

Superintendent's Message



As we welcome in 2013 and the start of the second semester, it is an opportunity time to reflect back on the extraordinary accomplishments of our students and staff, as well as looking forward to exciting future endeavors. The recent release of the Illinois School Report Card has given us much to celebrate at LTHS. Some of the highlights of that report card, along with other achievements this school year, include:

- Our composite ACT score of 22.4, which has steadily increased for the fifth consecutive year
- Our district again ranked in the Top 9 Percent of all high schools in the nation by the Washington Post
- Our students are involved – 3,424 members in clubs and athletics
- LTHS ranked 4.0 out of 4.0 from the Illinois State Board of Education for its financial management

In December, we also relished the opportunity to honor students for academic achievements. Advanced Placement Scholars included 84 students from the Class of 2012 and 50 students from the Class of 2013. In addition, 134 students from the Class of 2013 were named Illinois State Scholars. Commended students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Competition included six students from LTHS and one, Stephen Hippleheuser, was named a semi-finalist.

Our athletes also achieved great successes during the first half of this school year, including senior swimmer Amanda Moran finishing third in the 100-yard backstroke at the IHSA sectional competition, which qualified her to advance to state. Moving forward into the second semester, we are continuing efforts to further enhance the school district. In January, we will be updating the Board of Education on the five District Goals, including strategies and programs to increase and maximize student learning, District Goal No. 1. If you would like to learn more about the District Goals, visit http://www.lths.org/School%20Board/Dist_205_Goals_082012.pdf.

In addition, we have embarked on researching and implementing the best use of instructional technology. Currently all of our academic departments are exploring emerging instructional technologies. Department pilots are incorporating a variety of devices including Chromebooks, IPADS, and digital notebooks as well as utilizing different learning management systems to collaborate and share information with students. To date, the feedback from students has been very positive. The administration will be updating the Board of Education in February on this initiative and making recommendations for the future use of technology within the school district.

While we have much to celebrate and look forward to at our district, this also is a time to reflect on the tragic losses suffered this school year in our LTHS family when two members of the Class of 2014 died in separate traffic fatalities. Jay Vana and Jackie Rudd will be remembered and missed by all.

Sincerely,
Todd Wernet, Ed.D.
Superintendent