

## March 2008 Superintendent's Report

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills- Life Skills

With all of the publicity on student testing and performance on standardized tests it is easy to forget that there is much more to truly educating students to be successful citizens. As Dr Larson will probably share, the recently completed Blue Ribbon II task force set these life skills as high priorities for Blackhawk Technical College. We hear similar needs from our community that students leave high school with the ability to demonstrate proficiency in the life skills. These skills, perhaps more than any others, need first to be modeled in the home. When the schools try to teach and enforce progress in these skills we occasionally get parents upset that we are being too hard on their children. Support of the Board and the community is essential as we work with students to develop attitudes that encourage them to enjoy the job they do, have positive attitudes and work habits, show pride in their work and are motivated to improve and progress in their work. Schools and employers want our future citizens to demonstrate dependability, cooperation and teamwork, as well as the ability to take and follow directions. I have heard from our local employers and the many participants at the Blue Ribbon II meetings, that employers are willing to do specific job training, but they need people with solid basic academic and life skills to make it worth their training investment.

**Economic Development:** A number of board members and I are participating in the various subcommittees of the Evansville Economic. I appreciate this additional responsibility being taken on. Quality schools are a key piece in attracting employers to an area. Thank you to Tina Rossmiller, Michael Pierick, and Dennis Hatfield for their work.

**Open Enrollment:** In your packet is the summary information on the initial open enrollment requests. We have 26 Open Enrollment OUT Applications. Of these, 10 are already attending private schools, are home schooled or are open enrolled to another district. 8 are currently attending here, 7 are for kindergartners some who already have siblings attending elsewhere, and 4 are high school students seeking virtual schools.

On the incoming side there are 32 requests. 21 are already attending school here and have moved out of the District. 4 would be admitted under the guidelines you voted on. 6 would be denied. Of those 6, 4 are high school students and 2 are kindergartners. I believe DPI would support us in an appeal for the kindergartners due to SAGE. I believe this the guidelines you set appear to be working well. Just because someone has submitted a request, does not mean they will ultimately decide to take advantage of open enrollment. I believe this means we will be close to a wash again next year.

**Kindergarten Registration:** 130 families of incoming kindergartners attended kindergarten registration on February 26. Five of those families were not on our initial list including two students whose parents are interested in early entrance.

19 parents including one of the early entrants have expressed an interest in half day so we can definitely plan on holding half day kindergarten in 2008-09.

There are 41 families on the list that did not attend. We will be contacting them to see if they will be attending, are planning on holding a summer birthday child at home for a year or have moved. I will try to have an update on these 41 students at the Board meeting. While we could have as many as 171 (there are 128 this year) these numbers tend to shrink between now and the end of the year as we track down those who didn't attend. They grow over the summer as new families move in.

### FYI- Stormwater Management Utility

The following information is from the city public works minutes. I have asked Dave Sauer and Dan Wietecha to consider an informational meeting with the Board or the Finance Committee once more information is known:

**Stormwater.** Sauer distributed draft outlines on a City Stormwater Management Plan and on creating a Stormwater Management Utility. Sornson and Braunschweig indicated they would be willing to sponsor the Stormwater Utility ordinance when it comes time. Wietecha distributed preliminary estimates for Community Rating System (CRS) activities.

The Committee approved a motion to recommend the Common Council direct the City Engineer at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 to estimate a stormwater utility budget, to determine impervious area by property, and to calculate potential equivalent residential unit (ERU) charges.

The Committee approved a motion to recommend the Common Council direct the City Engineer at a cost not to exceed \$600 to prepare an application for a DNR Stormwater Management Planning Grant.

***Levi Leonard Elementary School***  
**School Board Report**  
**March 10, 2008**

**BOARD THEME/CURRICULUM TOPIC:**

**Life Skills**

“Good Teachers have always incorporated life skills into their pedagogy. The challenge today is to incorporate these essential skills into schools deliberately, strategically and broadly. Life Skills include:

Leadership	Personal responsibility
Ethics	People skills
Accountability	Self-direction
Adaptability	Social responsibility
Personal productivity”	<a href="http://www.21stcenturyskills.org">www.21stcenturyskills.org</a>

At Levi Leonard, teachers begin working with students on community and friendship skills from the time they enter school. Teachers problem-solve with students concerning difficulties or disagreements. Students are taught to share, work as a group, take responsibility for their learning and to develop independent skills. While these skills are not necessarily mastered at the K-2 grade levels, they are introduced and developed such that a foundation for future mastery is made.

In our Life Skills classes with Ms Brink, school counselor, the above listed skills are supported through literature, stations, games, role play and discussions. Classroom teachers follow up by using similar vocabulary and other activities that are integrated into content curriculum.

Our Character Education program further integrates life skills into the curriculum. Teachers introduce various character traits through literature, infused into social studies and science lessons or explored through “circle time”. Beginning in January, each child is recognized for displaying one of the characteristics that has been introduced and developed.

Life Skills have often been referred to as “soft skills” in the research because they are difficult to identify quantitatively and measure. However, an individual’s success in life is often based on how well s/he has mastered these soft skills.

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT:**

Eleven teachers attended the WSRA convention in Milwaukee on February 8. Those teachers are: Darlene Gallman, Kelley Gransee, Steve Hoffenberg, Beth Jeremiason, Cheryl Thomas, Penny Viken, Cindy Beedle, Jenny Mohns, Mackensie Wade, Sarah Champeau and Deb Fritz. They learned many useful reading and language arts strategies that I have observed in their classrooms. They will share these strategies with the rest of the staff at our March Staff meeting.

Sandra McClellan and Sonya Keyser attended a workshop on assessment for young children on January 29 which they shared with teachers at our February staff meeting.

On February 21, Jackie Andrew, Terrie Schmoldt, Katie Krueger, Chrissy Dyer and Linda Knudson attended “Strengthening Math Instruction Using Best Practices and Differentiation.” This helps support Everyday Math instruction at all grade levels. They will share at a future staff meeting.

On February 29, I attended a REACh Grant Writing Support workshop at CESA 2. We hope to submit an application that will result in support for professional development K-12.

Rod Marty, Julie Creek-Hessler and I will attend “Democracy It Is!” on March 17. This workshop is focused on social studies skills for young children. This supports the review of social studies curriculum this year.

## **CELEBRATE!**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 6	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Concert at 5:00 PM at the HS PAC
March 7	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Concert at 1:00 PM at the HS PAC
March 11	Three presentations of Pond Life
March 17, 18, & 19	Kindergarten screener
April 3	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 9	Forensics Competition

*Please join us for any of the above events or drop in to visit and talk with students and staff. You are always welcome!*

Respectfully submitted;  
Lou Havlik,  
Principal

**Theodore Robinson Intermediate School**  
**School Board Report**  
*Vicki Lecy-Luebke, Principal*  
*March 10, 2008*

### **Focus: Life Skills**

Life skills include leadership, ethics, accountability, adaptability, personal productivity, personal responsibility, people skills, self-direction, and social responsibility. These skills are certainly incorporated into our work everyday with students. Our character education program promotes responsibility, teamwork, respect, and compassion. Students are recognized by staff when they traits are exhibited above and beyond our expectations. The “circling” activity that all classrooms participate in helps to increase those “people skills.” Our guidance program addresses social and personal

responsibility and all students have guidance classes for one semester. Peer mediation training allows third, fourth, and fifth graders to assume leadership skills by helping to solve conflicts among their peers. Through our after school clubs (History Hunters, Science Club, Art Club, Forensics, Theodore Robinson Singers), students are given opportunities to learn about and practice a number of life skills. I believe all of us work on life skills throughout the day as we meet with students and model positive behaviors.

### **Professional Development**

Officer Art Phillips met with the elementary and intermediate staff on February 21 to increase our awareness of the drugs and paraphernalia found throughout the area. Art brought in some wonderful “artifacts” for us to view. What a fabulous speaker!!! ☺ ☺

Three of our staff members will be attending a Love & Logic workshop this month. For beginning teachers, this will be a valuable tool.

Three fourth grade teachers will be attending the workshop “Thinking Like a Historian: New Approach, New Framework, New Textbook.” The workshop will teach teachers how to empower students to engage in history as an investigation, rather than a memorization of historical facts.

### **Celebration**

Four fifth graders qualified for a spot on the 5/6 Math Meet Team. Congratulations are in order for: Thomas Allen, Riley Miller, Josh Michel, Kevin Brandt, and alternate Chantel Roberts. Fifth grade math teacher, Kim Wollinger, has begun scheduled practice sessions with these students and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders Hunter Johnson, Chase Neath, Tyler Dayton, Jacob Schroeder, and alternate Kyle Woodstock.

The Hoops for Heart event raised over \$6,700 for the American Heart Association. Thanks to Charity Kostroun, Deb Miller, and Jenny Katzenmeyer for organizing the event.

### **Announcements**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade concert will take place March 11 at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the high school PAC. The annual PTO Book Swap will be held March 14 from 6-8 p.m.

## **J.C. McKenna Middle School**

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Robert A. Flaherty  
Principal  
Email: flahertyr@evansville.k12.wi.us

### **Staff Development**

The staff has a three hour in-service scheduled for the next grading day at the middle school. We will continue to work on restorative practices. An expert from the McFarland School District will spend the morning with my staff.

### **Life Skills:**

Life Skills are often viewed as the soft skills that people need to be successful in the world of work and home such as:

How to get along with others.

How to work in groups

How to be a leader without being bossy.

How to say you are sorry and “fix” things with the people we intentionally or unintentionally cause harm to another with our words or deeds.

How to be on time and contribute to an organization.

Middle school students currently work on these skills in the building on a daily basis. Our entire philosophy of restorative practices teaches students what to do when they make an error in judgment. For example, if a student physically harms another student or steals an item they need to meet with the people they have offended, apologize verbally and in writing, and figure out how they are going to make the person whole again.

I recently held one of these conferences with a student who had stolen a sweatshirt from another student in chorus. The student paid for the sweatshirt and apologized to Mrs. Berg and the student. During the meeting the offending student told Mrs. Berg that she has not been able to smile at her or talk to her because she was ashamed of what she had done. By having the conversation with the girl she had an opportunity to repair the relationship she had damaged and could “move on.” This is a life skill that all students will need in the future!

We also work on life skills during homebase time at the middle school. Students are often given various scenarios via videotapes that they discuss after viewing. The students have an opportunity to problem solve regarding many of the issues they may face in the future.

Middle school curriculum emphasizes group work and projects. Not only do students learn academic material, they learn how to work with people who have different academic, social, and cultural backgrounds. These are many of the skills they need to understand to be successful in the workplace.

Our special education students who are CD are moving more towards learning traditional life skills. We currently have them perform numerous duties around school including recycling tasks to operating the vending machines in school. We plan to use the profits from the machines to pay for life skill opportunities such as going to local restaurants and theaters to learn the skills they need in the future to handle daily social situations.

Celebrations and Gifts.

The music department erased their deficit via selling “Butter Braids”. Student’s made over \$2,400 in a few short weeks. Congratulations to the music department and their students.

*March 2008*  
*Submitted by Jamie Gillespie, Principal*

### **Life and Career Skills**

The Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Framework identifies the following as Life and Career Skills:

- Flexibility & Adaptability
  - Adapting to varied roles and responsibilities
  - Working effectively in a climate of ambiguity and changing priorities
  
- Initiative & Self-Direction
  - Monitoring one's own understanding and learning needs
  - Going beyond basic mastery of skills and/or curriculum to explore and expand one's own learning and opportunities to gain expertise
  - Demonstrating initiative to advance skill levels towards a professional level
  - Defining, prioritizing and completing tasks without direct oversight
  - Utilizing time efficiently and managing workload
  - Demonstrating commitment to learning as a lifelong process
  
- Social & Cross-Cultural Skills
  - Working appropriately and productively with others
  - Leveraging the collective intelligence of groups when appropriate
  - Bridging cultural differences and using differing perspectives to increase innovation and the quality of work
  
- Productivity & Accountability
  - Setting and meeting high standards and goals for delivering quality work on time
  - Demonstrating diligence and a positive work ethic (e.g., being punctual and reliable)
  
- Leadership & Responsibility
  - Using interpersonal and problem-solving skills to influence and guide others toward a goal
  - Leveraging strengths of others to accomplish a common goal
  - Demonstrating integrity and ethical behavior
  - Acting responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind

At Evansville High School, we teach these skills in many different classes. For example, we teach students to work appropriately and productively with others when we ask them to work in groups on cooking projects in our Foods classes. We also develop that skill in students when we put them with partners for all science labs. We teach students to define, prioritize, and complete tasks without direct oversight when we assign a research paper in our Seminar Composition class. Students also practice this skill when they work at the school store in our Marketing class.

Many of our students develop their interpersonal and problem-solving skills as members of our Student Council or as officers of one of our student organizations. We help students learn to demonstrate diligence and a positive work ethic through our class expectations and through some of our school rules, such as attendance and behavior. There are many extra-curricular leadership opportunities at EHS, through National Honor Society, Hispanic Community Project, O-Ambassadors, FFA, drama, music, Rock Valley Student Council, and AFS. Our Co-op class also teaches all of these life and career skills and gives students the opportunity to practice them on the job.

### **Professional Development**

Our teachers are continuing their work on their PLCs and we are looking forward to hearing about their progress on the April professional development half-day. The Mentorship-Advisory-Transition PLC presented its information and proposal to the faculty after school on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Diego Ojeda has been accepted to the Masters of Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language program through the University of Leon in Barcelona, Spain. He will receive a scholarship equivalent to 40% of the tuition costs.

On April 18, several students and two teachers will attend training by the National Tutoring Association. The training is a day-long workshop that is hosted by Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School.

**Student Services & Special Education  
School Board Report  
March 10, 2008**

*Krista Jones, Director of Student Services*

**Topic Focus – Life Skills**

The new Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling Model is a developmentally based program built upon model academic standards, much like the model academic standards for reading/language arts, math, science, and social studies. The school counseling standards fall into three domains: academic, personal and social, and career. Each domain is founded on three standards. The development of life skills is inherent across all three domains.

**Academic Domain**

- ✓ **Standard A:** Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to successful learning in school and across the lifespan.
- ✓ **Standard B:** Students will develop the academic skills and attitudes necessary to make effective transitions from elementary to middle school, from middle school to high school, and from high school to a wide range of postsecondary options.
- ✓ **Standard C:** Students will understand how their academic experiences prepare them to be successful in the world of work, in their interpersonal relationships, and in the community.

**Personal and Social Domain**

- ✓ **Standard D:** Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and interpersonal skills to understand themselves and appreciate the diverse backgrounds and experiences of others.
- ✓ **Standard E:** Students will demonstrate effective decision-making, problem-solving, and goal-setting skills.
- ✓ **Standard F:** Students will understand and use safety and wellness skills.

**Career Domain**

- ✓ **Standard G:** Students will acquire the self-knowledge necessary to make informed career decisions.
- ✓ **Standard H:** Students will understand the relationship between educational achievement and career development.
- ✓ **Standard I:** Students will employ career management strategies to achieve future career success and satisfactions.

These standards, ideally, should be woven into the fabric of curriculum and instruction in all classrooms. The school counseling curriculum is the responsibility of all school staff members, family members, and the community.

### **Professional Development**

On Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Patty Kexel, retired middle school counselor from the McFarland School District will be working with the JC McKenna Middle School staff providing further training in Restorative Practices.

### **Announcements/Celebrations**

On Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Rock County Transition Advisory Council and Evansville Community School District co-hosted a Provider Fair at Evansville High School. This was an event directed at the needs of middle and high school students (and their families) with disabilities. While the turnout was disappointing, the event provided an opportunity for several of the district special education staff to meet with, ask questions, and gather information from several educational, residential, vocational, and recreational service agencies in Rock County.

On Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, we held the “spring” early childhood screener. Sixteen three- and four-year olds were screened using our developmental checklist. For this screener, we added hearing screening and vision screening (a service provided by the Lions Club). Thank you and appreciation as well to the K-5 PTSO who provided a \$100 donation by which we were able to assemble a “goody” bag for each child. Thank you also to local businesses who donated items for the “goody” bags.

### **Announcements/Upcoming Events**

March 7	CESA #2 Regional Services Network Legal Briefing – <i>Extended School Year Services</i>
March 10	K-12 Pupil Services Team meeting
March 12	K-12 Special Education Team meeting
March 18	Parent Educator Network Group – <i>Rest &amp; Relaxation Strategies for Caregivers</i> ; 6:30 – 8:00 pm @ TRIS LMC
April 2	Townhall Meeting on Underage Drinking – details forthcoming

## BOARD REPORT

MARCH 2008

### MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

#### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: Life Skills**

Today’s life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills. Increasing technology in society has changed the way we live and work. These skills include:

- Flexibility & Adaptability: Things are changing at a rapid pace. Students must be able to learn, unlearn, and relearn.
- Productivity & Accountability
  - Setting and meeting high standards and goals for delivering quality work on time
  - Demonstrating diligence and a positive work ethic (e.g., being punctual and reliable)

- Leadership & Responsibility : Technology increases our span of communication.
  - Using interpersonal and problem-solving skills to influence and guide others toward a goal
  - Leveraging strengths of others to accomplish a common goal
  - Demonstrating integrity and ethical behavior
  - Acting responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind

### **News/Professional Development**

Many of our high school teachers are successfully using web 2.0 applications in their classrooms, such as blogs, wikis, and Moodle. Our ISSAC participants completed their third workshop in January, with a focus on Thinkfinity and Assessment.

25 teachers have attended training sessions in podcasting and SMART Board use, and are excited to begin using these applications in their classrooms.

The next Technology committee meeting will be on March 18, 2008.

*Evansville High School*  
*Associate Principal/Athletic Director*  
**School Board Report**  
**March 3, 2008**

### **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS ON LEARNING GOALS:**

- February Attendance Rates
  - 92.51 (**2007 = 90.64**)
  - 92.51 + Excused Absences = 99.09 (**2007 = 98.32**)
  - 00.91 Unexcused Absent (**2007 = 01.68%**)
  - 0 Habitual Truant Referral (**2007 = 1**)
  - **Total Habitual Truant Referrals 2007-08 school year = 4 (2006-07 = 6)**
- February Discipline Summary
  - 135 (**24.3%**) Discipline Referrals (**2007 = 104, 18.4%**)
  - 10 (**2007 = 7**) Students Suspended Out-of-School = 8.25 Days (**2007=16.00**)
  - 9 (**2007 = 6**) Students Suspended In-School = 7.00 Days (**2007 = 5.25**)
  - 95 % of students receiving attendance related detentions served their assigned detention(s) in February (21 attendance related detentions/1 no shows).
  - 2 (**2007 = 0**) Student received a truancy citation referral in February.
  - **Total of 5 (2007 = 6) students have received a truancy citation referral in the 2007-08 school year.**

### **PARENT INVOLVEMENT:**

- Evansville High School was fortunate to host the WIAA Division II wrestling regional on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the WIAA Division III boys regional final on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and the WIAA Division IV girls sectional semi-final on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank the Evansville sports boosters,

district staff and Evansville community members for assisting me in hosting these WIAA tournament events.

**CELEBRATIONS:**

- I would like to publicly recognize and congratulate Coach Chris Wagner and the boys basketball team for capturing the 2007-08 Rock Valley Conference boys basketball championship.
- Congratulations to Coach Rob Kostroun and the wrestling team for winning the 2007-08 Rock Valley Conference wrestling championship.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Spring Sports Begin:
  - Boys/Girls Track – Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Girls Soccer – Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Girls Softball – Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Baseball – Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Golf – Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>