

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Bill Cameron
Title: Public Information Coordinator
Corning-Painted Post Area School District
Phone: (607) 654-2721
Email: bcameron@cppmail.com
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2009

State Releases Grade 3-8 ELA Results *District Results Rise at All Levels*

Corning, NY- "We as a District can be proud that the work done over the past several years of aligning curriculum and raising expectations has paid off in gains in student success," said Hugh Gregg Elementary Principal Ann Collins, in reference to the just-released English-Language Arts test results for third through eighth grades.

Over the past three years, the percentage of third through eighth grade students in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District earning a Level 3 or 4 on the State ELA tests has continued to show increases. 2009 performance data released by the New York State Education Department today clearly showed across-the-board student improvement in the District, with large gains in the middle schools. State ELA tests are designed to measure student performance on the State's Learning Standards in English Language Arts. These tests allow you to identify strengths and weaknesses at the student, school and district levels.

District-wide, the grade 3 through 8 results grew by 5-percent from 2006-07 to 2007-08 and by 8-percent from 2007-08 to 2008-09. In 2006-07, sixty-five percent of students earned a Level 3 or 4. In 2007-08 that number was seventy percent and this year was an outstanding seventy-eight percent.

Every grade-level in the middle school saw an increase in scores. At Corning Free Academy, Principal Richard Kimble cited focused intervention that addressed concerns and helped students improve. He said, "I am proud to say our results over five years have steadily increased. I personally will cite curriculum alignment and International Baccalaureate as components that are contributing to student success. Obviously, our teaching staff has done an amazing job as well."

At Calvin U. Smith Elementary School results in grades 3, 4 and 5 saw tremendous improvement over the past three years. Principal Kerry Elsasser said, "Our increases are a result of teamwork and trust. As a staff we have looked at individual performance, worked with families to support students, and used best-practice to make the greatest impact on student outcomes. These results mean that teachers are planning, teaching and assessing differently...all of which are paying off. Our teachers should feel proud and validated. I'm honored to lead a staff that looks to make positive change for kids."

Equally proud is Severn Elementary Principal John Whaley. He said, "I am glad to see all of our teachers', staff and students' hard work validated. Our ELA scores have continued to improve over the past two years including a nearly 20-percent increase in our Special Education numbers over that time period." He added, "We are proud of our accomplishments but we are not satisfied. We will continue to set the bar higher and work to achieve our goals."

At Hugh Gregg Elementary, Principal Ann Collins said the process is vital to achieving consistent improvement. She said, "At Gregg School this past year, we implemented an after school ELA Boost class where we provided additional support to 18 third, fourth and fifth grade students who had had the potential to do well but needed just a bit more focused support! Our classroom curriculum is enough for most students, but sometimes a few hours focused on skills for taking the exam is needed to give students the confidence to perform on these measures. One hundred percent of the students who received that "boost" passed and met the state performance standards.



Press Release, continued

Helping Teacher Cheryl Jordan said, “Two areas really helped us. The adoption of a District-wide Reading Program helped to create far more consistency from grade-to-grade and school-to-school. Also, classroom teachers had a lot of dialogue about what worked best for our students. That coupled with the hard work of teachers who differentiated their instruction in order to meet the needs of their students has really paid off.”

See chart for District results

###



RIGOR + RELEVANCE + RELATIONSHIPS = EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

165 Charles Street Painted Post, NY 14870
(607)936-3704 www.corningareaschools.com

ELA Levels 3 & 4 3-Year Comparison

