

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

April 21, 2009

We have a lot of great things happening in our schools, and all of those things add up to success. This week kicks off one of those areas; Wayne Local Schools will administer The Ohio Achievement Test (OAT). Grades 3-8 will participate in the OAT. No Child Left Behind establishes multiple measure approaches to assessing learning and achievement. We want to know what our students know and can do. Our highly qualified teachers are facilitating a high level of instruction with the goal of more than a year's growth annually.

Waynesville students annually participate in district and state-wide testing. The results from the tests help us to assess the overall academic achievement of our students, schools, and rigor of our curriculum. The Ohio Achievement Tests for grades 3-8 measure students on what they know and are able to do by the end of each grade level. The tests also help to prepare students for the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) which is a tenth grade test; students must pass the OGT in order to graduate. The achievement tests also help to identify when students have or gained a strong understanding of grade level materials and may be ready to be challenged by more advanced concepts and activities. It is important to note they do not test a child's intelligence or aptitude. If a student does not meet grade level benchmarks the tests help to identify specific areas in which a student needs extra support and practice within our school district's intervention services. The results of the tests assist us with facilitating maximum learning for every student. Our past scores acknowledge the work we have achieved, however they are only one piece of the total picture we use to evaluate ourselves.

The most important component of our assessment program remains the daily assessment by our highly qualified teachers which provides authentic and extensive information about the student's performance. The relationship between teachers and families is vital to our success. I emphasize ongoing efforts by our teachers and families to work together to ensure that each of our students receives the attention and support that he or she need.

It has been stressed to our students to perform well on The Ohio Achievement Test; however it is a yearly check or opportunity to take a snapshot of a student's performance. True excellence occurs everyday in our classrooms and related activities. There are many opportunities throughout the school year for our students to showcase their strengths and abilities. As we approach the last full month of the school year many year-end celebrations will occur; these plus testing truly assess the learning that has taken place here at Wayne Local Schools. Continue to read Good News Friday and take some time to attend one or more of the year-end activities that will be happening here at Waynesville.