

## Superintendent's Message

Walter R. Clemons, Ph.D.

October 6, 2017

Dear Gloucester County Community:

Gloucester County Public Schools has gotten off to an outstanding start in the 2017-2018 school year. I want to personally thank all faculty and staff, students, parents and the entire community for your efforts as we continuously strive for excellence in all that we do. To that end, there have been some exciting things happening in the school district that I would like to share with the community at this time.

Academic results from the spring 2017 Standards of Learning Assessments have been officially released and I am proud to report that all eight of our schools earned "Full Accreditation" status. In addition, we have made tremendous academic gains over the past three years with increases in student academic performance in 24 of 31 reporting categories. As always, we will continue to move forward to even higher levels of academic excellence. Please take time to thank all the teachers and support staff for all that they do for our students and families on a daily basis and please visit the GCPS website homepage under "GCPS Highlights" and click on Virginia's School Quality Profiles for more detailed information on each school and the division. I am also pleased to announce that Gloucester County Public Schools has just received a security grant award from the Virginia Department of Education in the amount of \$30,297. These funds will go towards continuing our security upgrades at our schools.

We have added sixty (professional and support) new staff members (full-time & part-time) to the Gloucester County Public Schools family for the 2017-2018 school year and we are extremely excited to have them as part of our team. We also have two building level principal changes which are as follows: Mrs. Katharine Litton (Peasley principal, formerly an assistant principal at Peasley) and Mr. Craig Reed (GHS principal, formerly the principal at Peasley). Also, we have four assistant principals who have moved to different buildings which are as follows: Mrs. Elizabeth Galbreath (from Petsworth to Abingdon); Mrs. Mary Beth Preas (from Abingdon to Achilles); Mrs. Jodie Simpson (from Botetourt to GHS) and Mr. Jesse Dutton (from Achilles to Page). In addition, we have selected four new assistant principals which are as follows: Mrs. Tiffany Busch (formerly a teacher at Botetourt Elementary) for Petsworth; Mrs. Melissa Mygas (new to GCPS) for Botetourt; Ms. Sharon Daniel (new to GCPS) for GHS and Ms. Shantell Brinkley (new to GCPS) for Peasley.

As a follow-up from my last message in July, we are moving forward in the GHS "Master Plan Study" process and the work of Moseley Architects and the conceptual design committee will

be shared with the community later this fall regarding what a modernized/renovated Gloucester High School could look like and its importance as an academic, career, social, cultural, and developmental cornerstone for Gloucester County.

Finally, I encourage you to support the Gloucester County Educational Foundation as plans for the annual 3K Walk/8K Run, which will be held on February 17, 2018 are now underway. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated as the Educational Foundation provides scholarships for students, mini-grants for teachers and sponsors our annual Teacher of the Year program. I also encourage you to join and support the various parent/teacher associations/organizations. All of these organizations are extremely vital to the school division and provide support in various areas including grants, awards, fundraisers, materials and supplies, equipment and other incentives. Your participation, support and involvement is greatly welcomed and appreciated. In closing, I look forward to continuously working with all community stakeholders and I sincerely thank you for your time.