

students with an education that meets the interests, abilities, and needs of all students, while also empowering them to reach their full potential.

GES has received an A grade by the State of Indiana since 2004. GES has distinguished itself through inquiry and project-based learning, in which lessons are built around key questions, and students take ownership of their learning. For example, students participate in a schoolwide inquiry project, Geist Marketplace, where students from different grade levels partner together to create a business. The project promotes collaboration and entrepreneurship, allowing students to create, market, and sell their products. In addition, they learn to pay their debts and hold an event that is open to the local community, where residents can purchase the products made by the students. Ultimately, students can provide proceeds to local charities.

GES parents, faculty, and staff work together to provide a positive learning environment to ensure students develop strong character, while achieving academic excellence and getting involved in the community.

I would like to recognize Geist Elementary School principal Christi Thomas, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Fishers community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Geist Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LEXINGTON, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Lexington Elementary School of Lexington, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Lexington continuously aims to bridge the gap between students from diverse economic backgrounds. In 2008, Lexington implemented a schoolwide support and service model, which allowed extra funding for tutors and a more personalized approach to ensure individual student success.

Lexington Elementary prides itself on a rigorous curriculum designed to maximize student exposure to core concepts that are essential for academic growth and success. Each grade level

has specific programs designed to tailor that grade's needs. In the primary grades, Lexington uses the Burst reading program to provide students with foundational skills they need to read independently.

Lexington Elementary School's positive and nurturing atmosphere ensures all students are treated with respect. Students help lead the way through initiatives like Lexington's Project Words of Wisdom, where, every morning, students share motivational ideals, such as being kind to others, during the schoolwide morning announcements.

Lexington Elementary School's approach and dedication to student achievement has been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community. Students also benefit from programs in the local community. The Scott County Family YMCA offers a before and afterschool program with nearly 50 percent of the Lexington student population. This partnership offers homework assistance, enrichment activities, and exercise opportunities.

Lexington Elementary School is a stellar example of the benefits that result from dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong community partnerships in education.

I am proud to recognize Lexington Elementary School principal Charles Rose, who was leading the school at the time of the nomination, current principal Nick South, as well as the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Lexington community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Lexington Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING NORTHPOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GRANGER, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Northpoint Elementary School of Granger, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2010, Northpoint Elementary School continues to demonstrate academic excellence and works to meet the individual needs of its students through

various strategies and assessments. Northpoint demonstrates an interactive method to learning and embodies a triangle of success approach that develops a strong connection between the school, parents, and teachers.

Northpoint Elementary School's staff, students, and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character including academic excellence and service to others. Teachers and support staff not only mentor students academically but also focus on nurturing students' social and emotional needs. Programs to help students are provided before, during, and after school, including an antibullying program that is taught to students and reinforced regularly.

Northpoint Elementary School is an example of how dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong family engagement in education benefits both students and the local community. Students participate in various programs, including giving back to families in need by donating gifts during the holidays and supporting local homeless shelters.

Northpoint students come from various backgrounds. With a diverse student body, Northpoint has created an inclusive atmosphere to ensure every student is treated with respect.

I am proud to recognize Northpoint Elementary School principal Diane L. Wirth, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Granger community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Northpoint Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH RIPLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF VERSAILLES, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize South Ripley Junior High School of Versailles, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

South Ripley Junior High School has distinguished itself as a top-performing school in Indiana. For the last 4 years, South Ripley Junior High School has been named a Four Star School and an A rated school. In 2016, South Ripley was named a national School to Watch for its high performance on State

standardized tests and overall academic excellence.

The school's philosophy of education is built upon the expectation of success in all students. South Ripley Junior High School focuses on helping each student develop individual success academically and personally. To that end, the core curriculum supports college and career readiness to develop the skills students need in everyday life, such as problem-solving, as well as reading and writing effectively. In addition, South Ripley's faculty and staff continuously work with students to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs and help students develop strong character.

I am proud to recognize South Ripley Junior High School principal Destiny Rutzel, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Versailles community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate South Ripley Junior High, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Union Elementary School of Zionsville, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Union Elementary School opened at its current location in 2007 and currently serves over 600 students. Union Elementary prides itself on creating a nurturing and collaborative learning environment, where teachers, students, and teachers work together so that all students can reach their potential. Teachers utilize a wide variety of assessment practices to measure student progress, make instructional decisions, and to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs.

Union Elementary School seeks to ensure students are enriched both during and after school. The school has an outdoor classroom, which includes native Indiana wildflowers, a butterfly garden, and vegetable gardening space, allowing creativity to go beyond the traditional classroom. Students are offered various extracurricular activities, including foreign language clubs, art enrichment, engineering club, a kids fitness program—Fit Kidz—and a drama club.

Union Elementary maintains a high standard for academic excellence, which can be attributed to the success of a rigorous curriculum, innovative instructional practices, and a highly qualified and dedicated staff. Faculty works closely with parents to ensure their children are receiving a quality education. Parents are encouraged to be an active part in their child's learning from serving as field trip chaperones to volunteering in the classroom. Union Elementary School's dedication to student achievement and positive atmosphere have been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community.

I am proud to recognize Union Elementary School principal Jennifer Raycroft, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Zionsville communities well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Union Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF CARMEL, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize West Clay Elementary School of Carmel, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

West Clay Elementary opened in August 2006, with a mission to provide opportunities for all students to realize their potential. Every year since its inception, West Clay has been named an Indiana Four-Star School based upon high achievement results on standardized tests.

West Clay strives to provide a quality education to students through the tireless work of its dedicated staff, who serve in various leadership roles, such as school committee chairs. West Clay's mindset is on constantly striving to improve through reflection and staff development.

West Clay students, parents, and staff work closely together to give back to the community through philanthropic initiatives led by the parent teacher organization, PTO, and student government. Their efforts support organizations such as Riley Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association,

the American Diabetes Association, the Humane Society, and Gleaner's Food Bank. Over the last decade, the students and staff of West Clay have helped raise over \$60,000 which resulted in the donation of countless supplies to local organizations.

West Clay works to provide students with a positive learning environment to support their social, emotional, and academic needs. For example, West Clay has many student support services, including an instructional coach, who partners with staff to develop appropriate programs that will enhance student learning and will ensure that students are challenged, while at the same time supported in an effort to enable students to reach their potential. These staff members play an integral part in determining student learning needs through analyzing data and gauging students' interests.

I am proud to recognize West Clay Elementary School principal Jennifer Szuhaj, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Carmel community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate West Clay Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GREENFIELD, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Weston Elementary School of Greenfield, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Weston Elementary consistently has distinguished itself as a top-performing school, was named an Indiana Four Star School in 2013 and 2016, and has been named an A school by the State each of the past 5 years.

Weston's success can be attributed to the school's goal of continuously looking for ways to provide a well-rounded education to students. The school emphasizes problem-solving and assignments that allow students to demonstrate their work and thought process. In addition to core subjects, students are exposed to physical education, art and music, and several classes participate in daily exercise led by prerecorded video segments from the Indianapolis Colts. Weston also offers students Weston Fit, an after-school fitness club that promotes