



Dr. Michael A. Grego

# Osceola School District's

# Superintendent's Progress Report To The Community



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## More High School Career Academies Under Development

For the 2009/2010 school year, the Osceola School District is greatly expanding the number of high school career academies to be offered to students. The academies are part of the district's Career and Technical Education programs, which provide students technology training that incorporates the career skills that are in demand in our society. They also promote literacy and academic advancement, provide job training and employer partnerships, and improve the employability potential of each student. For a list of schools and academies, visit [www.cte.osceola.k12.fl.us](http://www.cte.osceola.k12.fl.us).

## Greater Number Of Osceola Students To Take PSAT

The Osceola School District recognizes the importance of providing students with opportunities to prepare for the challenges of getting into college. Towards that end, the district has underwritten the cost of the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) for all ninth graders in October for the first time in Osceola County. As the state of Florida pays for all tenth graders and individual schools pay for select eleventh graders to take the PSAT, Osceola students now have the chance to take this important exam multiple times during their high school career, giving them more practice than most students across the nation.

## Expansion of AVID Program Helps Students Reach Their Fullest Potential

With the goal of providing acceleration instead of remediation for students who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard,

the Osceola School District has expanded Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a college-prep program focusing on students in the academic middle who are the first to attend college or historically underserved in college. AVID students, in eleven schools, are preparing for college by taking rigorous courses, receiving tutoring, applying organization skills, utilizing learning strategies, and applying to colleges and for funding, such as scholarships and loans. There are 936 students currently enrolled in the AVID program in the Osceola School District.

## Osceola Students Encouraged To Reach For The Stars

The Osceola School District has started the Reach for the Stars Initiative, aimed at helping a greater number of students become competitive at nationally-recognized colleges and universities. In addition to helping high-performing students, the Stars counselor at each school will be able to share information about the college admissions process with the other students in the school, significantly increasing the number of children benefitting from the program.

## Project Northstar Begins To Help Students Find Success

The Osceola School District is beginning the Project Northstar program, designed to give students who are at least 16 years of age and one or more years behind their kindergarten cohort options for breaking the cycle of failure and disappointment. Project Northstar Counselors meet with these students at their area school to determine exactly what each individual's academic situation is, what their academic goals are, and what are their aspirations for a career and life after high school. Based on this information, specific programs offered within the school district are presented to students as options for their success.

Student Achievement Is Our Number One Priority!