



February 20, 2013

Jared VanKirk, Principal  
North Side Elementary School  
52 Rocket Place  
Lowellville, OH 44436

Dear Principal VanKirk:

North Side Elementary School proves every day that failure is not an option. Because of that, it is my honor to recognize you, your students, teachers, administrators and the families in your building being named a 2012 *School of Promise* for the first time.

Your school is in a prestigious group of 163 schools that achieved this honor on the Local Report Card for the 2011-2012 school year. Strategies by you and your staff to close the mathematics and reading achievement gap for students who represent a range of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds are working, and we hope you will share them with other Ohio schools.

The Ohio Department of Education plans to spotlight your school as a strong example of what is possible when students, educators, parents and community members come together and believe that all students can succeed. Please extend my gratitude to all those who shared in your school's success.

In the coming weeks, you will receive an official *Schools of Promise* banner to display in your school building. If you have questions about the banner or the award, please contact Sherry Panizo in the ODE Office of Policy and Research at (614) 387-0546 or [sherry.panizo@ode.state.oh.us](mailto:sherry.panizo@ode.state.oh.us).

Congratulations once again on this achievement, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Sawyers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Michael Sawyers,  
Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Ohio Department of Education