



Our Vision. Our Bridge. Our Journey.

Superintendent's Message

Inside this issue:

<i>A Profile: District of Distinction</i>	2
<i>2015-16 Academic Calendar Approved</i>	3
<i>Bowlers of Distinction</i>	3
<i>February's STARS</i>	3
<i>Gotcha Moments From Around the District</i>	4
<i>Birthdays</i>	4

Dates to Remember:

- National School Breakfast Week
March 2-6
- Daylight Savings Time begins March 8
at 2:00 a.m.
- St. Patrick's Day
March 17
- Spring Break
March 30-April 3

FCS Faculty and Staff:

It is hard to believe that we are now approaching the end of February, which means spring is only a few weeks away. The remaining weeks of the semester will be critical for the district as we prepare for the diagnostic review which will occur March 15th – 18th for Fleming County Schools and Fleming County High School. Though this process is important to master in our journey to becoming a "District of Distinction," it is not the only thing that will define our success.

Many organizations have what is referred to as "destination disease." This is where an organization and its people focus on a single event to define success. As we work to grow each day, our goal of becoming a "District of Distinction" will always be our pursuit as the bar is raised each year. Furthermore, as the district begins the process of becoming SACs accredited, continuous improvement will be embedded into the process. Each day our focus should be to improve as staff members and as a district. We already expect this from students, therefore, why should we expect anything different for ourselves.

The growth that I am talking about is growth in learning. When we stop learning, we stop growing. Over the next few weeks, each of us must push ourselves to grow even more in our roles so that students achieve more. Again, every member of the Fleming County faculty and staff is important in our journey. In order to grow we must all be willing to take the extra step, give that extra, go the extra mile. Just think where the district could be, more where students would be, if we were to all give that extra effort.

The spring semester is the most important part of a school year as this is when we measure student learning, faculty and staff effectiveness and our growth as a school district. This is the time of the year that we must give our roles everything we have. Students are depending on us to be the best. Our strength as an organization is dependent on everyone giving 100% each day. As a leader, I want you to enjoy your work and be proud of your accomplishments each day. The more we value your commitment to the organization, the more willing you are to contribute in a positive way. Have fun, enjoy what you do and give each



day everything thing you've got. If you need assistance, ask a co-worker, your principal or even someone at the district office. The district office is here to serve the district and we want to help.

Our Journey Continues...

Brian K. Creasman
FCS Superintendent

A Profile: District of Distinction

The Vision of Fleming County Schools is to become a “District of Distinction!” Each day we are working hard to make sure that we not only communicating this vision, but we also display our commitment to do so.

AdvancED provides an excellent profile of key components that must be addressed in order to become a “District of Distinction.” In other words, it is no secret on how a district can become effective and among the best in Kentucky. According to AdvancED, districts are “distinctive” when all schools commit to rigor, equity, student engagement, and depth of knowledge. This commitment also is geared toward developing learning skills, thinking skills, and life skills for all students. The district’s improvement plan or strategic plan requires identification of goals for improvement of achievement and instruction. Fleming County Schools’ Strategic Plan draft focuses on increasing student expectations, training for teachers to increase rigor, and how to focus on continuous improvement.

The Board of Education operates consistent with established roles and responsibilities; and must be ethical and free of conflict of interest. The Fleming County Board of Education has repeatedly said and shown through their votes that they want Fleming County Schools to be the best.

In Districts of Distinction,

teachers participate in collaborative learning communities. Though Fleming County Schools have several effective PLCs occurring, we need all of our PLCs to be effective, focusing on data and analyzing student work. We are focusing on professional learning communities in order to utilize the power and momentum of teamwork—the belief that we can achieve anything when we work together and not separately.

As we continue to mention, we must also have formal structures whereby each student is well known. The district has several processes in place for students; but do we have systems in place for all students. All is the key word. Additionally, grading and reporting must be based on clear criteria for attainment of knowledge and skills. The district has heard loud and clear from students, teachers and parents that our grading system is too complicated and not effective. The district now has a committee made up of teachers working to identify if the Standards-Based Grading process can be made effective and developing a FC Effective Traditional Grading Scale. In addition to an effective grading scale, the district must also work to have a student assessment system that is used to truly measure student learning and growth and that can produce data that teachers can use. The assessment system that is targeted isn’t used for grading, but instead used to increase learning

and to guide instruction. Districts of Distinction are focused more on learning and less on grades. Grades are still given, but the most important part of the grading process addresses the questions: 1) did students learn; 2) what did students learn; 3) how do we know what students learn; and 4) how can lessons be improved to increase learning based on the assessment data.

Districts of Distinction also commit to ensuring professional and support staff are trained in the evaluation, interpretation, and use of data. This does not necessarily mean student data, but utilizing data such as labor data, attendance data, and financial data. In order to truly understand the effectiveness of district operations, everyone must be committed to making decisions based on the district’s data.

Finally, Districts of Distinction demonstrate effectiveness at using data, growth in student learning, student readiness for the next level, and student success at the next level. At the end of the day, students are our customers and our product. We must be willing to address their needs while also making sure that they are College and Career Ready, but more importantly Ready.

Again, our Vision is to become a “District of Distinction!” As we continue our journey it will be crucial that we utilize AdvancED’s Standards for Quality Systems and Schools, as it gives a clear road map.



"Districts of Distinction are focused more on learning and less on grades."

GOTCHA MOMENTS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



STAFF BIRTHDAYS in MARCH



- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jill Bradley 3/5 | Rita Story 3/17 |
| Shawna Gibson 3/6 | Kent Grannis 3/19 |
| Ashley Medwid 3/6 | Kimberly Hester 3/19 |
| Elaine Cummins 3/8 | Alichia Skaggs 3/19 |
| Melissa Plank 3/9 | Jeff Hughes 3/21 |
| Alison Manning 3/10 | Bonnie Gulley 3/22 |
| Cynthia Blanton 3/12 | Leslie Litzler 3/22 |
| Frances Spencer 3/12 | Kelly Griffith 3/24 |
| Kimberly Crawford 3/14 | Michael Jerolaman 3/25 |
| Mendy High 3/15 | Sylvia Hawkins 3/26 |
| Lucinda Pease 3/16 | Sheila Lamb 3/29 |
| Sandra Reeves 3/16 | Jodi Grannis 3/30 |

AN IRISH BIRTHDAY BLESSING

May you live a long life
Full of gladness and health
With a pocket full of gold
As the least of your wealth
May the dreams you hold dearest
Be those which come true
May the kindness you spread,
Keep returning to you.
Happy Birthday

