

Article 051514

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Graduation Is A Time To Celebrate

As this school year comes to a close and graduation gowns are taken out of their fresh packaging to be ironed, it reminds me of the pride and tradition that comes with being a part of this wonderful community. Graduation is an annual tradition that symbolizes so much more than the completion of high school. It takes many people in our community coming together for this common goal. Graduation symbolizes student success, traditions and accomplishments that reflect on all of us. Much of the hard work takes place without recognition or fan fair and the examples go beyond the hard work and dedication of our students.

For many years the school district has worked closely with our city office to make responsible decisions to better our school and community. Just this year, we have been able to work together on a handshake to build a pavilion at Pohlod Park, resolve a large water leak at the football field, and address drainage issues at the middle school. The Village of Divernon has been a great partner to the school district. One of many examples is the recent grant that was secured to improve sidewalks so students can walk to school safely.

Our faculty, staff and our administration work closer with our local police officers now more than ever. Our police officers in both communities have an active presence in our school buildings. Our police chief keeps me informed whenever there is a crisis that has the potential of putting students at risk. This is the time of year when we meet with our fire and rescue personnel from both Auburn and Divernon to reflect on our emergency plans and our procedures that we put in place and continuously review.

Our booster organizations have spent much time and effort fundraising and supporting our programs and our faculty and staff. These special groups of people are constantly finding ways to help our programs and support our activities, classrooms, faculty and students. From those who join in the parades to those who cheer on the side of the streets, the list of people who make this community great is reflected on the population signs on the edges of our communities.

You don't have to have a child graduating to attend the graduation ceremony. As the royal blue and white caps are traditionally thrown in the air, we celebrate much more than the great accomplishments of our graduates.