



Dr. Michael A. Grego

# Osceola School District's

# Superintendent's Progress Report To The Community



MARCH  
2010

## Candidacy Status For Celebration High

Celebration High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Application, Part A, which grants the school IB status has been approved. This is an important first step to being fully IB-authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization. The IB Program is designed as an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepare students for success at a university and beyond.

## America's Best High Schools

Osceola County School for the Arts has once again earned a prestigious place in the Silver category of the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best High Schools newest ranking. Two additional Osceola schools, the district's Professional And Technical High School (PATHS) and New Dimensions High School, were also named in the Bronze category in the same report. The list ranks public high schools to identify the very best across the country by using a three-step process that analyzes first how schools are educating all of their students, then their minority and disadvantaged students, and finally their collegebound students based on student scores on statewide tests, Advanced Placement tests, and International Baccalaureate tests.

## New National Board Certified Teachers

Five Osceola educators achieved National Board Certification in 2009 by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, bringing Osceola County's total of National Board Certified teachers to 134. National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward

great teachers and make them better. While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, National Board Certified Teachers have successfully demonstrated the highest teaching standards in advanced teaching knowledge, skills, and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete.

## Race To The Top

The Osceola County School Board granted approval of the Participating Local Education Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a participating district for Florida's Race to the Top grant application. Race to the Top grant funds would be used to weave a common core of rigorous standards and assessments into a pioneering data system that will serve as a foundation to attract, retain, and support top-notch teachers and school leaders who will, in turn, improve student achievement in our schools. Through the Memorandum of Understanding, Superintendent Grego and members of the Osceola County School Board indicated their commitment and their willingness to negotiate in good faith any terms and conditions necessary for implementation of the state and local plan. The state proposal, if successful, would bring \$700 million to Florida to improve aspects of our education system.

## Education in the Park

This year's Education in the Park event will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010, at Kissimmee's South Lakefront Park from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Make plans to bring the whole family to this free event, which will feature over 100 interactive school and community booths in a celebration of education in Osceola County.

Student Achievement Is Our Number One Priority!