



*"We Are Community Builders... Aiming High and Achieving Greatness"*

515 West Fourth Street \*\* Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

908-754-3918 \*\* [www.ucteams.org](http://www.ucteams.org)

October 1, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important federal education law. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. This bipartisan measure reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

The Right -To – Know law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Title I funds will be use school wide therefore all students will be able to attend our after-school STEM Program. Also, we will offer ICS (In Class Support) for grades K -12 and will be having an extended PARCC readiness Boot Camp to prepare students for the PARCC exam in May 2018.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers who teach in core content areas must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of a "highly qualified teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have a four-year college degree, a regular teaching certificate/license along with Proof of his/her knowledge in the subject they teach. For the 2018-2019 school year we are presently still in search of a Built Environment teacher. This position is being covered by a qualified substitute teacher with Substitute Teacher Certification according to Statute. The teacher has 60 plus credit hours at an accredited college or university.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We believe that every teacher in our school is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child, and we will do everything possible to help our teachers who may not yet meet the legal definition required by the federal government.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with your child's teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on ESSA, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education (USDE) Web site at [www.ed.gov/nclb](http://www.ed.gov/nclb).

By partnering, families and educators can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

*Sheila L. Thorpe*  
*Executive Director/Founder*

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Sheila L. Thorpe  
Executive Director/Founder

Brian Albanese  
Principal