

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today



A publication for employees of the St. Clair County School System
October 1, 2009

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

A Focus on Learning

Schools that function as professional learning communities operate on the assumption that the **fundamental purpose of schools is to ensure high levels of learning for all students**. When a school adopts learning for all students as its core mission-the very reason it exists-virtually every aspect of the school is affected, both structurally and culturally. In a school that functions as a professional learning community, the emphasis is on embedding the learning mission into the day-to-day work of **the entire school**. **This is done by focusing intensively on four fundamental questions.**

- ◇ If we believe the fundamental purpose of school is learning, **what is it we expect all students to learn?**
- ◇ If we believe the fundamental purpose of schools is learning and we are clear about what it is we expect students to learn, **how will we know if they have learned it?**
- ◇ If the fundamental purpose of schools is learning and we are clear about what it is we expect them to learn and we have a system in place to monitor the learning of each student, **how will we, as a school, respond when students experience difficulty with their learning?**
- ◇ If we believe the fundamental purpose of schools is learning, and we are clear about what we expect students to learn, and we have a system in place to monitor the learning of each student, **how will the school extend and enrich the learning of students when they learn the essential outcomes?**

Ultimately, to become a successful Professional Learning Community, we must **"do the work"** as though we really mean it-as though we want schools, classrooms, and lessons to be good enough for our children and grandchildren! **There are no substitutes for deep understanding, commitment, hard work, passion, and persistence.**

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



CHARACTER EDUCATION Trait of the Week Character

Character is like a tree and reputation like it's shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

President Abraham Lincoln



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 5th**— "SAMS" meeting at JSU (High Schools)
- October 8th**— Principals training on "Response to Intervention (RTI)" at the BOE, 9:00 am-11:30 am
- October 15th**— 8:30am- Coordinators' meeting
9:30am- Principals' meeting
Report Cards released
- October 16th**— CIP due to Ms. Bailey
- October 22nd**— Parenting Day 4:00am-7:00am



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**

