



O'NEILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR



Dream ~ Believe ~ Achieve...

Empowering Today's Students to be Tomorrow's Leaders

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Patrons:

I am proud to submit our annual report to the patrons of O'Neill Public Schools. Our district continues to provide a solid educational foundation to all students. The information in this report will give you a snapshot of the school district, including demographic information, academic information, and financial information. We are accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education through its "Frameworks" process. This process drives student performance and continuous improvement in education. Today's accreditation examines the whole institution—the programs, the cultural context, the community of stakeholders—to determine how well the parts work together to meet the needs of students. We are in "Year 3" of our current CIP or Continuous Improvement Plan. In "Year 1" the district updated its mission statement and reaffirmed its vision statement. Both can be found in this report. Staff also reviewed student achievement data to select our new target area goals. Those goals are in the area of reading, with an emphasis on fluency, comprehension, and analysis and writing, with an emphasis on structure, mechanics and fluency. We continue to work to improve all teachers' instructional practices in all content areas through implementation of the O'Neill Public Schools instructional framework, based on the work of Dr. Bob Marzano.

COVID-19 continued to impact our world during the 2020-21 school year, but I am proud to say that we were "in-person learning" for the whole school year. For the majority of the school year both students and staff wore masks and did their best to social distance from one another. Our district adhered to the CDC and North Central District Health Department's recommendations concerning isolation and quarantine. We found that illnesses from other sources (influenza, strep throat, etc.) were also minimized throughout the school year. Our students and staff responded in amazing fashion, working hard to make up for lost learning from the spring of 2020. Students were able to take their state tests this year, and for the most part performed very well. A large amount of federal funding was made available during the 2020-2021 school year to assist with a safe return to in-person learning and remediation of learning loss caused by the COVID closure and the necessity for some students to isolate or quarantine throughout the year. We held a public hearing and offered a public survey so that our patrons could discuss and suggest the best ways to expend these federal funds. The percent of state support not related to state aid or TEEOSA is due to these additional funds.

We continue to utilize and enjoy the new addition at the Jr. Sr. High School! We are so grateful for the additional updated space for our academic and activity programs.

O'Neill Public Schools continues to be a statewide leader in the use of technology to enhance education. Our 24/7 Learning Initiative allows students in grades 7-12 to express their learning in a wide variety of ways and prepares them for the future that awaits them. O'Neill High School has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for twelve concurrent years, through 2022. Most staff members are Apple certified instructors as well. Students at O'Neill Elementary School also have access to iPads and Macbooks that serve as tools for learning.

The High School has implemented a Career Awareness class for juniors and seniors that allow them to explore a variety of career possibilities through shadowing and internship opportunities in local businesses. We truly thank our local businesses for their willingness to allow our students to "watch them in action"! We offer a large number of career pathways that can be achieved in all six career cluster areas. Many other classes for dual or college only credit are offered to our juniors and seniors. Many students head to college with a semester or more of course work completed. We appreciate all of the support that we receive from our patrons, and welcome community input and involvement in our schools.

Our High School principal informed us that he had accepted a new position for the 2021-2022 school year, so we held a search for a new principal in the spring. We are excited to welcome Mr. Will Wragge to O'Neill Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year! I also announced my retirement from OPS at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. I have loved each of my 24 years at O'Neill Public Schools, and feel that it is poised to continue its tradition of success, due to the wonderful staff and students who fill its halls!

Thank you for your continued support,

Amy Shane, Superintendent of Schools

