

Plainville Citizen Op-Ed, September, 2015

Guided by our school district's Strategic Plan and Vision that focuses on *Students, Teaching and Learning*, Plainville's students continue to "Get It Right" as evidenced in numerous measures of success. From exceptional performance in the academic arena, to award winning results on the playing field, and giving back to the community at all levels, there are countless examples of student success in Plainville.

A recent review of Plainville High School graduate statistics underscores the many accomplishments of our students, and highlights the opportunities available to them after leaving the school system. For example, over the last four years (2012-2015) 89% of PHS students have gone on to some form of secondary education, while 81% of those students were accepted at their first choice of college or university. Conversely, the number of students retained during that same period is less than one-half of one percent.

Throughout their time in our schools, students are reminded of the critical role the community plays in their success. Plainville's students understand these lessons, and as a result, the importance of giving back to the community has been a top priority of our graduates. Over the past four years our students have averaged over 30 hours each of community service in and around Plainville.

Most recently, the Class of 2015 underscored these significant accomplishments as they move on to further education, the military and the workforce. Highlights of the Class of 2015 include:

- **91% will go on to post-secondary education**
- **51% are attending a four year college or university**
- **33% are attending a two year college or university**

- **7% are attending a vocational / trade school**
- **82% were accepted at their first choice college / university**
- **7% will go into the military**
- **4% will go directly into the workforce**
- **4,157 community service hours were completed by the Class of 2015**

Dedicated and caring faculty and staff, together with program improvements at the elementary, middle and high school levels have created a positive climate and culture throughout our schools. At Plainville High School, the expanded Advanced Placement classes, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) opportunities, technology enhancements, and the College and Career Readiness Center, all provide outstanding support, resources and opportunities that allow our students to achieve excellence and obtain the skills, knowledge, and expertise to be successful in school, the community and beyond. We are proud of the significant accomplishments of our graduates, both past and present, and remain committed to providing the highest quality educational experience for all of our students in Plainville.