

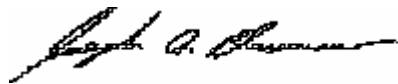
October 2008

I want to start by thanking everyone that attended our Open House. It was a great night. Not only were there large numbers of parents, guardians, grandparents, and students, but several former students came back to visit with teachers and staff. It's nice to see such an interest in our young people. For our students to be as successful as possible, it's important that we continue to get such wonderful family support.

I was excited to receive the news last week from the Illinois State Board of Education that Riverview has again made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Our scores were amazing! In 2006-2007, Riverview had 69.9% of our students meeting/exceeding standards. Our 2007-2008 overall ISAT scores are at 79.9% meeting/exceeding standards. A 10% increase is incredible. Our teachers, staff, families, and students should be very proud. The State average only increased by .4%. Let's keep it up!

Thanks to Emily Dawson for making 9/11/08 a special day. The events included a short (edited version) of the events of 9/11, the pledge outside around the flag pole, and over 1000 flags in front of the school. Each flag represented 7 people who have given their lives since 9/11 defending our Freedom! As our sign stated: "We will Never Forget." Thank you to all who have served and those that continue to serve our country.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Blessman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joseph A. Blessman