



**“HOME OF THE HAWKS”**

# Hillsboro R-III School District

**20 HAWK DRIVE  
HILLSBORO, MO 63050  
Dr. Beverly Schonhoff, Superintendent**

February 4, 2010

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of our status as a “Distinction in Performance” District. This was announced by The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in mid-December. This award is based on our academic achievement for the school year 2008-2009.

The DESE announcement stated the following:

The Distinction in Performance recognition is based on the 14 academic performance standards that are the basis of the state’s accreditation program for all school districts. The standards are based on scores from the state-mandated MAP tests, high school end-of-course exams, graduation rates, ACT scores and other measures.

“To qualify for Distinction in Performance, a school district must be achieving at a high level or making consistent progress at all grade levels. School districts work hard to achieve this recognition,” said Stan Johnston, assistant commissioner for the DESE.

Our achievement makes us quite proud and we want to make sure that our parents know about the positives in achievement as they occur. In the upcoming Messenger you will find a detailed article on the Annual Performance Report (APR) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), both areas of accountability in the area of performance for all Missouri school districts. The point we want to convey is that through observation and review of data we are pinpointing the areas where we excel and where we need to improve. We work on a daily basis to improve student learning, to support our teachers to improve instruction and to provide data on achievement in a timely and comprehensible format.

Please join us in this celebration and in supporting the work necessary by students and staff to improve learning. Through this support each child will have the best opportunity available to meet the challenges of graduating. We hope through his or her time at Hillsboro that each child will develop a love for life-long learning.

Best regards,

Dr. Beverly K. Schonhoff, Ph.D., Superintendent  
Jana Rhame, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

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