

DISTRICT FEATURED IN SPECIAL REPORT

On Monday, October 8, 2007, Reporter Anthony Bailey and his cameraman from the Ohio News Network visited the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District. The purpose of their visit was to do a story on our new “green” elementary schools that will soon be built at North Adams, Peebles, and West Union. Those interviewed for this special report were Kevin Kreuz from Steed Hammond Paul, Architects, Joe Ferdelman from Heapy Engineering, and myself.

While I had never thought too much about it before, apparently the act of building three “green” schools simultaneously is a newsworthy topic in our state. Why are our new elementary school called “green” schools? It is because they will be environmentally-friendly buildings without taking away from the natural environment. The biggest component of our project will be geothermal heating and cooling at all three buildings. Second, all classroom windows will face either north or south, thus taking advantage of indirect lighting. Third, the amount of artificial lighting used in the classroom will be automatically controlled by the amount of indirect lighting coming in from the outside through those north-south window exposures. Fourth, the major portion of the roofing materials will be of a substance and color to reflect light and heat rather than absorb these elements. Certainly, there are other elements that will go into making our building project one that can be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified. In the end, this will be good for our students and staff, as well as our taxpayers.

The large display boards have arrived for each of the new elementary buildings. They were set up at the bus garage in Peebles for the October 22nd Board of Education Meeting, and are now be on display in the present elementary buildings.

OHIO'S TESTS TOO EASY?

Perhaps, like me, you saw a recent article in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* regarding Ohio's Achievement Tests. The author painted a critical picture of the tests based upon a study conducted by the Fordham Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Fordham Foundation in Dayton, Ohio. It seems that someone or some agency is always conducting an investigation of some sort into some aspect of public education. The interesting thing about studies and data is that you can often use the data in such a way as to make it reflect whatever you want it to reflect.

As I have often stated, I am all for accountability. Our school district is currently rated "Effective," the highest ranking in our history, and the lowest ranking that should be acceptable to any of us. If we drop the ball, academically speaking, we are deserving of criticism. Are the achievement tests in reading too easy? If they are, I have never heard anyone mention it before. Perhaps, the real goal is to constantly change the tests so that students and teachers never really know what to expect. Think about it. High Ohio Achievement Test scores provide less opportunity for criticism of academic success in the public schools.

What I do know is this. Our teachers, aides, principals, and students work hard each day at school. Teachers are teaching the State's curriculum, and students are being tested routinely for mastery of the curriculum content. Our goal is success for all students and failure for none. I am proud of the efforts of our students and staff against ever-increasingly difficult standards. I encourage both of these groups to keep up those efforts and the positive results.

REMINDER

Students and their parents are reminded that there will be no school on Monday, October 29, 2007, due to teacher inservice. Classes will resume for students on Tuesday, October 30th.

If you have any questions about this or any other article, please feel free to give me a call.

Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent