

Superintendent's Message

Walter R. Clemons, Ph.D.

October 2, 2015

Dear Gloucester County Community:

Gloucester County Public Schools has gotten off to an outstanding start in the 2015-2016 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.

Our accreditation ratings (results from 2014-2015) have not yet been released by the Virginia Department of Education. However, preliminary data show that we have made tremendous academic gains and we are anxiously awaiting the official results which we hope to receive later this month. As always, we will continue to move forward to even higher levels of academic excellence. You will be able to visit the GCPS website homepage under School Report Cards for more detailed information on each school when the results become available.

Mrs. Stephanie Sowers (Peasley Middle School Science Teacher) has been selected as a State Finalist (1 of only 5) for the 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award – regarded as the nation's top honor for mathematics and science teachers – recognizes teachers who develop and implement high-quality instructional programs that improve student learning. Also, since my last message, Mrs. Heather Lucas has been named as the Chief Financial Officer for the school division. In addition, we will be selecting in the near future a new Executive Director for Human Resources & Compliance for the school division as Dr. Juanita Smith retired at the end of September. We sincerely thank Dr. Smith for her service to Gloucester County Public Schools and wish her nothing but success in all future endeavors. We have also added seventy-three (professional and support) new staff members (full-time & part-time) to the Gloucester County Public Schools family for the 2015–2016 school year and are extremely excited to have them as part of our team.

I am extremely pleased to announce that the new Page Middle School opened on time and I sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the process of ensuring we had a successful opening. 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 a little more than \$82,000. These funds will go towards continuing our security upgrades at our schools.

Finally, I encourage each of you to become involved in some capacity in Gloucester County Public Schools. 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.