



Oak Grove 68 Named a National Blue Ribbon School

To the Oak Grove Community:

We have some fantastic news to share with our families and the entire community!

On behalf of the students, past and present, the faculty, staff, and administration of Oak Grove School, we are proud to announce that the United States Department of Education has announced our school district as a National Blue Ribbon School.

This is the first time in history that Oak Grove has received the honor. It is the highest honor any school district can earn. I could not be more excited for, and proud of, the current and past, students and staff members, who are responsible for this achievement. Together, they make Oak Grove a wonderful place to learn and grow. Our community has good reason to be proud of its school.

Oak Grove was nominated for the award last spring by the Illinois State Board of Education. Schools cannot nominate themselves or seek National Blue Ribbon School status on their own. We are proud that the ISBE recognizes our accomplishments and nominated Oak Grove for the award. The administration and staff worked throughout the spring and summer completing the necessary documentation and testimony required for the Department of Education to review.

The United States Department of Education recognizes schools and/or districts in one of two categories: 1) Exemplary High Performing Schools, and 2) Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools. Oak Grove was named a National Blue Ribbon School as an Exemplary High Performing School. We have been recognized as being one of the highest academic performing school districts in Illinois. Eligible schools include public and private elementary, middle and high schools throughout the United States. Typically, the award goes to one school within an entire district; however, our award is for the entire district, making the recognition extremely special to us.

The US Secretary of Education will recognize all National Blue Ribbon School recipients November 6-9, 2016 at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. Oak Grove can send three representatives to the ceremony to receive the award.

“It is truly an honor to be a part of this wonderful school and community. Our dedicated teachers and staff contribute to make a welcoming and exceptional place for our children to

learn. I am humbled to represent Oak Grove School,” notes Mr. Andrew Fenton, the principal at Oak Grove. Dr. Lonny B. Lemon serves as the Superintendent. Mrs. Katie Riley will represent the faculty at the ceremony.

It has been an exciting few months since we learned last spring that the ISBE was going to nominate us for this award. The faculty and staff worked very hard to help us prepare the information the Department of Education required in order to be considered. We waited anxiously all summer to find out if we would, indeed, be honored. It was so exciting to hear earlier this month that we would be named a National Blue Ribbon School. It has been gut-wrenching to keep this great news a secret this past week.

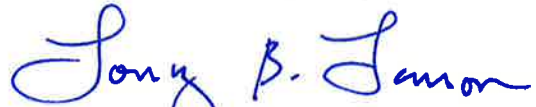
Ultimately, the award would not be possible if we did not have students and parents who were committed to learning. The faculty and staff “thank you,” for all that you do to support us each and every day. It is our honor to work with your sons and daughters. We thank you for all that you do to help your students have success at Oak Grove.

We plan on celebrating our achievements and giving you the opportunity to celebrate with us. As we learn more about our plans, we will continue to communicate with you.

Secretary King’s announcement of the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools will be at 1:00 pm eastern on <https://www.youtube.com/user/usedgov>.

This is a great day in our school history. Congratulations!

With Oak Grove pride,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lonny B. Lemon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Lonny B. Lemon, Ed.D.
Superintendent