

February 29, 2008

Dear Center Families,

As you may already know, at its January 24, 2008 meeting, the School Committee voted a Proposed FY 09 Budget of \$32,270,060, which represents an increase of \$1,157,805 or 3.7%. This budget provides “level services” for the school district. With this, class sizes remain stable, all current programs are maintained, and the district’s technology replacement plan is supported.

What exactly does this mean for Center School? A level service budget will allow us to maintain our current class sizes, which range from 20-22 at both grade levels. In fact, we may even see a slight decrease at the K level (going from current classes of 22 to proposed classes of 20). At the primary grades, we monitor our class sizes carefully, and we are fortunate that this budget does not reflect an increase in our teacher: student ratio. The proposed addition of a half-time math teacher for Center School should afford our students greater access to support in the area of mathematics; having the ability to provide direct interventions for our struggling students will have an immediate and positive effect on our students’ learning.

With the technology model proposed in the FY 09 budget (which will focus more on data management and technical support), Center staff will receive support in a variety of ways. We will have access to a technology assistant who will help our building manage our equipment and resolve any technology related issues. Additionally, our teachers will now have the opportunity to work with a technology integration specialist who will work with all three elementary schools.

As budget decisions and discussions continue town-wide this spring, I urge each of you to remain informed and updated on the progress of the school budget, as we all know that the quality of our children's education is of the utmost importance. Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any further questions. Also, please note that you can find more information regarding the budget on the district's website, [www.hopkinton.k12.ma.us](http://www.hopkinton.k12.ma.us).

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Parson  
Principal