

David E. Owens Middle School
470 Marion Avenue
New Milford, N.J. 07646
201-265-8661
www.newmilfordschools.org

James DeLalla
Principal

Timothy S. Coughlin
Vice Principal



Dear Parent or Guardian,

At a recent Parent Advisory meeting, we discussed the opportunity for students to re-take or re-do assessments. The New Milford School District is in the process of revising its grading policy. In preparation for the anticipated changes, teachers have been asked to establish a re-take procedure for their classes this year.

It is our intent to create an environment where our students advocate for their own learning, including the acquisition of content or the development of skills. Your child may be asked to retake assessments in all or in part. The classroom teacher will work with your child to develop a plan for the retakes. These plans may vary among teachers and content; not all retakes are alike. In most cases, the student will be required to complete additional practice or attend extra help sessions. We acknowledge that student achievement is often the result of a partnership between parents, students and teachers. Subsequently, parents may be asked to sign off on the plan. In the end, we are looking to promote tenacity, hold students accountable for evidence of their learning, and ultimately, advance student achievement.

Even when not required to do so, any student who feels they have not fully demonstrated their learning/achievement on an assessment, may see his or her teacher to discuss a possible retake plan. It is essential to remember the focal point of this practice is the *learning* not the *grade*. We recognize that some may find this practice unnecessary, or unfair to those who demonstrated their achievement the first time. But even the most high stakes tests can be taken over and over again: the Bar exam, medical licensing exams, SATs, the CPA exam, and more. We strive to prepare students for a world that actually allows for retakes and re-dos. Our belief is that all students learn at a different pace, and that the real learning or transfer of knowledge happens when the students must revisit their work and learn from their mistakes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JDC", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

James DeLalla
Principal

"Committed to Excellence"