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November 16, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In November 2014, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted a new statewide achievement test, AzMERIT, for Arizona students. AzMERIT was first administered in spring 2015 to students in grades 3 through 12. AzMerit will provide students, parents and educators with information about areas of academic strength and weakness, and will measure student achievement toward meeting the Arizona education standards.

Your student completed the AzMerit test in spring 2015. The assessment results in the areas of Math and English Language Arts (ELA) are enclosed, along with the AzMerit Family Report Guide. The AzMerit Assessment measures the knowledge and skills taught in this grade and subject area. The score shows how well your student understands that content. A student who scores Proficient or Highly Proficient on AzMERIT is likely to be ready for the next grade level of subject matter.

Because AzMERIT is a new test, the first year test scores set a new baseline from which progress will be measured. **Your child's score, as well as school and district results, may appear lower this year because the tests measure more complex skills including critical thinking, problem solving, and analysis. A low score does not mean your child did not improve or learned less. It simply means that the expectations have been raised for students and with these higher expectations, lower scores can be anticipated initially.** These scores cannot be compared to previous test scores since they focus on different skills.

\*\*\*\*\*INSERT SPECIFIC SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM INFORMATION HERE\*\*\*\*\*

It is important to remember that multiple factors and assessments are important in determining a child's academic achievement. To further explore your child's academic achievement and to learn how to support content understanding, talk with his or her teachers. Additional information can be found on the Prescott Unified School District website at [www.prescottschools.com/azmerit](http://www.prescottschools.com/azmerit)

Sincerely,

**School Principal**