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Dr. Herman Brister, Interim Chief Academic Officer

September 8, 2009

Margot Morgan Forbes
Arlington Preparatory Academy
931 Dean Lee Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Dear Margot Morgan Forbes,

I am writing to express my personal and professional gratitude for the extra time and attention you have afforded our children for the 2008-2009 school year. Please note that we are well aware of the tremendous responsibility and work load that is constantly placed upon you. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that you will continue to meet this challenge.

The performance of your students and the quality of work has improved sufficiently over the past 48 months. We have also noticed that your teachers are approaching pedagogy with more relevance and rigor. As a result of the aforementioned, our students are approaching their content with confidence. Your 2008-2009 breakout year is evident of your hard work and fidelity of implementation. Wow! 3.9 percentage point growth in the Districts' performance score is impressive data.

With your coaching, guidance and leadership, your students and staff are discovering instructional practices to engage application, analysis, synthesis as well as real time data as it relates to acquiring new knowledge. Using these practices and others will only produce increased gains academically. Please understand that it our moral and ethical obligation to stretch the exploration of new practices and methodologies of teaching in our learning organization.

We are impressed with your school performance score and your commitment to continued academic improvement. As we take a moment to celebrate what we have accomplished, we must understand that it is a part of our past and as such we must execute our plan in the present. It is our destiny to improve our instructional practices to increase student outcomes. Continue to keep your expectations high, work hard and have fun doing it.

I would be remised if I failed to humbly offer my sincere gratitude relative to all of the support personnel behind the scene. The many good people from business and operations and curriculum and instruction are also dedicated to high expectations and improved student achievement. When the schools look good and students are performing at a high level, we all have reason to celebrate.

I am proud of what you have accomplished for our students and honored to be apart of your team. You have demonstrated great work for the 2008-2009 school year.

Our challenge as we move forward is to increase the rigor, improve the relationships and relevance regarding what and how we teach, as well as reduce the response time to schools from the supportive services areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herman Brister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "B".

Dr. Herman Brister
Interim Chief Academic Officer

Cc: John Dilworth
Katie Blunski
Paula Fabre
Catherine Fletcher
Paula Johnson
Angela Lee