

From: **Gary Ritter** <oeep@uark.edu>
Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2016
Subject: Congratulations! You are Beating the Odds!
To: "jknapp@omsd.k12.ar.us" <jknapp@omsd.k12.ar.us>

Dear Principal Knapp,

As the school year comes to a close and you celebrate the achievements of your students and staff, the Office for Education Policy (OEP) at the University of Arkansas is happy to celebrate ST. JOE HIGH as one of the highest-performing schools in Arkansas.

We are pleased to announce that ST. JOE HIGH has been awarded an OEP “Beating the Odds” award for performance on the Math exam. These awards are given to high-achieving schools that serve low-income communities where at least 66% of students are enrolled in the free/reduced lunch program. Based on the results of the 2014-15 PARCC assessments, performance is measured by the OEP-created “school GPA.” To learn more about how we determined the OEP award winners and to see the full list of award recipients, you can view the reports [here](#).

We congratulate you on this accomplishment and hope that you will share this good news with teachers, students, and any others who contributed to your school’s success. You can access [‘virtual’ awards](#) to place on your school web site, and we will send the physical award/s certificates to your school shortly.

If you would like to follow us and do not already, you can send an email to oeep@uark.edu with the subject line “Add to OWL List” to be added to our weekly email list.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office for Education Policy at oeep@uark.edu. Congratulations again on your OEP “Beating the Odds” award!

Sincerely,

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