

March 24, 2016

Dear Parents,

I would like to personally update you on the efforts of the district's School Improvement Advisory Committee. This team meets monthly and is made up of teachers, students, parents, administrators, and a board member. The focus of this committee is to monitor the implementation of the District Improvement Plan (DIP).

To monitor how our students are performing academically, the children are given a series of local, state and national tests.

MSTEP (state test)	3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th & 11th grade students
PSAT (national test)	8th, 9th, 10th, & 11th grade students
SAT (national test)	11th grade students
NWEA (national test)	K - 7th grade students, 3 times per year 8th - 12th grade students, twice per year
Local Classroom Assessments	K - 12th grade students, throughout the year

The results of these measurement tools (tests) are analyzed and allows the team to focus on areas that need more support and additional instructional strategies. These additional staff trainings happen on the seven half day Friday inservices and common prep times that happen throughout the week. These trainings are planned by the team and a yearly inservice schedule is developed to work on identified areas where our students struggle.

Parents need to be involved and understand their students' progress on these assessments.

<u>TEST</u>	<u>What parents should be asking?</u>
NWEA Test	What is my child's RIT growth? How is my child doing locally, statewide, and nationally?
MSTEP	How did my child score locally and statewide? This is a great video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM55xZ-ZuNU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM55xZ-ZuNU</a>
PSAT/SAT	How did my child score locally, statewide and nationally?

What should parents be asking about their student's progress.

- How is my child scoring locally, statewide and nationally against their peer group?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?

What can I do as a parent to help?

- Monitor weekly grades on Powerschool (4th - 12th grade)
- Have teachers explain your child's RIT growth on NWEA at upcoming parent/teacher conferences (April 14th)
- What can all of us do to help your child succeed?

In the past year we are encouraged by the improvement in student proficiency of Onekama Students.

- 8th - 10th grade students showed growth compared to NWEA National MEAN scores
- The aggregate MEAN average of student scores in NWEA Math went from 40% in the spring of 2014 to 57% in the spring of 2015
- The aggregate MEAN average of student scores in NWEA reading went from 40.5% in the spring of 2014 to 59% in the spring of 2015.
- Onekama Consolidated Schools increased from 31% to 63% at meeting State proficiency average comparing the MEAP to the MSTEP.
- The Center for Michigan bridge report on analyzing Onekama MSTEP performance compared to similar schools in the state found: 1) 87.5% of students in 3, 4, 5 in all areas were at or above the average; 2) 62.5% of students in 3, 4, 5 were from 10% to 18% higher than the average; 3) 62.5% of students in grades 6, 7, 8 were at or above the average; 4) 75% of students in 3rd - 8th grade were at or above the average.

Finally, we have been putting forth considerable effort to use the District Improvement Plan (DIP) to improve our academic success of the students at Onekama Schools. In the most recent assessments our students are out performing similar students locally, statewide and nationally. This school improvement effort needs to continue and with the support of teachers, students, parents, staff, administrators, board members, and the community, our students can achieve to their maximum potential!

Thank you for your continued support.

Kevin P. Hughes  
Superintendent  
Member, School Improvement Advisory Committee