

## **From the Superintendent's Desk Some Good News**

We received some good news in November: The third grade fall Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) reading scores were higher for the second consecutive year.

In October of each school year the third grade students take the fall OAA in Reading. They take the assessment again in late April/early May as part of the State of Ohio's testing and accountability program. The highest of the two scores is the one that counts for each individual student and for the school and district's passing rate.

In order for a school or district to earn a point on the Local Report Card, at least 75% of the students must pass the test either during the fall or spring administration. Already this year 59% of the third graders district-wide have passed the test. This percentage is an increase from 56.5% in 2010 and 39.9% in 2009.

These reading OAA scores are definitely going in the right direction. This is a result of teaching for student mastery of reading skills and working continuously to improve teaching strategies to meet the needs of all students.

I also believe that parents have played a role in these increases. Most parents know it is important for them to set aside time daily to read with their children, talk with them about what they have read and encourage their children to read. Parents can contact your child's teacher or principal for more suggestions to help your child become an excellent reader.

If you have questions or comments about this article feel free to contact me.