



Swartz Creek Middle School

8230 Crapo Street • Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473 • (810)591-1704

January 31, 2017

Dear Mr. Lawera & Mr. Dakhllallah,

I am writing to thank the two of you and your committed staff that our small team met with on January 24th during our visit to Salina Intermediate. Based on your presentation I attended at the School Improvement Conference in Lansing in November, it was apparent that you were both passionate about the AVID program and serving your students at Salina. Our visit left me with confirmation that your efforts have translated into high impact at your home building.

The Cornell notetaking strategy was evident in all classrooms through the informational templates prominently posted in the classrooms and the highly structured notebooks maintained by the students. Brief exchanges with students affirmed the authentic connection created between the notetaking/reflection process and meeting learning goals.

The AVID classroom was impressive! Students were observed working on their Tutorial Request Forms, receiving assistance, or communicating with their classmates through posting work choices on whiteboards. While each group was fully staffed, the students appeared to be self-regulating their conversation and fully capable of advocating for themselves. Please share with Mrs. Ahmed and her team of tutors how impressed our team was with this engaging environment they've created!

AVID and school improvement planning aside, the crucial ingredient you have for student success is clearly the positive culture that has been cultivated at Salina Intermediate. The committed staff, symbols of higher education, and school pride make this a special school for students who know the staff are genuinely vested in their ultimate success in life beyond Salina Intermediate. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

Kevin Klaeren

P.S. The hospitality extended at New Yasmeen Bakery and the visit to Fordson High were also appreciated and further communicated the tremendous pride and commitment of your Dearborn School District staff! Thank you again!