

As we begin the 2005-2006 school year, I would like to share a few well-deserved “*thank yous*” with all of you. First, I want to thank our Transportation Manager and all bus mechanics, both the regulars and those who helped us out during the summer months. These folks are charged with the responsibility of making certain that our bus fleet is in top-notch condition. This is quite an undertaking when you stop to consider that we have fifty-one regular bus routes, along with fourteen older buses used for spares. Once again, all of our buses passed the Ohio Highway Patrol inspection on the first attempt. This is certainly a great example of team effort to produce the desired results. On behalf of our board members and our parents, I extend our thanks and appreciation to our workers at the bus garage.

Next, I would like to publicly thank the numerous teachers and administrators who attended several meetings over the summer to begin the process of writing short cycle assessments. Thanks to their efforts, we have a solid start on these district-wide documents so that our students and teachers can begin using them in September. We have focused our efforts in the areas of math and reading. These are the two areas which are used in determining whether a school or district has met adequate yearly progress (AYP) with student subgroup populations. Our goal is to complete the SCAs for math and reading this year, and to get started on SCAs for science and social studies. Again, on behalf of the Board of Education and our parents, I extend our thanks and appreciation to our teachers and administrators involved with this much-needed project for our students.

Then, as I reflect back on our opening inservice day activities, I am reminded of how much our District Professional Development Team (DPDT) has matured in the last fourteen months. This group of teachers, counselors, building administrators, and central office administrators did an admirable job in helping to facilitate a small group break-out activity for our entire teaching and administrative staff during the morning activities of August 22nd. As I observed each of the thirty groups on more than one occasion, I found all groups on task and interacting in the manner in which I had hoped. The comments that I have heard or read thus far have all been very positive. I can't say enough about the efforts of our DPDT. On behalf of the Board of Education, district staff, and our students and parents, I extend our thanks and appreciation to these educational leaders in our district.

Now that the first week of school has come and gone, and the 2005-2006 school year is in full swing, I want to thank the parents. You entrust us to encourage, work with, and find ways for your children to succeed in today's public schools. You entrust with us our society's most precious commodity, our most highly prized natural resource---your daughters and sons. After all, schools exist to promote the education of ALL students, and not to provide job security for me or anyone else. I very much appreciate the overwhelming support that the public gives us, as well as the reminders we receive when we fall short. No one is perfect, be it our customers (the students) or the service providers (school employees). However, this doesn't mean that we shouldn't or that we don't strive for perfection. I hope that this will be a fantastic year for your children in our public school system. On behalf of the Board of Education, and all of our staff members,

I extend our thanks to the parents for the opportunities that we have to educate your children.

Finally, I want to thank our teaching staff. Aside from being with you on August 22nd, and briefly visiting with many of you, I have also had the opportunity to be out in the buildings during the first week of school. You make me very proud with your optimistic attitude, your willingness to strive for excellence, and your professional appearance. I believe that education is an intensely honorable profession. We should be proud to be educators and in the fact that we serve the youth of our communities. We set not only an example, but also the tone for expectations of students by everything that we do. This includes our appearance and demeanor. I am proud of our staffs and our students, and I hope that this will be a great year for all of us.

P.A.S.S. UPDATE

People Advocating Superior Schools (PASS) now has its own website, thanks to the technical efforts of one of our PASS members, John Lewis. Since school district funds cannot be used to promote any sort of levy, the expenses associated with this new website are being paid for entirely from PASS funds. You are encouraged to go to this website frequently to check on the latest news regarding our proposed building program, committees that have been established, the ongoing efforts of those committees, and so forth. The website can be accessed at www.superschools.org. Again, many thanks to John Lewis for his efforts, and to all employees and community members who are involved in the PASS movement.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent