

A Message from Superintendent Hoernemann



Lessons from the ACSC Experts

Our school system has more than 9,000 experts in our 12 school buildings – our students. Early in the superintendency, I began the practice of having lunch each week with a small group of students at their school. It is the best day of the week!

After the interesting thoughts about who I am (“The president?”) and why I want to have lunch with them (“Because you’re lonely?”), we always discuss what they love about their schools. Our experts always start with their teachers. They consistently say that their teachers care for them, are kind and help them when they struggle. They feel safe in their “nice and safe” school buildings. Some of their favorite classes include art, music, physical education, business, Project-Lead-The-Way and family & consumer sciences. When we shift gears to what might make their great schools even better, our experts are candid in telling that they would love to have smaller class sizes and better access to technology. (Occasionally they ask for more recess, too!)

The Avon High School students always have an interesting perspective. When I ask them if they believe AHS is too big, the answer is consistently a resounding “No.” Parents disagree, however! Student experts repeatedly emphasize that there is something for everyone at school like nearly 40 clubs including the Robotics Club, Historical Fashion Society, Multicultural Club and the Avon Center Stage Performers, not to mention the strong music and athletic opportunities. There is definitely a strong sense of connectivity among these experts.

Leadership guru, Kevin Cashman says, “Effective leaders speak to influence and motivate. Exceptional leaders listen to learn.” I’m listening.

As always, I welcome your feedback. Feel free to email me at mehoernemann@avon-schools.org.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hoernemann
Superintendent

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