



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Jesse H. Ruiz  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

February 2010

Matt Vandercar, Principal  
Pleasantdale Elementary School  
Pleasantdale SD 107  
8100 School St  
La Grange, IL 60525

Re: Academic Excellence Award – 2009 Illinois Honor Roll

Dear Principal:

Congratulations! Your school has earned an Academic Excellence Award! The Illinois State Board of Education commends you and your faculty on all the good work required to sustain academic excellence in your school.

Across the state, 438 schools earned the Academic Excellence Award for 2009. Many of these schools receive national recognition for their long-time exemplary performance.

To earn an Academic Excellence Award, a school must meet the following criteria:

- In PK-8 schools, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years;
- In high schools, 80 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years; and
- Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2008 and 2009, which includes:
  - at least 70 percent meeting and exceeding standards in both reading and mathematics;
  - 95 percent participation rate in state assessments for all students in each subgroup;
  - attendance rate of at least 90 percent for elementary and middle schools and a graduation rate of at least 78 percent for high schools.

Enclosed you will find a certificate commemorating this award. At <http://www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu> you can learn more about the Illinois Honor Roll, which includes three categories of awards – Spotlight Schools, Academic Improvement and Academic Excellence. At this website, you will find a page devoted to your school and a customized logo for your use. Also, you will find the criteria for the awards and a full list of award winners.

We encourage you to celebrate your success and share your good news with students, parents and all community partners. Again, I extend my congratulations and very best wishes for continuing success.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure

cc: Dr Mark Fredisdorf, Superintendent  
Pleasantdale SD 107



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February 2010

Meg Pokorny, Principal  
Pleasantdale Middle Sch  
Pleasantdale SD 107  
7450 S Wolf Rd  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Re: Academic Excellence Award – 2009 Illinois Honor Roll

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Koch".

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure

cc: Dr Mark Fredisdorf, Superintendent  
Pleasantdale SD 107

# SCHOOLSEARCH™

DEDICATED TO HELPING FAMILIES FIND THE BEST SCHOOLS FOR THEIR CHILDREN – SINCE 1991.

February 19, 2010

Dr Mark Fredisdorf, Superintendent  
Pleasantdale SD 107  
7450 S Wolf Rd  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Dear Dr Mark Fredisdorf,

**Congratulations to you & your fine school district for earning the SchoolSearch™ 2010 Bright Red Apple™ Award for educational excellence!** SchoolSearch™ chose your school district as one of only 83 Illinois School Districts (out of 869 school districts) to honor with the 2010 Bright Red Apple™ Award. **The award is based on five key factors: Academic Performance, Pupil/Teacher Ratio, Expenditure Per Pupil, Educational Level of Teachers, and Average Teacher Salary. *Your school district is strong in all five family-favored areas!***

SchoolSearch™ is an educational research & consulting firm that publishes rankings of school systems. SchoolSearch™ works with major companies by providing their relocating families school information. ***The award criteria are based on the primary areas of concern for most relocating families.*** SchoolSearch™ is dedicated to helping families make informed school choices. While statistical factors are informative, SchoolSearch™ encourages families to visit schools of interest to them.

All school districts in Illinois are considered for the award & the award criteria are based on ***objective factors*** – on which all districts are judged fairly (2009 IL report card data source).

Enclosed is certification of your **SchoolSearch™ 2010 Bright Red Apple™ Award of excellence.** Let us know if you are in need of additional certificates for building principals. You may view & print the award recipient list & press release from our web site at [www.schoolsearchrankings.com](http://www.schoolsearchrankings.com). ***Congratulations & best wishes to you & your fine school district for striving to provide your students with an outstanding educational environment!***

Sincerely,



Dee Shugart, Ph.D.  
President

Enclosures