

“Pursuing Excellence Today for Tomorrow”, Not Just a Slogan

A recent district-wide community survey sponsored by the Kearney Area Development Council, Kearney Chamber of Commerce and the City of Kearney (report can be viewed at any one of these web sites available at <http://accesskearney.com/>) provided valuable information regarding perceptions of the Kearney School District (KSD). Business owners and leaders rated KSD’s school quality as a “Key Area Development Affinity” while residents list among the top attributes of the Kearney-Holt area, “A great place to raise a family and quality schools”. KSD employees are both pleased and proud to have earned such a vote of confidence. In a time when it seems every governmental entity is closely scrutinized, such positive remarks do not go unnoticed in our schools. In an effort to demonstrate that community perception of KSD is not unwarranted, I would like to provide the following information:

- The average ACT Score for Kearney Seniors is 22.7, one of the top scores in the metro area (state average: 21.6).
- Out of 524 School Districts in the state of Missouri, Kearney students ranked 3rd in 7th grade Communication Arts test scores.
- Out of 524 School Districts in the state of Missouri, Kearney students ranked 2nd in 8th grade Communication Arts, 8th grade Math and High School Communication Arts test scores.
- Out of 524 School Districts in the state of Missouri, Kearney students ranked 1st in 7th grade Math and 8th grade Science test scores
- Kearney School District will again achieve accredited with “Distinction in Performance” for the 7th straight year from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

These bulleted items list only the highest performance areas. There are many other examples of top academic ratings throughout the district. It is my hope that you will join me in congratulating both staff and students for their efforts to achieve at such a high level.

With such wonderful performance, it is important for parents and patrons to understand that it is not just these accolades that demonstrate a school’s success; rather it is the success of each student following graduation. In this rapidly advancing, globally competitive world, the education of our students is critically important now more than ever.

It is the KSD vision of “Pursuing Excellence Today for Tomorrow” that motivates our quality teaching staff to provide the very best education for district students. Through the ongoing support of the Kearney-Holt community and the relentless dedication to quality and continuous improvement provided by district teachers, Kearney School District will soon transition from being one of the best school districts in the state to one of the best in the nation.

Bill Nicely, Kearney R-I School District Superintendent