



March 7, 2016

Dear Residents:

One of the most important considerations when deciding on a place to live is the quality of the local school system. A solid school system is an extremely important element in maintaining property values and ensuring a high quality of life. Many of our young people are deciding to make the Westphalia area their home. Even some that moved away are now returning. One of the reasons that I continue to hear is “we want our kids to be in the Pewamo-Westphalia school district.” This is probably the biggest compliment a school system can receive.

Although I have acknowledged the superior quality of our local school system in the past, I recently came across some additional information that is worth sharing. Lansing Community College did a profile of the PW School District for the 2014-2015 school year. Along other positive findings, the profile noted the following about PW:

- Graduation rate: **98.7%** (state average = 79%)
- Graduates enrolling in higher education: **87%** (state average = 62.3%)
- Mean ACT composite score: **22** (state average = 20.1%)
- Percent of graduated enrolled at LCC with a GPA of 2.0 or better: **94.3%**
- Percent of graduated enrolled at LCC with a GPA of 2.5 or better: **88.6%**

These are certainly some very impressive numbers and they help to confirm what a great school system PW really is. Obviously, PW Elementary, St. Mary’s School and St. Joseph’s School play a significant role in preparing students for high school. These schools also deserve much recognition for their part in the success of the PW School District.

In addition to the glowing statistics provided by LCC, PW is also ranked as the 13th best public high school in the State of Michigan by the *US News*. These accomplishments, along with so many others, make it easy to see why the educational system we have here is such a great source of community pride. Thank you to all the dedicated administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and especially the students for making us so very proud of our local schools.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our DPW (Jim & Steve) for doing such a great job of clearing our streets after the snow storms we experienced in late February and early March. They moved a lot of snow in short amount of time. Hopefully the worst of the winter weather is behind us and spring is on the way.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia