

Greetings Alumni,

It has been another banner year at your alma mater. The Gilbert Community School District continues to make news as one of the top schools in the state and nation. Our middle school was ranked number one in the state this year, according to schooldigger.com. As I mentioned last year, our high school had received the honor of being named a Blue Ribbon School, one of only nineteen public high schools in the nation. We had the additional honor of being chosen as one of three schools to be featured in a video about Blue Ribbon Schools. Our academic results have been outstanding in all of our buildings, and students and staff continue to work very hard to achieve these results.

It has been a great year in athletics as well. The football team won their district, boys basketball team won the conference title, and our track team is positioning itself to make a run at winning a state championship this week at the state track meet. The soccer teams are in preparation for a run at state as well and the boys golf team just won the sectional championship held at Veenker this past weekend. The boys cross country team won the state championship last fall, which was very exciting. Thomas Pollard was the boys' individual state champion. The girls track team took the district champ title while qualifying a number of events for state, and our girls cross country team placed second at the state meet following last year's championship. Grace Gibbons was the girls' individual state champion. The wrestling team advanced three wrestlers to state with Wyatt Rhoads placing 8th. The fine arts are sporting record numbers of participation, and band and music have received division 1 ratings at a number of contests this year. In fact, at small group and ensemble, five out of six outstanding in center awards were given to Gilbert kids! Our drama/music department produced a highly successful variety show and a spring play that saw sixty five students on stage in a comical parody of Harry Potter. Our FFA program continues to be the largest extra curricular organization in the district and has many exciting projects in the works. FCCLA remains strong and has a number of students holding office at the state level. It is a great time to be a student at Gilbert!

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to longtime elementary secretary, Joyce Lauridsen, who lost her battle to cancer this spring. Her service was held in our auditorium and was attended by many students whose life she greatly impacted. We also have several retirees this year including: Hope Bossard, curriculum coordinator; Pam Staff, second grade; Barb Pedersen, HS Special Education; Julie Unga, technology; Jill Moore, ELL; Jan Avey, secretary for guidance and athletics; and bus driver, Hubert Bickelhaupt. All of these fine staff members dedicated many hours to helping our district become the outstanding educational institution that it is.

We would love to see our alumni this summer at the Gilbert Days celebration which will be held in July. In conjunction with the celebration, the Gilbert Summer Theater group will be

putting on a musical on Friday, July 24th at 7:00 and on Saturday the 25th at 4:00. There are also several other events planned including a street dance on Saturday night. If you have a group who would like to tour the new facilities, this would be a great time to get that scheduled. If you cannot make it for Gilbert Days, you are, of course, welcome to stop whenever you are in the area. Have a great summer!