

## **Gloucester City School District Meets the Challenge**

Gloucester City School District continues to thrive despite the tough economic times. Although there was a slight increase in State funding, the district fell \$1.5 million dollars short of the anticipated 2011 budget. The 1% increase was welcomed in comparison to the cuts of last year, but still not sufficient to cover the rising costs in all areas of operation. District administrators worked tirelessly on trimming their budgets to accommodate the shortfall. Freezing our current fund balance, carrying forward reserve accounts, modifying special education costs, consolidating administrative assignments and closing the Highland Park building allowed the district to minimize the tax impact on the city. The total school tax for Gloucester City is an increase of \$16,747. That is an increase of approximately \$10.92 per year or less than \$1.00 per month on the average household assessed at \$70,000. Our schools continue their success through quality professional development, innovative educational programs, expansion of student use of technology and supplemental academic supports.

Gloucester City School District applied for supplemental funds to support after school initiatives and child care. The district attained the NJ After 3 and 21<sup>st</sup> Century grants for the 2010 – 2011 school year. These grants are competitive and we are honored to have been chosen based on our ability to provide quality programs. We anticipate receiving these grants for the next five years.

It is extremely disappointing that despite the best efforts of the district and city government, our new middle school project was not chosen in the first round of funding. We will continue to lobby the Department of Education, School Development Authority and our legislators to build the school so desperately needed for our children. It has been a long arduous journey for all concerned and rest assured our efforts will continue.

Special thanks to the community for your continued support of our programs and initiatives. You are a vital part of our school district.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Spaventa  
Superintendent