



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

October 15, 2003

Evaluation of curriculum/instruction shows progress

Evidence shows that Pattonville is being successful in moving toward all students becoming proficient in communication arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Although Pattonville saw a dip in 2003 in communication arts scores, test data indicates that improvements were made in 24 out of 24 possible comparison areas from the district's baseline year (the year Pattonville began tracking test data) to the present at all grade levels and in all subjects.

Pattonville has taken several steps to improve student achievement over the last few years. The district:

- Aligned curriculum in communication arts and mathematics to meet state standards;
- Developed resources and classroom assessments to support the curriculum and provide online support (see achieve.psd3.org); and
- Continued to implement the Literacy Project, which trains all teachers to incorporate reading, writing and thinking into every content area.

An analysis of Pattonville's 2003 test data on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) showed:

- **Above state average** – Pattonville's district scores were above state average in 21 out of 24 possible comparison areas and EQUAL to state average in two areas (high school science, percent of students scoring in the bottom two levels, and high school math, percent of students scoring in the top two levels). Pattonville was below state average in only one area and by only 3 percent - the percentage of students scoring in the bottom two levels in high school math.
- **Increases over the baseline year** - Pattonville's scores on the 2003 MAP tests reflect sustained growth in 24 out of 24 comparison areas from the baseline year to the present.
- **Gains at elementary and middle school math** - Good gains were seen in elementary and middle school math in 2003. The percent of elementary students scoring in the top two levels on the mathematics test increased by 4 percent, while the percent scoring in the bottom two levels decreased by 5 percent. The percent of middle school students scoring advanced and proficient increased 3 percent, while the percent of those scoring at Step 1 and progressing decreased by 12 percent.
- **Fewer in the bottom levels in elementary science** - The percent of students scoring in the bottom two levels in elementary science in 2003 dropped by 2 percent.
- **Gains in secondary social studies** - Pattonville High School saw significant gains in social studies. The percentage of students scoring advanced and proficient jumped by 9 percent, while the percent scoring Step 1 and progressing dropped by 5 percent. Middle school saw 1 percent more students scoring in the top two levels and 1 percent fewer students scoring in the bottom two levels.

Information on individual school's progress will be released in the district's annual report, which will be mailed to all residents in early December.

Other evidence suggests Pattonville's instructional program is making a difference for students:

- Pattonville is meeting state-established goals for reading proficiency;
- The dropout rate has remained below 3 percent for the past four years;
- Attendance has remained around 94 percent for the past four years;
- ACT scores improved from 1999 to 2002 with a slight decrease for 2003. Scores continue to be above state and national averages;
- Students are reading more books - circulation of library books to students has increased from 1995 to 2003;
- MAP scores are increasing or are stable from the baseline year in all areas, with significant improvement by students in the following disaggregated groups: students with disabilities, students eligible for free/reduced lunch, African-American students, students by gender (male/female) and gifted students.

The following recommendations were made for the current school year to continue to improve student achievement:

1. Develop and implement plans at each school that target students needing assistance and provide supplemental instruction to increase the number of students scoring proficient or higher on the MAP;
2. Increase the use of classroom assessments to analyze student progress on the curriculum by disaggregated groups and vary instruction methods to meet students' individual learning needs based on that data; and
3. Continue the Literacy Project and incorporating reading, writing and thinking into every content area every week.

Board bans weapons on school property

The Pattonville Board of Education on Oct. 14 approved a new board policy that bans all weapons from Pattonville school campuses, school buildings, buses and school activities. The new policy is in response to a newly approved law that allows Missouri adults to carry concealed weapons. The concealed weapons law was to go into effect Oct. 11, but has been temporarily restrained from taking effect while courts determine whether or not it is constitutional. Pattonville's new weapons policy (Policy AI) states:

“Except for licensed police officers, no person shall possess or carry any weapon, visible or concealed, on school property (including school buildings and grounds, athletic fields and parking lots) or on school buses or at school-sponsored events. Weapons, visible or concealed, are likewise prohibited in vehicles, which are on school property or on the property of a school activity. No school official shall give consent under RSMo. 571.094.20(10) for any person, other than a licensed police officer, to carry a concealed weapon into any school facility, property or activity. Except for licensed police officers, school district employees who hold concealed carry endorsements as described in RSMo. 571.094 nevertheless may not carry or bring any weapon, visible or concealed, on school property or at school activities.

If any individual or any employee fails to comply with this policy, the school administrator will require that person to leave the property and will refer the matter to the local police authorities for further action. If an employee fails to comply with this policy, that employee will also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.”

Pattonville will also post signs at its campuses and schools, which read, “No alcohol, drugs, tobacco or weapons allowed on school property.”

Partnership program provides support

An evaluation of Pattonville's school-business partnership program shows opportunities for learning have been increasing for both students and community members. Patty Gould, director of school-business partnerships, shared an evaluation report with the Board of Education on Oct. 14.

The school-business partnership program provides varied career opportunities and leadership development programs for Pattonville students. Those opportunities include business professionals conducting mock job interviews in the schools, middle schoolers attending an annual leadership academy, career speakers visiting schools and classrooms, job shadowing activities for high school students and field trips to business and community sites. The program also promotes the district's goals of improving achievement and student responsibility, having provided more than \$70,000 in 2002-2003 in incentives to students from area businesses for good attendance and for meeting reading goals.

In addition, the department is responsible for Pattonville's community education program, which provides classes, camps and workshops for learners of all ages.

The goals of the program are:

- 1) Students demonstrate significant improvement in their understanding and application of the state's standards for knowledge and skills. The department supports this goal by providing students incentives to read and providing opportunities and incentives for students to become responsible citizens.
- 2) The program will expand community education opportunities and school-business partnerships. The department supports this goal by offering community education programs based on patrons' expressed needs and by continuing current partnerships and building new collaborations with the community.

The evaluation showed that the program:

- Supports the district's goal that students become proficient readers and responsible citizens;
- Promotes the development of responsible citizens through its exemplary attendance program;
- Has increased the number of class offerings and participants in the community education program (In 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, 424 programs were offered with more than 3,550 participants, reflecting an increase in both enrollments and classes offered); and
- Offers faculty members and students increased community connections through partnerships that provide opportunity for leadership development and scholarships.

The following recommendations were made for continuing to improve the program:

1. Conduct on-going "needs" assessments and implement programs that support schools in improving student achievement with emphasis on reading and academic performance;
2. Provide programs to schools promoting student responsibility and continuing character development;
3. Support district-wide career education programs with opportunities such as internships, job shadowing and job fairs;
4. Conduct a "needs" assessment and implement a comprehensive community education program that serves the needs and interests of the Pattonville community; and
5. Provide and expand senior adult community education programs to district seniors due to the loss of OASIS (older adult) programming at the Pattonville Learning Center.

Board approves proclamations

The Pattonville Board of Education approved two proclamations during its Oct. 14 board meeting. The board approved a proclamation naming Oct. 20 through 24 as Red Ribbon Week in Pattonville. Red Ribbon Week is a week set aside nationally to emphasize drug-free and healthy lifestyles. The board also approved a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the Pattonville School District.

Kinney's Corner

Update from Superintendent Hugh Kinney

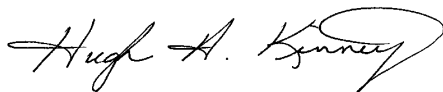
Dear Pattonville family,

Here's a look at what's happening in Pattonville:

- The Pattonville Board of Education won a \$250 award from the Missouri School Boards Association for attendance at a local meeting. The board plans to use its award for a scholarship to a worthy Pattonville senior who has gone above and beyond expectations with community service. Thanks to our board for continuing its generosity to our outstanding students. If you'll recall, the board also received a \$500 award from MSBA when it was named Outstanding Board of the Year recently. The board used those funds for community service scholarships as well.
- This month, our fifth-graders in the district are enjoying their learning experiences in the great outdoors through Pattonville's fifth-grade camp program. This is a wonderful experience for our students and is made possible by dedicated staffs who spend their days and nights making this learning opportunity one to remember. I had the opportunity to attend camp recently and know first-hand what a great program this is.
- I want to thank the facilities department. I think the schools are looking great, and I know this takes a great effort on everyone's part.
- More than 600 senior citizens will be coming back to school Thursday and Friday to enjoy dinner and the high school fall play, "Picnic," as part of the district's 55+ Club program. The program enables older residents to gain free access to Pattonville events when they sign up for the program. This is a great way to showcase the talents of our students, both those who volunteer to serve our guests at the dinner each night and those who perform onstage and backstage.

Pattonville educators will be honored with two state awards at the State Technology Conference sponsored this weekend by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), MORENET and the Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association (METPA). These organizations recognize districts in three areas: district web site, technology staff development programs and teacher web sites. Pattonville submitted nominations in all three areas and won "best in the state" in two areas: best technology staff development program and best teacher web site. The teacher web site that won was High School Teacher Barb Weekley's Forensic Science web site (phs.psd3.org/science/forensics/index.html). The STEPS technology staff development program won the other category. Congrats to our wonderful educators who are tops in technology!

Sincerely,



Hugh A. Kinney, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Business Bits

Approval of bills

The Pattonville Board of Education on Oct. 14 approved paying the following:

- \$1,753,260.21 for regular bills;
- \$105,243.81 for cafeteria bills; and
- \$588,177.44 in bond issue change orders.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on Oct. 14 approved the following bid awards:

- \$455.50 to Schiller's and \$9,898.09 to Video Service for audiovisual equipment for cable television systems.

Other Actions

The Pattonville Board of Education on Oct. 14 approved the following:

- An agreement between the Special School District of St. Louis County and Pattonville for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals.

New Hires

- **Jennifer Calva**, paraprofessional for the English for Speakers of Other Languages program, Pattonville Heights
- **Cynthia Candler**, cook, High School

Your Board of Education

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- **Randy McArthur**, Director