



GRACE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENT SUCCESS, STAFF SUCCESS, AND
STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES.

Grace School District #148 Highlights

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Superintendent's Letter



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Dear Patrons-

Spring has come and life is good! We have completed our Idaho Standardize Achievement Tests (ISAT) and the outlook is great. This year we took a different test with a different level of expectation. Remember that standardized tests are to help us measure areas of strength and weakness in the district. We will then look at what we can do better and what implemented strategies are working.

This year No Child Left Behind legislation increased the requirements for making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Because our state implemented a new assessment, our schools will be ranked according to our historical performance which means the district will make AYP for the 2014-2015 year. This is a huge accomplishment for our staff and students and indicates that our commitment to excellence has benefited us once again.

I want to express appreciation to you as patrons for the support you have shown the district in the way of our plant facilities projects. A few weeks ago we hosted our spring musical in one of the best performing arts facilities in the state! The students who attend our schools may never

know how fortunate they are to perform in a venue like the Gem Valley Performing Arts Center. This facility reflects the commitment our community has made to the arts, and as a result our students reciprocate that commitment in quality productions. We also hosted the 5/6 District track meet last week, on a track that is one of the best facilities in the state. If you remember the outside curb and fence you supported through the plant facilities levy saved our track, and as a result made it possible for our student athletes to contend for state births in front of our home crowd! I commend you for your continued commitment to making our school facilities the best in the area.

There is another issue that we will address in more depth in this letter, and that is the vote on consolidation with the North Gem School District. On May 19th, you will have the opportunity to vote on consolidation. This vote has come through a petition originated by a graduate of North Gem High School. There are many points of view relating to consolidation. I have always been a proponent of ways to improve education in our area. Please study the issues and determine if you feel this consolidation proposal will benefit our students and patrons,

and then vote accordingly.

It is an exciting time of year! Please help your students and staff members finish strong and continue to be engaged as there is much to learn and apply!

I appreciate all you do to support our staff and students.

Go big R.E.D.,



Jamie Holyoak
Superintendent of Schools
Grace School District #148

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit" Aristotle

NEW COMPUTER LAB AT GRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grace Elementary School received a much need computer lab upgrade this past month. The original lab had only 15 functional computers which would not accommodate a full class of students. The upgrade was made possible in part from a \$5,000 grant from Agrium, and now has 24 operable computers and can facilitate our largest class.



What Does Consolidation Mean?

A consolidated district would provide:

- opportunities to combine administrative services
- Financial protection if student enrollment declines. Funding from the state would be maintained at a level consistent with the two district's current funding before consolidation for a period of 7 years
- additional state funding incentive for building schools (bonding) if passed within 3 years of consolidation
- opportunities to maintain/expand curriculum at high school level

Financial Funding

- Idaho law guarantees that the funding for a consolidated district cannot drop below the combined level that the two districts received before consolidation for a period of seven years. (Idaho Statute 33-1003)
- Any district formed by consolidation that passes a bond within three years after consolidation receives a value index adjustment under the Bond Levy Equalization, causing the state to pay at the district's actual value index minus twenty-five hundredths (.25= 25%) of the bond repayment costs over the life of the bond. The property value index of North Gem (.98=2%) and Grace school districts (.84=16%) combined is (.91=9%). Adding the incentive provided after consolidation, the state will pay 34% (25% +9%) of a proposed bond if passed within 3 years of consolidation. (Idaho Statute 33-906 & 33-906 B)

Teachers, Administrators and Trustees

Will employees be let go or cut?

- Idaho law allows the school board of a newly consolidated district to offer a one-time severance payment to a maximum of 10% of employees. Any offer made to teachers can be refused and will not affect future employment. (Idaho Statute 33-521)

Funding for administrators

- Funding for administrators is based on number of pupils taught. The number of administrator positions currently allocated to each district will be the same number allocated to a consolidated district. (Idaho Statute 33-1004)

How is a new school board created?

- Two existing board members from each district will be on the board. Those four members will then vote on the fifth board member selected from the remaining board members. (Idaho Statute 33-505)

New Schools: Who decides?

- Any options for new schools in a new consolidated district will be proposed by the new school board. Any bonding necessary for proposed schools requires 66.67% approval of school district patrons.

Please study the issues and determine if you feel this consolidation proposal will benefit our students and patrons, and then vote accordingly.