**I Can in Region 10! Information from Cheri Burke, Director of Student Learning**

If you own a global positioning system (GPS), you probably can't imagine taking a trip without it. Unlike a printed map, a GPS provides up-to-the-minute information about where you are, the distance to your destination, how long until you get there, and exactly what to do when you make a wrong turn. But a GPS can't do any of that without a precise description of where you want to go.

In regional School District #10 classrooms from Pre-K to grade 12 have turned on the GPS! Your child may have shared what he or she “Can do!” This is a result of shared learning targets being discussed, displayed and assessed in every learning environment in our schools. Think of shared learning targets in the same way as the GPS in your car or on your smart phone. Learning targets convey to students the destination for the lesson—what to learn, how deeply to learn it, and exactly how to demonstrate their new learning. The intention for the lesson is one of the most important things students should learn. This empowers students of all ages to actively engage in their own learning and see the purpose behind each experience.

We believe (and research states) all students must see, recognize, and understand the learning target from the very beginning of the lesson- know where they are headed so they can follow the pathway to high levels of achievement and engagement. Therefore, you will now see and hear an “I CAN” statement connected to each lesson in grades preK-12 written from the students' point of view. A shared learning target helps students grasp the lesson's purpose -- why it is crucial to learn this chunk of information, on this day, and in this way. This will benefit your children in many obvious ways- they can’t hit a target they can’t see! However, there are also many benefits for you as parents:

* Know what is expected in the classroom so you can focus on assisting your child in productive ways.
* Understand the criteria for grading; knowing what students have learned and have not learned so you can talk specifically about your child’s strengths and areas for improvement.
* Provides parents with an understanding of what their children are trying to learn and the complexity of the learning.

As we work together to create the best possible environment for teaching and learning, this small addition to they way we communicate the expected learning outcomes will serve to better inform our Region 10 Community of the purpose behind our work. We strive to provide transparent and informative learning expectations that build a strong foundation for success. Thank you for your continued support.

I will hold one last “Coffee with Cheri” for the school year. Please join me on Monday, May 9th anytime between 5:30pm-7:00pm prior to the Board of Education Meeting in the Har Bur Middle School library. At this time I invite you to share your concerns or celebrations of the educational program in Regional School District #10.