

“As Mr. Seas It for the Month of November”

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Adams County Board of Education for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent of the ACOVSD. As I enter into my 14th year as a school superintendent, I would also like to take this opportunity to **thank you**, the citizens of Adams County, for continuing to support the work we are doing at the ACOVSD. Recently, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released the 2016 District Report Card for ACOVSD. Upon reviewing the report card and the grades given per component, I couldn't but be reminded of the movie, “The Good, The Bad, The Ugly”. ACOVSD was graded as follows: **Achievement (D grade)**: The Achievement component represents the number of students who passed the state tests and how well they performed on them.

Gap Closing (F grade): The Gap Closing component shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for our most vulnerable populations of students in English language arts, math and graduation.

K-3 Literacy (F grade): The K-3 Literacy component looks at how successful the school is at getting struggling readers on track to proficiency in third grade and beyond.

Progress (B grade): The Progress component looks closely at the growth that all students are making based on their past performances. **Graduation**

Rate (B grade): The Graduation Rate component looks at the percent of students who are successfully finishing high school with a diploma in four or five years.

Prepared for Success (D grade): Whether training in a technical field or preparing for work or college, the Prepared for Success component looks at how well prepared Ohio's students are for all future opportunities.

Per the 2016 District Report Card and the observations I've made over the past year, we can and must perform better on the Report Card. One observation and component on the Report Card that I'm encouraged by is

the Progress component. Progress demonstrates the amount of growth our students are making over a school year. Growth, often referred to “value-added” (i.e. the value-added for each student), demonstrates that our students are learning.

Taking a look at the Prepared for Success component, I’m concerned that we are not preparing our students for life beyond high school. Can our students go to college and be successful? Likewise, did our students receive a skill (Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center) and gain full time employment? Much can and will continue to be said about the manner by which ODE grades a school district. However, and not reflected in the ODE Report Card, there are many events and activities that our students have participated in and have been very successful (extracurricular and co-curricular activities). For those things our students participate in not measured by the ODE Report Card, I’m grateful for the student success. To our Board of Education, administration, teachers, aides, secretaries, custodians, mechanics, bus drivers, and cooks, **thanks** for the work you are doing for our students. Likewise, if I hold true to my belief that our parents are the “#1 educators” of their kids, then **thanks** to our parents for giving us the students (i.e. your kids) to work with and supporting our efforts to educate your kids.

As we look at what is going on at the local, state, federal, and even international levels of government, there is a great need for education. Education, or in other words the act of imparting knowledge or skill to members of our society, is of extreme importance to our students and their quality of life. Locally, and as a school/community, we will need to do our part to give our students the opportunity to collaborate and compete in the “real world”. Since ACOVSD is “in loco parentis” (Latin for “in place of the parent”), communication between the school and the parent is critical in helping to educate our students. Can We Better Educate Our Students? Yes We Can! If we as a school/community take the time to study, research, and communicate what our students are going to be presented with when they graduate from high school, then I’m convinced we will discover the **NEED** to do more.