

NORTH ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL  
NOMINATED FOR STATE RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the students, staff, administration, parents, and community of the North Adams attendance area. Mr. Rodney Wallace, North Adams High School Principal, and I received word late last month that NAHS was one of the schools nominated for the State Superintendent's School of Promise Award. The State Board of Education will recognize all of the 2005 recipients of this award at its October meeting, including North Adams High School. The State Board of Education will also send a banner to each of the schools receiving this award.

To date, all of Adams County's high schools have been recognized as Schools of Promise. Schools earn this distinction for their positive efforts in helping students achieve from their subgroup populations. As I have shared with you in previous articles, our district's two major subgroup populations include Economically Disadvantaged Students and Students with Disabilities. For further information on the criteria used in selecting a School of Promise, let's refer to the following.

All public elementary and secondary schools administering Ohio Proficiency, Ohio Achievement, or Ohio Graduation Tests will be considered. Schools will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. The school met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements as defined by the federal government based on 2004-2005 data.

2. If there were at least five students who were supposed to graduate in 2003-2004, the school met the AYP graduation rate criterion of 73.6%.
3. At least 40% of the students in the school met low-income criteria based on 2004-2005 data from the Education Management Information System.
4. At least 75% of the students in *each* of the tested grade levels (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10) in the school passed the 2004-2005 Ohio Proficiency, Ohio Achievement, and/or Ohio Graduation Tests in reading or mathematics.
5. At least 75% of the students in the major racial and ethnic groups in the school passed the Ohio Proficiency, Ohio Achievement, and/or Ohio Graduation Tests in reading or mathematics.
  - a. At least 60% of the students in the major racial and ethnic groups (with five or more test takers) in *each* of the tested grade levels (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10) in the school passed the 2004-2005 Ohio Proficiency, Ohio Achievement, and/or Ohio Graduation Tests in reading or mathematics.
6. At least 75% of the students who met low-income criteria in the school passed the Ohio Proficiency, Ohio Achievement, and/or Ohio Graduation Tests in reading or mathematics.
  - a. At least 60% % of the students who met low-income criteria (if there were at least five test takers meeting low-income criteria) in *each* of the tested grade levels (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10) in the school passed the 2004-2005 Ohio Proficiency, Ohio Achievement, and/or Ohio Graduation Tests in reading or mathematics.

7. At least 75% of students in tenth grade passed the 2003-2004 Ohio Graduation Tests in reading or mathematics.

It's always great to hear about the successes that occur within any given school district. After all, it is a direct reflection of the efforts of all involved in the earning of this particular honor. NAHS has enjoyed many positive academic accomplishments. Being named as a School of Promise is the latest. Congratulations!

#### O.C.A.N. COMES TO WEST UNION SCHOOLS

The Ohio College Access Network (OCAN) is coming to the West Union schools. Mr. Dennis Sizemore, Principal of West Union High School, learned recently that his building may be in line for some major dollars and additional staff to help implement this program. Each of the five counties served by Southern State Community College is being targeted for this project. Even though WUHS and West Union Elementary are the pilot schools for the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District, SSCC officials are hopeful that this program can be extended to our other two attendance areas in the future.

What, exactly, is OCAN? What is the goal of this program? Perhaps, the following information will clear up these questions and more. The Southern Ohio Center of Excellence's OCAN Program is a college access program which provides opportunities for all qualified students from Adams, Brown, Highland, Clinton, and Fayette counties to go onto higher education. The goals of the OCAN Program are to:

- Motivate and encourage elementary, middle, and high school students to stay in school and pursue higher education.
- Advise and counsel students and their parents regarding schools for higher education, scholarships, and financial aid.
- Provide funding for college to students who have demonstrated financial need.

Educational attainment is directly proportional to economic prosperity for individuals, cities, counties, and states. According to Ohio Governor Bob Taft, “As we strive to compete nationally and throughout the world in the new economy, Ohio cannot afford to lag behind other states in the number of workers with higher education.” More of our citizens must attain some form of college or advanced technical education. It’s a matter of survival.

Congratulations to the West Union schools on receiving this good news. I am quite optimistic about the possible positive effect that it will have on students and families. If you have any questions, I would suggest that you contact WUHS at 544-5553 and ask to speak with Mr. Dennis Sizemore, Principal, or Mr. Troy Grooms or Mrs. Barbara Crothers, guidance counselors. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent