

Here's what I think ...

By Ty Ankrom

Sept. 19, 2014



As one who has spent his career in public education, it should come as no surprise that I support and value public education.

It's a huge entity, so there will always be facets that could be improved, but overall, the institution and those who work in it provide an invaluable service to our youth.

In May I wrote about some of the accomplishments that occurred during the 2013-14 school year at Pickaway County schools.

In a similar fashion, the Ohio School Boards Association's Stand Up for Public Schools campaign highlights great things that occur in public education throughout Ohio.

The campaign strives to promote that public schools:

- are a critical component to an informed, democratic society and the American way of life.
- provide the educational foundation that each and every child needs to go on to college and careers — and succeed in life.
- don't discriminate; public schools serve all students regardless of background, class or ability.

Another avenue for promoting public schools is through the Association's Success Stories link (www.standupforohiopublicschools.org/success-stories/) that seeks submissions of articles, photos and videos that demonstrate "innovative instruction, outstanding student programs, efforts to bolster student achievement, and extraordinary acts of citizenship, community service or compassion by Ohio students."

I challenge each of you to share this column with a friend who doesn't work in education and ask for his or her views on what he or she thinks public schools are doing right. Ask your friend to send an e-mail to me at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.

Sometimes, as educators, we can get so bogged down with the things that have to be done each day that we overlook the good things we're already doing.

Last week, I wrote about the benefits that came by reviewing and revising our Response to Intervention program. This week, I hope that responses from others will refresh our perspective on the values of public education.

Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.

