

## **PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT**

Illinois learning standards are statements, which define a core of essential knowledge, and skills that all students enrolled in public schools are expected to know and be able to do. Student achievement of these standards, as tested with the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT), is essential in accordance with the passage of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal legislation. It is important to note that these scores reflect the progress of students in grades 3, 4, and 5 as mandated by state law.

As part of the ongoing school improvement process, a creative internal review team made up of teachers was formed to perform a demographic study, observe classrooms, and interview teachers, parents, and students. The information gathered will help us to further evaluate our instructional program so that it continues to meet the needs of our students based on the Illinois Learning Standards. These studies and the performance assessments are being used to aid in evaluating student achievement, and are included in the Oak Glen School Improvement Plan. It is the school improvement plan that guides the educational process. The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) scores are also used to determine learning goals and their assessment.

Lansing School District 158 provides students with quality education. Each of our schools is staffed with experienced teachers who are concerned about the student's mental, physical, and social welfare. Oak Glen students are educated in clean, attractive surroundings. A wide variety of current instructional materials are used to enrich each child's educational experience.

The technology plan developed by District 158 has been recognized by the state as one of the finest. We are fortunate to employ a Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Technology and Network Supervisor. These specialists oversee the implementation of the Technology Plan. This plan guides the instruction of students and the acquisition of materials to enhance our curriculum.

Areas of concentration this year will continue to be math, and reading. The Accelerated Reader program will continue to be implemented to increase a child's love for reading along with increasing his/her reading level. Other programs that are now in place to improve instruction are a new math curriculum designed to teach math in a practical and sequential way, monthly assessments provide information regarding student progress, and the Four Blocks Balanced Literacy Program, which is designed to integrate reading into every subject area. This program also continues to stress literature, spelling, and writing in an integrated curriculum. The developmentally appropriate kindergarten curriculum gives the student the opportunity to work in small groups and on the computer. We are continuing our Reading Recovery Program in first grade which provides extra assistance for students who are experiencing difficulties in reading. All of our students receive instruction in the areas of art, music, and physical education from subject specialists. Developmental reading, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and special education instruction is provided to students requiring such assistance. An enrichment program is also provided for qualified students. We also provide an ESL program designed to assist students who do not speak English. The district employs psychologists, an educational diagnostician, and four social workers that work directly with our children. A hot lunch program has been implemented to insure that every child has a nutritious meal. The Bridges for Learning Program has been offered to assist students who are struggling in the areas of math and reading.

Technology is a priority in District 158. Each classroom is connected via several computers to the World Wide Web. New Dell computers were purchased through the Technology Refresh Program and are being used in our classrooms and in the computer lab. Students have been given the opportunity with teacher supervision to visit the wealth of information offered through the Internet. This technology has promoted engaged learning opportunities, which give students the ability to interact with other students around the world. Other initiatives that continue to demonstrate a positive effect on our student body are Esteem Builders, conflict resolution and Assertive Discipline Programs, which are fully implemented throughout our school. Our fifth grade students are involved in the D.A.R.E. Program. This program teaches our students to say no to drugs. A student operated video lab is utilized to broadcast news and events to each classroom daily.

Large numbers of parent volunteers support district programs. Active PTA organizations are present in each District 158 school. PTA activities support education in many ways, both financially and with volunteer help. This group is a vital link to the success of Oak Glen students.

No report card can accurately describe the excellence and diversity of our school program. We are proud of our students, their achievements, and the efforts made by the staff to fully develop student potential.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this report card, please call your building principal, Rick Miller, (474-1714) or District Superintendent, Mrs. Veronda Cottle (474-6700) at any time.

**QUALITY EDUCATION: Putting the Children First. The School District 158 Advantage!**

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