

# Reed Custer High School Report Card Narrative

Reed-Custer High School would like to highlight several accomplishments in key "target areas" during this past school year. The accomplishments described below will continue to make a positive impact on student achievement and the academic climate at Reed-Custer High School during the 2005-2006 school year.

## **Target Area - Student Learning and Instruction.**

The national legislation of "No Child Left Behind" has determined the instructional path for our teachers when addressing the needs of our students at Reed-Custer High School. High stake testing is the new "norm" in our state and country, so the target goal of "instruction" for our teachers is assist ALL of our students in preparing for success with the high stake testing.

To better prepare ALL of our students for the high stake testing, the staff at Reed-Custer High School, with the approval of our Board of Education, instituted the COMET CHALLENGE this past school year. A quick review of the Comet Challenge follows below:

*The Comet Challenge directly impacts the junior class, as that is the class every year [the junior class] that takes the high stake tests, ACT and Prairie State Exams. The Comet Challenge enrolls all of our juniors for four terms of English. Terms 1 and 2, follow the normal junior English curriculum. Term 3 preps the juniors for the high stake tests. The students will work with English instructors, math and science instructors [when the need arises], and also be able to interact with computer driven programs that will help review the necessary skills/content knowledge that the students will need to be successful with the high stake testing. During Term 4, the English teachers continue to prep the students until the high stake testing takes place at the end of April. The teachers will also follow the 12th grade regular English curriculum. This content/curriculum allows the students to prepare for the COMPASS tests that the students will take, if they plan on attending a junior college after graduation.*

*It is often difficult for students to attend high stake testing review sessions, as the review sessions often conflict with work, co-curricular activities, and normal school work. The Comet Challenge, allows for ALL the students to be able to get assistance and help during the regular school day. No child will be left behind.*

Did the Comet Challenge enhance student learning?? YES!! Last year's juniors scored the highest in every sub category and composite score on the ACT since the high stake testing was instituted by the state five years ago. Students even reached an all time high with 72% of the students meeting or exceeding expectations on the state's PASE reading assessment.

In comparison to other schools in the state of Illinois, Reed-Custer High School is above the state average in every tested academic area on the national ACT Exam and the Illinois state PASE Exam.

The Comet Challenge indirectly impacts all the instruction of the high school staff, no matter the grade level, freshmen - seniors. We continue to work on the concept of "mastery" instruction [vs] "content" instruction. All of our teachers cover the necessary content in their subject matter as outlined by the district curriculums. This is known as covering the "content" or content instruction. "Mastery" instruction is covering the content as always, and adding yet another dimension to the instruction. That added dimension is drilling and practicing the fundamental concepts of a particular academic discipline time and time again during a student's four years in high school so that the students remember the basic or fundamental skills "forever!"

We will continue to monitor our student's progress each year on the ACT Test, Prairie State Test, and our own District Assessments; and adjust to whatever appears to be a weakness in the student's academic growth patterns. Quality instruction is the key to student success, as it establishes the basic academic foundation for our students to have the best education we can provide!!

## **Target Area - Student Safety.**

Without question, one of the most challenging issues that face schools today is that of school safety. During this current school year we will continue to monitor student activities with our security camera system. Our security system now covers the entire high school and areas inside the field house. The board of education has also purchased cameras to monitor the parking lot areas, too.

I know that everyone continues to be extremely sensitive to the issue of "school safety," and I believe that we continue to work very hard to create as safe an environment as possible for our students while they attend Reed-Custer High School.

## **Target Area - Thank you.**

The educational staff at Reed-Custer High School and I would like to thank the parents for their continued support and trust in our daily educational endeavors with their children. It is because of your support and trust that we are able to enhance the overall development of each child that enters the doors of Reed-Custer High School.

*"Thank you"*