

From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen...

*"Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life."* Mortimer J. Adler

Many years ago the Deerfield Community School District, with the support of the school board, made a commitment to build our academic foundation at the primary grade levels around reading skills. Over the years this commitment has been reinforced by maintaining small class sizes in the primary grades coupled with one-to-one and small group instruction to improve literacy skills. This focus continues to pay huge dividends to our children as they progress through the middle and high school years.

For the past two years the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) along with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has recognized middle schools across the state for high growth in reading and math scores on the state standardized test (WKCE). For the second year Deerfield Middle School is being recognized as an Exemplary Middle School for high growth in reading.

This accomplishment has come from many dedicated individuals. Our classroom teachers work diligently to build literacy skills beginning in kindergarten up through the middle school years. Instructional aides assist students in providing additional reading skill building and our elementary volunteer tutoring program connects students with adults to reinforce those skills. While the recognition is appreciated, it speaks to the foundational and philosophical commitment that Deerfield continues to make toward recognizing that the ability to read is in fact a basic tool in living a good life.

If you are interested in learning more about the volunteer tutoring program and how you can help Deerfield continue its commitment to building solid reading and math skills please contact Randi Thorson, elementary reading specialist at 764-5442.