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Re: Fwd: Letter from Dr. Sherman About Accreditation Banners]

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Hi All,

Mon Sep 1, 2008 6:08 pm

Sorry I'm a late-comer to this discussion thread.

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I must whole-heartedly agree with Dr. Sherman and the district leadership on removing the banners. The time for this sort of cheerleading for ACPS has passed. As Dr. Sherman said in his letters, and others have stated many times, "accreditation" is a basic level of competence that we should expect for all of our children. It is not a mark of high excellence or achievement. I have not seen such banners in Falls Church or Fairfax County (although I haven't seen all schools in these communities, so correct me if I'm wrong), and these are the communities that, in the recent past, many families have chosen for their children over Alexandria.

"Helen Morris" <bronwynzoe@...> bronwynzoe Offline Send Email

While accreditation for JH is an important milestone on the road to excellence for which we all strive, we must continue to demand more for all of the children in the JH community. As a community, I know that we all embrace this vital success and commend and congratulate Ms. Graves, her dedicated staff, and the children who have worked so hard over the past two years to reach accreditation and reverse several years of failing scores. My hat is off to all of them! And, I know that all of our support is behind them to help them reach the next benchmark for JH.

Cheers!

Helen

----- Original Message -----

From: Amy Carlini
To: jeffersonhouston@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2008 9:23 AM
Subject: [SPAM]FW: [Fwd: FW: [jeffersonhouston] Fwd: Letter from Dr. Sherman About Accreditation Banners]

Good morning all,

Dr. Sherman asked me to post the letter below in response to comments about the accreditation banners being taken down.

Thanks,
Amy

Good morning,

Thank you for this open and candid conversation.

First, let me congratulate and thank the staff, faculty, administration, and parents of Jefferson Houston for the significant and wonderful accomplishment of making the SOL (Standards of Learning... state of VA) and AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress... federal government) requirements. This accomplishment is the result of focused work on the part of many on behalf of the children of JHAA.

Second, let us celebrate and honor this significant accomplishment in a manner which reflects the high ideals and hopes we have for each and every student at JHAA.

We should celebrate accreditation for JHAA. There is no doubt that accreditation is a significant accomplishment, and that without achieving basic literacies, we are falling short of our responsibilities to students.

We should also recognize for the children of this still emerging 21st century, that they deserve so much more than just meeting basic requirements.

<>All the principals and educational leaders in ACPS discussed what to do with the accreditation banners... I don't make decisions like this unilaterally. We all believe that reaching the basic levels of accreditation is a necessary foundational goal. We just don't want the students and educational family of JHAA and other schools to believe that accreditation is our goal.... we can and should do so much more for our students.

It has always been our intention to honor and celebrate this momentous accomplishment. We will also work with you and all our school communities to discuss what we believe should be the attributes by which we would like to assess the quality of our schools beyond the minimal expectations of state tests.

Thank you for your understanding; and thank you for your support of JHAA... a great school!

Mort Sherman

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Re: Fwd: Letter from Dr. Sherman About Accreditation Banners]
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Helen Morris
[bronwynzozo](#) Sep 1, 2008
6:08 pm



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