



ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

Mr. Craig Benes, Superintendent
Dr. Heidi Weeks, Deputy Superintendent

January 9, 2026

Dear Itasca School District 10 Families,

Randy Okrzesik was a beloved and longtime member of the Peacock Middle School family and the wider Itasca community. Randy passed away peacefully on August 3, 2025, at the age of 66. For 17 years, Randy served as an integral Teaching Assistant at Peacock Middle School, touching the lives of countless students, staff, and families. He embodied the spirit of dedication, mentorship, and positive influence, consistently putting the well-being and success of our children first. His impact reached beyond the school walls, extending into our community through decades of coaching, refereeing, and umpiring local sports.

ANNOUNCING THE RANDY OKRZESIK CIVIC AND LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

Itasca School District 10 and the Board of Education is proud to establish the **Randy Okrzesik Civic and Leadership Excellence Award**. This award further provides opportunities for our students to learn civic and leadership excellence and to honor Randy's exceptional service to ensure his legacy of service and leadership live on. This annual award will be presented to District 10 eighth grade students who exemplifies Randy's defining qualities: genuine kindness, unwavering dedication to student support, commitment to positive community involvement, and outstanding mentorship. We feel this is a fitting tribute. The award will serve as a permanent reminder of the standard of excellence, compassion, and presence Randy brought to our community every single day.

REQUIREMENTS

The Okrzesik family and the entire District 10 community are grateful for the outpouring of support and shared memories. Randy's presence will be deeply missed, but his award will continue to illuminate the path of civic and leadership excellence for our students and staff for years to come. Attainment of the award is optional and will require up to 60 hours of additional community service in grades 5th-8th. This is in addition to 16 hours of community service required for Peacock graduation. Because this award is new, service hour expectations for students in upper grades have been adjusted accordingly. Students and parents will receive additional information this month and routinely thereafter about specific service activities that are eligible and requirements for this optional award. Service and civic activities may include:

- CPR certification, newly offered at Peacock in partnership with Itasca Fire Department
- American Red Cross Baby Sitter Certification
- Junior Fire Academy completion
- DARE coursework at Franzen
- Character on the Court Workshops (to be offered)
- Other civic and leadership projects to be determined and offered.

Every Learner, Every Day.

#weareitasca10



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If a student's total service hours meet the established threshold, they will be honored at our annual Charger Excellence Assembly and receive a lapel pin to display at their 8th grade graduation ceremony. We are proud to recognize community service as an essential part of our graduation expectations. We are even prouder to recognize those students who will go above and beyond in working to earn the **Randy Okrzesik Civic and Leadership Excellence Award**.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jason Taylor
Peacock Principal

Dr. Heidi Weeks
Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Craig Benes
Superintendent