ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

Mr. Craig Benes, Superintendent
Dr. Heidi Weeks, Deputy Superintendent

October 30, 2024

Dear Itasca 10 Families,

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) released its 2024 Illinois Report Card on October 30th. This annual report card highlights how well schools across Illinois have progressed on their educational goals.

I am very pleased to inform you that all three District 10 schools Benson, Franzen and Peacock have earned an "Exemplary" rating, ISBE's top school designation.

- ★ **Benson Primary School: Exemplary**
- ★ **Franzen Intermediate School: Exemplary**
- ★ **Peacock Middle School: Exemplary**

An "Exemplary" rating is awarded only to schools that perform in the top 10% of all schools statewide, with no underperforming student groups. Locally, only 22% of DuPage County elementary and middle schools earned an Exemplary rating. At the state-level it is exceptionally rare for a school district to earn this rating for every school. District 10's 2024 Illinois Report Card results show that hard work pays off, and we are very proud of our students and staff. Teachers have demonstrated an incredible commitment to professional development and learning. We are also grateful to the support of our Board of Education, our parents, IPTO, Music Boosters and community partners. In working together positively we set the best culture for our students to learn and grow.

The Illinois Report Card also includes the 2024 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) scores. The IAR is an assessment that all Illinois students in grades 3-8 take each spring. District 10 has worked collaboratively with students, staff and parents to foster a positive approach to this important exam. District 10 is pleased to share that its IAR results displayed a 22% growth for students at or above grade-level for English Language Arts (ELA), 13% growth for Math and 20% growth for Science.

ISBE evaluates elementary and middle schools on eight indicators, which together inform a school's final designation: English-language arts academic growth (25%); Math academic growth (25%); English-language arts proficiency (7.5%); Math proficiency (7.5%); Science proficiency (5%); English Language Learner path to proficiency (5%); Chronic Absenteeism (20%); and School Climate Survey participation (5%). Growth accounts for 50% of each

school's summative rating, and District 10 has emphasized student growth as a significant measure of overall school and district success for many years. When comparing year-to-year growth, the Report Card also found that District 10 students exhibited significantly more annual academic growth than the state average.

As we celebrate our schools' designations and assessment results, we remain committed to continuous improvement and to providing the support for every child to succeed. Our school improvement teams will review school-specific data, discuss ways each school supports students, and highlight the school's celebrations and opportunities for growth, as indicated in the report card.

Visit Illinois Report Card and type in "Itasca SD 10" to view the complete Illinois Report Card for each District 10 school. Please look forward to a new District 10 Annual Report that will be coming to school and community households later in November that hi-light these strong results.

Sincerely,

Mr. Craig Benes, Superintendent
Dr. Heidi Weeks, Deputy Superintendent