

Good Friday afternoon! I hope this special update finds you doing well and enjoying great weather! We've got a full slate of events tonight and tomorrow for your enjoyment! Come on out tonight and cheer on the football team as they take on Arlington! The FFA has their annual Hog Roast tonight and SOS is sponsoring Hornet Pride for our elementary students at the game tonight! Tomorrow, cross country travels to Galion while JV football will trek to Arlington. Later in the day the boys' and girls' soccer teams will host Liberty Center and Kalida, respectively. Good luck to all!

As many of you may have already seen, the Courier has printed some of the recent Report Card information released by the Ohio Department of Education. I didn't get a quote in this article, but I suppose I've had my share earlier this week! While I don't want to bog you down with too many details on a preliminary report, I thought it worthwhile to share an excerpt from an open letter I shared with our staff this morning. Additionally, I have included a quick and easy reference sheet with the grades. I have highlighted Arcadia and our school as, statistically and demographically they are the closest comparison. You will also note rankings and whether we met the state goal or not ("C" or above). I also included a summary list of some of the programs we already have in place to continue our improvement. Please stay tuned for more information about the Report Card and, more importantly, the related Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). As always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about the Report Card.

*Cory-Rawson Staff:*

*Good morning! As most of you are aware the State Report Cards were released yesterday (on time, for once!). While it is too early to get into the "weeds" examining every detail of the Report Card I, nonetheless, wanted to share my perspective with you. I would initially refer you to my most recent community update and Courier article in which I discuss the ESSA and the push for more local control and a revised accountability measure. We must never shy away from accountability (if we did, they'd label us a charter school!), but we certainly desire reliable and equitable accountability measures. Last year a state senator remarked that communities should not put much stake in the report card because it was a transition year. This year the new state superintendent has cautioned schools not to jump to conclusions based on this report card. Despite these warnings from state level individuals...I thought I'd share my "first glance" thoughts with you.*

*As a district we compare somewhat favorably to neighboring districts (see attached - please note all rankings are ties). Some scores could be interpreted as alarming, while others reaffirm the work we are doing. One such positive comparison is our passage percentage for most elementary math levels compared to the state average (local comparisons are yet unreleased). Can I state that we are improving? Thanks to our third version of testing and Report Card in 3 years there is no way to make a clear statement based on unreliable results without any trend. Can I say that I see local evidence that we are improving? Absolutely. The programs we have implemented over the past few years (and continue to implement new ones this year) all point to a measured approach to improving student learning.*

*If I continue this email I know I will be prone to dig into the "weeds" so I'll simply leave you with a few "takeaways".*

1. *Our state doesn't put much stock into the report card (or so they say), but yet they continue to forge ahead with it. If you don't agree with this SPEAK UP! Call or email your representative and voice your opinion!*
2. *While we do compare somewhat favorably on this report card I would encourage us not to put too much stock into these results and, rather, rely on these measures in conjunction with local data to tell us how we're doing.*
3. *Finally, take pride in the fact that your actions...demonstrate the attitude and fortitude we need to be successful!!*