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Baesler: Valley City's Washington Elementary Named Blue Ribbon School

VALLEY CITY, N.D., Sept. 29, 2015 – North Dakota School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler congratulated Washington Elementary School of Valley City on Tuesday for being recognized as one of the nation's prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools.

"Very few schools have what it takes to receive this award," Baesler said. "The people of Valley City, the people at Washington Elementary, and certainly the people of North Dakota should recognize how well Washington Elementary has to do, and how much their students have to achieve, in order to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School."

The U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday announced that Washington Elementary was one of the 285 public and 50 private schools recognized nationwide as a Blue Ribbon School in 2015. Washington Elementary has about 240 students in grades four through six.

The program honors schools where students either achieve very high learning standards, or make substantial improvements in learning. Baesler said Washington Elementary was given the award as an exemplary high-performing school.

The Department of Education will honor Washington Elementary and the nation's other Blue Ribbon Schools at a ceremony Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C. Afterwards, the Valley City school will host its own celebration, which Baesler plans to attend.

"The Department of Education scrutinizes all applications very thoroughly, and there's a very high bar of high expectations to meet in order to be awarded this prominent recognition," Baesler said. "We should all be proud of the students, teachers, administrators and parents of Washington Elementary."

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