

The PawPrint

*ODE Excellent Rating 2001-2012
2003 National Blue Ribbon
School of Excellence*

HOW DOES A SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT EXPLAIN THIS SITUATION?

As you read the superintendent's report in this edition of the Paw Print, I would like you to keep the following question in mind: "How does a school superintendent explain this situation?" This question will be important as you look at the measures of success for the students at Kalida Local Schools, and how the Ohio Department of Education at the direction of the Ohio General Assembly and Governor Kasich has changed the local district report card requirements.

KALIDA LOCAL SCHOOL SPRING ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the staff, students, and parents on the numerous recent statewide and national recognitions Kalida Local Schools has received. The district has had a great spring academically, and has had the following records of success recognized by a number of different organizations.

- The Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators recognized Kalida Elementary as a Hall of Fame School. Kalida Elementary was one of only five schools in the state of Ohio to receive the 2013 Hall of Fame School Recognition Award.
- **EXCELLENT TWELVE YEARS IN A ROW** - Kalida Local Schools was recognized as an "**Excellent**" school district by the Ohio Department of Education for the 2011-2012 school year. This the twelfth consecutive year Kalida Local Schools has achieved this designation. Congratulations to our staff, students, and parents on continuing Kalida Local Schools "Tradition of Excellence".
- *U.S. News and World Report* - Congratulations to the students, staff, parents, and community of Kalida on being recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top 1300 high schools in the nation. Kalida High School was ranked as the 60th best high school in Ohio as well.
- *Newsweek* - Kalida Local Schools was recognized by *Newsweek* for having one of the best high schools in the nation and in Ohio. *Newsweek* analyzed the data from thousands of high schools to find the country's best. There are countless ways to analyze high schools. For the last two years, *Newsweek* has considered the nation's high schools with a simple concept: to find the ones that best prepare students for college. Therefore, Kalida Local Schools was ranked as one of the top forty schools in Ohio, and one of the top one thousand schools in the nation.
- Congratulations to the sophomore students, their parents, and the staff at Kalida Local Schools. We received more exciting academic news this week about our district Ohio Graduation Test scores. The results show the percentage of students who passed in each content area.

- **Writing – 100%**
- **Reading – 98%**
- **Math – 100%**
- **Social Studies – 100%**
- **Science – 100%**

In addition to the good news about the students' success with the overall passage rate, the overwhelming majority of our students also scored very high on the tests. The rates listed below show the percentage of the sophomore students who scored at the accelerated and advanced level.

- **Writing – 76%**
- **Reading – 80%**
- **Math – 89%**
- **Social Studies – 86%**
- **Science – 78%**

Thanks to everyone involved for all of your hard work. (Continued on next page.)

KALIDA LOCAL SCHOOLS ACT RESULTS

The students at Kalida High School were also successful while taking the ACT Test. The enclosed report and tables demonstrate how well prepared our students are for college in comparison to their peers from around the state of Ohio. Our students consistently scored above the state average in all individual content areas of ACT testing, as well as in overall average scores. While it is not depicted in this chart, Kalida High School obtains these results while also having one of the highest overall percentages of students in the state taking the ACT Test. Out of 63 graduates last year, 56 students, or 88%, took the ACT Test.

NEW ODE REPORT CARD CONFUSING

The Ohio Department of Education recently released early District Report Card simulations. School districts in Ohio have been arguing with members of the Ohio General Assembly and the Ohio Department of Education for months about the confusing, conflicting, and seemingly arbitrary methodology in some areas of the new state report cards. As you read the spreadsheet included in the Paw Print, you will see that in spite of all of the national and state recognitions we have received this year, Kalida Local Schools would have received three C's and a D on the new report card. You can see why it is so difficult for teachers, administrators, students, and parents to understand the methodology behind the new Ohio District Report Card, when you look at the success our students are having in almost every test and measure. It is difficult to grasp how such a successful district can have the grades listed on the simulation spreadsheet.

The good news is Kalida Local Schools are able to maintain high standards of success while spending less than the state average per pupil. Kalida Local Schools also spend significantly less than many of the largest districts in Ohio, while producing much better results. If the state had used the new methodology this year, Kalida Local Schools once again would have met every indicator on the report card. The Performance Indicators are measures of the students overall passing scores on the state's achievement and graduation tests, while the Value Added scores measure student growth.

One area of concern for Kalida Local Schools would be the Value-Added scores we have received. Value Added Scores are based on students showing one year's growth during the school year, and while this initially seems to make sense as a measure, you have to remember the majority of the students in the district often score in the Accelerated or Advanced range on the state OAA and OGT tests. Many smaller schools are also at a disadvantage because they do not have a large enough student population to have a statistically significant number of students in all subgroup testing areas. This is why certain districts in Putnam County do not have scores listed in some areas of the spreadsheet.

For more information, there is a link on the Kalida Local School's district web page describing the components of the new Ohio Department of Education new School Report Card.

BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION

While student growth is important, the bottom line in most industries still revolves around achievement and success. This focus on achievement seems to have served Kalida Local Schools well when you look at the success of the district in preparing our students for their college and career choices. Kalida Local Schools "Tradition of Excellence" was built on the high standards of success and expectations the community has for the students and staff of the district. Our students succeed and achieve at a high level whether they stay at Kalida High School, participate in post-secondary college options, or attend Vantage Career Center.

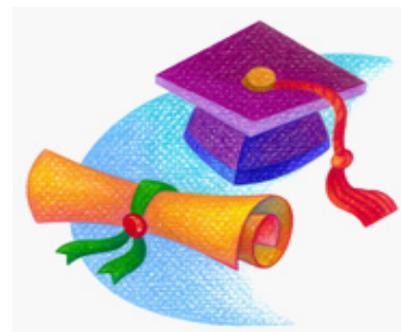
It is very difficult for me to believe that many of our local industries would rely so heavily on these new areas of success which have been deemed so important by our elected leaders and the Ohio Department of Education. I cannot imagine any local business putting a greater value on production process that continually fails but shows improvement, than on one which achieves an extremely high rate of success. To make this comparison to our latest OGT scores, would a business rather have production method 'A' that meets 100% success on four areas and 98% success on a fifth area, or use production method 'B' that has an overall failing record in all five categories, but is showing statistically more growth than high achieving production method 'A'?

This is the struggle with answering the question: "How does a school superintendent explain this situation?" When all of the evidence is examined, what message should district staff, students, residents, and parents take from this information? The evidence overwhelmingly suggests Kalida Local Schools is doing an excellent job of preparing our students to be successful in their careers and at college. Our students are well prepared, and thanks to the support of our parents, community and staff, we are able to achieve those results at a lower cost than the state average. The issue with the new state report card is the bias it has for low achieving districts by over emphasizing the Value-Added growth measures. When your achievement rates are so low it is much easier to show one year's worth of growth, as opposed to a district like Kalida where two-thirds or more of our students are achieving at the accelerated or advanced levels. ~ *Superintendent Don Horstman*

Presenting the Class of 2013

Taylor A. Aguirre
Skylar R. Basinger
Andrea E. Bellmann
Leah A. Berheide
Damon A Birkemeier
Benjamin J. Cleemput
Bailey D. Dangler
Jessica R. Doepker
Anthony J. Dunn
Sean M. Ellerbrock
Ryan G. Erhart
Carrie M. Gerding
Summer N. Holtkamp
Kristi S. Honigfort
Austin R. Horstman
Abby J. Hosler
Rob J. Kleman
Adam G. Knueve
Ryan J. Korte
Kyle J. Landin
Richard F. Langhals
Andrew C. Lause
Phillip R. Loveland
Rafaela Marone
Cody M. Mathew

Emily M. Melroy
Alyssa R. Odenweller
Neil M. Recker
Dustin R. Rosselit
Katie M. Schmitz
Emily K. Schnipke
Kendra N. Schroeder
Shelby L. Schroeder
Kayla N. Siefker
Amy M. Smith
Joshua D. Smith
Alexander J. Snavley
Ben R. Stechschulte
Anthony D. Swift
Casey L. Unverferth
Julia M. Vandemark
Kaylyn M. Verhoff
Shelly R. Verhoff
Abigail M. Vorst
Kyle C. Vorst
Eric D. Warnecke
Jacob A. Warnimont
Aric T. Webken
Danae N. Webken
Jordan M. Wurth
Joel C. Zeller



Class Song: *For Always, Forever*
by Every Avenue

Class Flower: Amaryllis

Class Color: Dark Red

Motto: "We live for the days we'll never forget with the friends we'll always remember."

"A Night under the Sea"

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2013 KHS Prom a success: the Kalida Knights of Columbus for loaning us the use of their facility, April Gladieux-Campbell (*Your Perfect Day Wedding Planning*) for donating her decorating skills and materials, Ellen Millott for designing our under-



water displays, Dean Maag (lights), Mary Lou Merschman (cook), Troy McClure (dj), Sandy Westrick (*Uptown Designs*), Leroy Hermiller, Greg Goergens, and Ken Stech-

schulte. Thanks also to the many parents, administrators and teachers who provided food, construction help, and decorating skills. We hope everyone enjoyed "A Night under the Sea"!

-Blyth Turnwald and the Prom Committee

Order your Band Calendar Today!

Call Mrs. Michele Doepker (419-532-2084) or contact any band student to order the calendar. The dates on the calendar run from August, 2013, until July 2014. Parents of students that brought home order forms for music booster calendars, please ensure your child that they complete and return these forms. The deadline is May 31.

5K Walk/Run

The Kalida Band is sponsoring a Looney Tune 5K Walk/Run on Friday, June 14 at 7 PM. All proceeds aid in the cost of trips for music students. Cost for the race is \$20 (includes T-shirt) or \$10 (with no shirt ordered) if pre-registered by June 6, 2013. \$15 for registering after June 6, 2013, or for race day registration. Prizes will be awarded for the top male/ top female finishers, as well as the top three finishers in each age group. For more information and a registration form, visit the Kalida schools website or "Kalida Band Looney Tune 5K" on Facebook.

Modern Woodmen Oration Contest - The winners of this year's fifth and sixth grade Modern Woodmen Oration contest were, Kyla Fortman, second place; Sydney Wurth, first place; and Carlie Rampe, third place. All three girls are fifth graders. Winners in the junior high category were eighth grader Bailey Eickholt, first place; eighth grader Brianna Good, second; and third place to seventh grader Jaylen Vandemark. This year's theme was "A person who has overcome".

Superintendent Don Horstman

419-532-3534

HS. Principal Chris Pfahler
Elem. Principal Karl Lammers



School Board Members:

Sue M. Gerdeman - VP
Nicole Niemeyer
Dennis Turnwald
Greg von der Embse -President
Gerry Vorst

School Board Meetings

Second Wednesday
7:00 PM - Kalida School Board Room

PawPrint Editor: Nancy Grote

Music Boosters

April \$50 Winners

Dave & Becky Unverferth \$150
Pat Schnipke \$100
Morgan Edelbrock \$75
Ruth (Wilfred) Hermiller \$75
\$50 Winners: Tricia Loveland, Joan Niese, Barb Mueller, Irma Kahle, Paul & Rose Recker

May Winners

Connor Erhart \$150
Morgan Edelbrock \$100
Erica Schmenk \$75
Steve Unverferth \$75
\$50 Winners: Dale & Julie Siebeneck, Joe & Kay Unverferth, Marilyn & Denny McCollum, Gary & Lisa Vorst, Lesley Peck

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Parting Words

“I would like to thank Kalida Schools for the opportunity to drive bus for 26 years and work 20 years as high school cafeteria cashier.



Paul and I plan to spend more time with our five grandchildren attending their school functions both here and in Cincinnati. We would like to spend some time where it’s warm and get away from our wonderful

Ohio winters. I will miss everyone but I’m looking forward to retirement.”

~ *Ellen Niemeyer*

“After 35 years of teaching, it’s time to hang up the stop-watch, forget about lesson plans and no more indoor recess duties! It’s hard to believe that my teaching days at Kalida Local schools are coming to an end.



Time does fly by faster than one can imagine. It has been a remarkable experience to work with so many great students, teachers, staff, coaches and administrators throughout the years. I have always felt that the community and school were very supportive and, in return, became a significant part of my extended family.

I’m very proud of our school accomplishments throughout the years and confident to know our standards and expectations will continue. Remember to always keep challenging your abilities to reach your potential and enjoy life! It’s time to direct my enthusiasm and ambition on a new course. I’m eager to face new challenges and expectations with my main focus on family, friends and personal aspirations. I am retiring from my job but I’m not retiring from Life. I will always cherish the opportunity of being a Kalida Wildcat forever. Thanks for the memories!”

~ *Mrs. Sherry Luebrecht*

“Thirty five years ago superintendent John Phillips took a chance on a young and inexperienced college graduate from BGSU to teach at Kalida Local Schools.



In retrospect I’d like to think he made a good choice. I’m hoping retirement will be a world of discovery for me. I found myself often not having the time to notice the beauty of my granddaughter, my wife and the world that surrounds me. I hope

that now I have that opportunity. So, I say a fond farewell to my colleagues, students and to the best job I ever had.”

~ *Mr. Jim McBride*