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September 29, 2009

It seems a short time ago that I was writing as we started the 2009-2010 school year. We have now completed more than a month.

The first significant milestone was passed last week as we distributed our Interim Reports for the first grading period. The official end of the first 9-week grading period is October 23.

The Interim Report is the mid-term or half-way report for student progress in a grading period. There are four 9-week grading periods during a school year.

I bring up the first Interim Report for a specific reason. I ask all students and parents to thoroughly review this document. Celebrate areas of success and please form action plans to correct areas that may be weaknesses. Contact schools and teachers to learn ways that areas of weakness can be strengthened, including things that can be done at home.

We are still in the early stages of the school year and there is time to make substantial improvement. Take the opportunity now to change or alter things that may have been a hindrance to academic success during the first few weeks. Do not let the school year slip away.

Commitment, study habits and study schedules at home may all be things to evaluate and consider if the Interim Report is not where it should be. I ask all parents to check homework and make sure assignments are getting done. Please communicate with your children on a daily basis about their classes, homework and school in general.

Family involvement and participation in your child's education is vital to his/her academic success. The school district is dedicated to providing each child with a positive and healthy learning experience. It takes a combined effort from parents and school staff to ensure that we meet our mutual goals for our students.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Gail F. McKenzie, Ph.D.
Superintendent

*Polk County Schools -
an equal opportunity
institution for education
and employment*

The mission of Polk County Public Schools is to ensure rigorous, relevant learning experiences for our students that result in high achievement.