

Superintendent's Message - December 2011



Dear PTHS 209 Family and Friends,

This is one of my favorite times of the year. It is a time for reflection, a time for gratefulness, for showing our appreciation, and for looking back and recognizing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better for our students.

I hope that this season of Thanksgiving has found you in great spirits-- ready to step forward towards bigger and better things. At PTHS 209, we are moving well into the end of the first semester, and I am pleased to report that we are continuing to make phenomenal progress towards our goals.

Each school is progressing towards its school improvement goals. Everyone has come together as a team, and the efforts of our new school leadership, and our faculty and staff have already yielded positive results. Our school principals, Mrs. Echols, Dr. Kirkwood, and Mr. Valente have done a phenomenal job of increasing classroom support, monitoring instruction, and working to ensure rigor and relevance in the classrooms. Each school has its strong points, but each school is working with the others to create a support system that equals student success across the board. At Proviso East High School they are developing incentive programs to support attendance, higher academic achievement, and overall student success. At Proviso West, in addition to planning a student health center, they have hosted major parent outreach initiatives that have resulted in the support of many local businesses that recognize the importance of community partnership and parental involvement. At PMSA, our teachers and faculty continue to raise the bar as they celebrate being ranked as one of the top 50 high schools in the state.

On the administrative level, we have developed a "Leadership Cadre" to support, mentor, and encourage faculty and staff who are high-potential building leaders, model teachers, and aspiring administrators. The cadre will work with the administration to share information and maintain an open dialogue in order to advance practices essential for creating transformational educational experiences in our schools and classrooms. We have also increased our outreach to organizations that can offer greater support for our students and parents, such as Casa Jalisco. We are striving for success across the board, and if we continue to work together, not even the sky is the limit.

During this time of year, we always ask students for what they are thankful. Most will say their family, friends, coaches, or teachers. I must say that we are equally thankful to them. Each day, I am appreciative of the honor that comes with serving the students and parents of Proviso Township High Schools. I am proud of our communities, our school system, and all of the progress that we continue to make in setting high expectations and *Building Bridges to Success*. I am thankful for our continued improvement in accelerating student achievement. I am thankful for our faculty and staff and for their hard work and commitment to student success. I am thankful to our students who are the focus of all of our efforts, and I am thankful to you—the community that we serve.

It has been said that gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. Gratitude makes sense of our yesterday and creates a vision for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of our vision at Proviso Township High Schools. We appreciate your support.

Sincerest Regards,

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart