

· LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ·

Mount Olive Middle School is 'benchmark' school

EDITOR:

Last week misinformation about district test scores appeared in a front-page headline of the Aug. 23, 2007, issue of the Mount Olive Chronicle.

This totally erroneous headline indicated that the middle school had failed federal test standards. Not only is this information incorrect but in actuality, Mount Olive Middle School (MOMS) was recognized as a benchmark school in April by the Business Coalition for Educational Excellence and is one of only 69 schools in New Jersey to achieve this designation for 2006.

This award is based on stu-

dent performance on state standardized tests and means that MOMS outperformed other schools of similar size and similar student population, as defined by low income and limited English proficient status. The school was recognized and received a display banner at a breakfast celebration on April 25 in Jamesburg.

The text of the Mount Olive Chronicle article correctly referred to an "early warning" notification received for the Chester M. Stephens Elementary School (CMS).

This notification in no way indicates a failing school; instead,

it refers only to a specific testing sub-category made up of special education students with whom the CMS administration and staff will be working to improve their test performance. Overall, our district scores are increasing.

I appreciate the opportunity to note the progress we are making in standardized tests and particularly the excellent work being done by Mount Olive Middle School.

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Superintendent of Schools
Mount Olive Township

