

Annual Report to the Community

In compliance with the Education Improvement Act of 1984, the Annual Report to the Community is written and reported each year to keep parents and community members informed regarding the progress the school is making in meeting school and district goals and objectives. This report was developed by our School Improvement Council (SIC), which consists of administrators, teachers, parents, and community business representatives. The SIC works closely with the principal in examining the school's annual standardized testing data and setting goals that focus on specific areas of strength and weakness. Teacher, parent, and student survey data is also examined by the SIC to determine internal and external perceptions regarding the overall school operations. Utilizing this information, a plan for improvement is established each year.

As a result of our improvement plan, Skyland students continued to make steady academic gains on state-wide student achievement tests, earning us the prestigious 2017-18 National Blue Ribbon Award, and placing us in the top 15% of schools nationwide. We contribute much of our success to several long-term initiatives including a focus on student data, teacher collaboration, teacher professional development that fosters academic success for all students, early intervention measures at the primary level, and added support for our at-risk learners. Another unique initiative that supports student success at Skyland is a focus on the integration of the arts across the curriculum. This approach allows students to showcase their knowledge and skills through non-traditional approaches (like paper and pencil tasks) and actively engages every student in the learning process.

At Skyland, we also focus on the development of the whole child. Therefore, we incorporate many other programs that promote success. One such program is our character education program which teaches students to work well with others and to make decisions that support success. Utilizing children's literature as a teaching tool, students have open dialog bi-weekly with our guidance counselor about the character traits that build success, as well as how to respond when adversity strikes. Students are also encouraged and provided with opportunities to get involved in clubs and service organizations that extend beyond the school day, increasing student leadership, building citizenship, and strengthening talent among our students.

Our PTA and Business in Education Partners are also vital to maintaining a school of excellence. They continue to provide strong financial, educational, and moral support to our school. To date, Skyland benefits from 40 business education partnerships and over 20,000 PTA volunteer hours. We sincerely appreciate the PTA and all of the community businesses that contribute so generously to ensure our students' success.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to you for being an integral part of our team at Skyland Elementary. Thank you for making education a priority in your home. No doubt, building a school of excellence requires teamwork. Please join us in acknowledging Skyland's dedicated teachers, staff, business partners, and volunteers who give selflessly to ensure that every child succeeds. Skyland Elementary continues to provide quality education in "a place where children flourish" thanks to all!

