

Kieleidoscope

December 17, 2015

The greatest gift that our schools can give to this community is for each child to be prepared for their future ready to pursue any career they want by working, attending college or joining the military. Our district, takes this responsibility seriously. We understand that our goal as an educational institution is to find success for each and every student. As educators, we also know that we cannot do this alone. A successful educational organization is dependent upon great teachers, committed administrators, dedicated board members, involved parents and supportive community members. We also need support from our state's policymakers.

This year, the School Administrators Alliance is advocating for strong support for Wisconsin's public schools through a campaign titled *Coming Together through Advocacy for our Public Schools*. I would like to share some of the evidence that supports this charge.

- Wisconsin's system of public education is critically important to our state's social, economic, and democratic wellbeing.
- Education is one of the most important determinants of an individual's earning potential.
- As a state, the single best investment that we can make is in the education of children.
- In order for the newest generation of Wisconsin citizens to be successful, we must continue raising the bar for what students know and understand at the time of their graduation.
- Our students must have the foundation of a solid, basic education and the ability to learn and re-learn as education and the economy change.
- While Wisconsin is among the highest-performing states overall in education our state has a very pronounced achievement gap based on race, ethnicity and socioeconomic statuses.

So what does this mean for the Kiel Area School District? I believe it is evidence of the importance of a coordinated and collaborative effort between the school district and the community. We need help from our local community in advocating to keep our schools strong.

Each of our schools has annual achievement goals based upon data. The goals are determined by analyzing assessment data and monitoring the growth of each student. Each building has a system of intervention that helps struggling students achieve grade level content through extra help or extra time. We believe that each student can and will learn; however, how that learning occurs will be individualized to each student's strengths. Teachers in Kiel are learning about personalizing their classrooms. Relationships are built with students to ensure trust and support is occurring in every classroom. When students feel safe and supported, learning will result.

Parental involvement is a must to the success of our school district. We are fortunate in Kiel to have great parental attendance at Parent/Teacher conferences, music concerts, sporting events, Parent organizations and other club or academic activities. Parents that pay attention to attendance and grades and student involvement are providing guidance and encouraging success.

Education is very important to our community. A healthy school system along with economic development and community well-being results in residential growth or business development. Education attainment is positively correlated with everything we value; raising a family out of poverty, avoiding criminal activity and institutionalization and economic independence. We can impact state policy and we should contact legislatures because the policies at the state level have an enormous impact on local educational opportunities.

The greatest gift the community can give their school system is positive advocacy, involvement and a belief that our children deserve the best! Our children will be the next generation of adults that keeps our community prospering. Help us build the future through positive advocacy for our public schools.

On behalf of the Kiel Area School District, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!