

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today



A publication for employees of the St. Clair County School System
August 21, 2009

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

The 2009-2010 school year got off to a great start last week. It was nice to hear that St. Clair County's students were safe and eager to be back in school.

The total enrollment, including the pre-k programs, for the St. Clair County School System was 8,403 students, which is an increase of approximately 80 students from the end of the 2008-09 school year. Our school system has experienced growth in all school communities – of course some more than others.

The reports of student performance on the ARMT / SAT10 and AHSGE are often indicators which prospective residents review prior to relocating in the county.

Employees and students, you are to be commended for meeting proficiency standards on the ARMT / SAT10 and AHSGE at levels resulting in our system making AYP!! This is a time of celebration but also a time continue to work hard and to dig in our heels with determination that we will accomplish AYP again next year. Remember that the AMO (Annual Measurable Objectives) increases every year. If fact many grades will experience extensive increases in the required proficiency level this year. The closer we get to 2014 with the expected 100% proficiency, the more drastic our margin will increase.

Teachers, you hold the key to building relationships that will encourage, inspire and motivate students to meet that 100% proficiency rate.

ENGAGE, ENGAGE, ENGAGE, STUDENTS...

Teaching Smarter with the Brain in Focus:
HSTW/Neuro-education Connection Research states:

The most important factor affecting student learning is the teacher...

Teaching hasn't occurred until someone has learned...

The brain prefers a "pulse learning pattern"...

Focused...Diffused...Focused...Diffused... Learning

Best learning occurs when interrupted by breaks of 2-5 minutes for diffusions...

How long is best for focused activities?

Answer is Age of the learner plus 2 minutes... At-risk learners a teacher must subtract 2 minutes...

Young learners - 5-10 minutes of focused learning/activity, then diffuse

Adolescent learners – 15-20 minutes of focused learning/activity, then diffuse

Adults – 20-24 minutes of focused learning/activity, then diffuse

"Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today" is a biweekly publication of the Superintendent's Office ~ Jenny Seals, Superintendent



CHARACTER EDUCATION Traits of the Week

Relationships/Caring

Research states that the most important factor affecting student learning is the teacher that develops relationships and cares about their students.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 24th—DIBELS and Discovery Ed window begins...

September 1– District Accreditation Team II meets 9:00-11:00

September 3– Called Board Meeting and Budget Hearing 5:00

September 7– Labor Day (school closed)



District-wide Accreditation

Our district's vision is "Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today." We have to prepare our students for the 21st century. This provides focus for all stakeholders throughout St. Clair County. As I stated at Institute, we are committed to do "Whatever It Takes". Remember, failure is not an option. Our 2009-2010 district goals are :

- ◇ To increase reading in all core subjects
- ◇ To engage students in all classes
- ◇ To increase awareness of the special education student's academic goals