



Department
of Education

John R. Kasich, Governor
Stan W. Heffner, Superintendent of Public Instruction

October 17, 2011

Joe Nocera, Principal
Wells Academy
420 North 4th St.
Steubenville, OH 43952

Dear Principal Nocera:

Congratulations! I am honored to inform you that your school is recognized as a *School of Promise* for the 2010-2011 school year, based on your most recent state report card.

The Ohio Department of Education hails your example in closing the mathematics or reading achievement gap for students in your school who represent a range of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. As a former district superintendent, principal and teacher, I know personally the challenges of educating students from diverse backgrounds. You should be especially proud that with 40 percent or more of your students coming from low-income homes, all groups of students in your school are achieving at high levels. For children who traditionally have struggled to achieve, Wells Academy truly is a *School of Promise*.

As one of an elite group of 122 *Schools of Promise* in Ohio, you have set a strong example of what is achievable when students, educators, parents and community members come together to help all students succeed. I thank you for your leadership and ask you to convey ODE's gratitude to all those who shared in it. By supporting students and believing in them, you, your staff and your community demonstrate what can be achieved by collaboration.

In the coming weeks, you will receive an official *Schools of Promise* banner to display in your school building. If you have questions about the banner or the award, please contact Sherry Panizo in the ODE Office of Policy and Research at (614) 387-0546 or sherry.panizo@ode.state.oh.us.

Congratulations once again on this achievement, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Heffner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stan W. Heffner