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MEMORANDUM

Date: October 16, 2015

To: Karen Janney, Ed.D., Superintendent

From: Dianna Carberry, Ed.D., Asst. Supt., Leadership Development and Systems Innovation 

RE: Schools to Watch

Schools to Watch® is an initiative launched by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform in 1999. Granger Junior High School was selected to continue to be a School to Watch (see attachment). It is a pleasure to announce Granger Junior High excelled in all the Schools to Watch components.

Through the Schools to Watch® initiative, the National Forum identifies schools across the United States that are well on their way to meeting the Forum's criteria for high performance. Forum members believe that three things are true of high-performing middle-grades schools:

They are academically excellent — these schools challenge all students to use their minds well.

They are developmentally responsive — these schools are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence.

They are socially equitable — these schools are democratic and fair, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources, and supports.

To achieve this level of performance, high-performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their trajectory toward excellence. They have a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decision-making.



Sweetwater Union High School District Schools to Watch Granger Junior High School

It is another great day to be at GRANGER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL!!!

Congratulations to our staff, parents, students and our community for being re-designated as a ***Schools to Watch***. It is because of the efforts of all stakeholders that GRANGER JUNIOR HIGH will continue to be a ***School to Watch***. Dr. Irwin Howard and the committee continues to be impressed with our efforts to support our students in our community.

The criteria for the selection of ***Schools to Watch*** is multifaceted and rigorous. Component of ***Schools to Watch*** include academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure. Most schools excel in one or two areas. GRANGER continues to excel in all areas!!!

See link for Schools to Watch Criteria:

<http://middlegradesforum.org/our-criteria/>

"I went to 10 classrooms and I have no concerns. Students were engaged in rigorous activities, cooperative learning, and teachers were not talking at students. They were engaged in meaningful work. The band teacher had students performing songs as well as writing music. The Biology teacher (whose bus had issues for their field trip today) understood the importance of exposing students to relevant field trips. You can see that your teachers care about students."

– Dr. Irwin Howard, Schools to Watch

I am extremely proud and humble to be a member of the Granger family. Special thanks to Savannah Sturges, Karen Doughman, and Maria Gallaher who took part in writing the narrative for our school.

Respectfully,
Rich