

VIEW FROM HERE

DAVID WESTHOFF

Arriving in Poynette for the first time about one year ago I was cautiously optimistic that I might be selected to serve as Interim District Administrator in the School District of Poynette. As my tenure in the school district nears the finish line, I would like to take this opportunity to express not only my appreciation but to sing the praises of the school district and its communities.

Students are the reason schools exist. Though this is obvious, at times it seems like they are forgotten. Whether the conversation takes place in the legislative arena or on the street corner, one might conclude that funding public education is just too costly. On the contrary, I believe that educating our children is an essential investment in our future.

Families and Schools Together was a program introduced into the Wisconsin public schools nearly twenty years ago. It was a program that recognized that the success of our children is closely connected to the support they receive from their families. I believe the future of the students in the Poynette School District is closely tied to the collaboration between the home and the school. It is a connection that must be an instrumental component of our school culture.

Puma Pride is becoming the motto of the School District. It was introduced in the Elementary School two years ago and has become part of the High School this school year. Puma Pride is a School-Wide Behavior Intervention and Support System. The student expectations are clear and within the reach of all students: *BE SAFE- BE RESPECTFUL- BE RESPONSIBLE- BE YOUR BEST.*

The Class of 2012 's Motto- "*2012, it's not the end of the world...just the beginning.*" seems very appropriate as our graduates embark on their life's journey. The commencement ceremonies were both solemn and humorous. I sense that moments like these are meant to be hallmarks for families. In some respects, it is the birth of a new generation.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the Poynette School District. It has been enjoyable. I will proudly make PUMA PRIDE part of my life.