives the best education available. Our district and school educators and administrators remain committed to working with all of you in our community to help all of our students achieve success both inside and outside of the classroom.

In the coming months, we will work as a community to look in-depth at the academic results of our students and, together with the input we gather from our educators and families, we will build a plan with specific student goals, action steps and timelines for improvement. This gives us a critical opportunity to utilize the resources we have at school, at home and within our community to address the needs of our students along with the needs of our educators and families who support them.

The NJDOE remains committed to supporting our school community as we improve outcomes for our students. Specifically, the NJDOE will support us as we work with parents, families, teachers, and community groups to identify our needs. This partnership will help determine important strategies for improvement, and together we can create plans to improve.

Included with this letter is a one-page overview of New Jersey's process for identifying a school for improvement; this information may help answer some of your immediate questions.

I encourage you to learn more about the *Every Student Succeeds Act* by visiting the NJDOE's website at [www.state.nj.us/education/ESSA](http://www.state.nj.us/education/ESSA); in addition, the NJDOE homepage [www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education) provides links to other useful education information in the state of New Jersey.

You have my commitment, and that of all of our Keansburg School District educators, that the improvement status of Caruso Elementary School will provide an opportunity for us as a community, to define our expectations for our students and to provide your child with the best opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you for your continued support as we take additional steps to make positive changes in your child's education.

*Elyse McMahon*