

A VARIETY OF THOUGHTS TO SHARE

Recently, our district presented an assembly to students in grades 4-7, and 8-10. The assemblies were presented by a nationally acclaimed group known as the Power Team. This group has presented thousands of school assemblies throughout the country, and in other countries. Their messages are designed to motivate students to stay in school, set high goals, refrain from alcohol or drug use, treat others the way that you want to be treated, etc. Basically, this group reinforces the same ideals that we promote on a daily basis with an element of entertainment that we cannot provide.

While I do not regret having scheduled the Power Team for our students to see and hear, I do regret having not laid a better foundation for parents prior to the assemblies. Had I written and sent home to parents a descriptor about the assemblies, few, if any, concerns regarding the content of the assembly would have evolved. Though there is a very real religious element to the Power Team assemblies away from the school setting, this religious element does not appear during a school performance. Therefore, my apologies to anyone who thought that I was trying to promote religion in our schools. This was the farthest thing from my mind when the assemblies were scheduled. In this case, the old adage of “an ounce of prevention” (on my part) would have been “worth a pound of cure” afterwards, is most appropriate. Many thanks to the folks at Gear-Up for their financial support of this project.

STUDENTS RECEIVE DIPLOMAS

You might think that this headline is a little out of place. After all, students receive their diplomas at graduation ceremonies in late May. Well, most students do receive their diplomas in May. Some, for various reasons, wind up completing coursework later, and through a less conventional approach. One such method is through American School. We have several

students enrolled through this correspondence educational option, all at the high school level. This has been a particularly successful year in helping seniors realize their goal of completing high school and earning a diploma. To date, at least five students from the Class of 2006 have successfully completed work through American School and are in line to receive their diplomas.

Completing the requirements for earning a high school diploma is a huge step toward becoming a more successful and productive member of our adult society as we know it. Certainly, earning a diploma is not the only important milestone on the way to becoming a successful and productive adult, but it is huge to say the least. My compliments and congratulations to the students who have persevered, completed the necessary requirements, and have earned their diplomas, albeit on a different schedule. Your futures should be much brighter. Go for it! Anyone with a question regarding the American School option should contact Mr. Richard Shoemaker at 544-4431.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

There's hardly a week that goes by that I am not asked about the progress being made on our new elementary building project. Most people ask because they are truly interested and want to participate in the community meetings to help design our new buildings. Plus they are just anxious to see our students receive the benefits of these new buildings. This, of course, is a good thing! We want people to be involved with this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

While we are getting closer to the point of scheduling community meetings, we aren't quite ready yet. The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) has named the construction manager (CM) for our project. That company will be Bovis Lend Lease, a nationally known organization.

The OSFC has also appointed someone from within their ranks as the Project Administrator (PA). This person is Todd Hager.

Soon, representatives from the district, our architect, Mr. Hager, and other representatives from Bovis Lend Lease will convene a meeting to review our recently “completed” Program of Requirements (POR) for any needed revisions or updates. Once this has occurred, the POR will be presented to OSFC for their approval, as well as to our own Board of Education for their approval. All of these steps are important and take a little time to accomplish.

Hopefully, by mid to late fall we will be ready to begin work on the design phase with our staff and community members. Be assured that I will let you know when and where these meetings will be held in our attendance areas. If you have any questions about this article, feel free to contact me at 544-5586.

Charles P. Kimble
Superintendent