

Superintendent's Message

Walter R. Clemons, Ph.D.

January 9, 2015

Dear Gloucester County Community Members:

I hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you an outstanding and prosperous New Year! I always want to take time 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 update the community on since my last update in October of 2014.

Mr. Rusty West (Page Middle School) was one of seven educators across the country to receive a National Teacher of Excellence Award at the "Project Lead the Way" National Summit held in Indianapolis, Indiana this past November. This award is bestowed upon educators who exemplify outstanding commitment to educating students in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines and preparing students with college and career readiness skills. Also, Mrs. Ashley Field (Bethel Elementary School) received National Board Certification for Professional Teacher Standards. In addition, we always have other teachers and students who have received various awards and I want to take this time to also congratulate them on their efforts and accomplishments. Since my last message, we have added a new principal at Achilles Elementary School (Mrs. Katina Keener) and a new assistant principal (Mr. Stefan Mygas) at Gloucester High School. Also, Ms. Jennifer Eddy (former assistant principal at Gloucester High School) is now serving in the capacity of assistant principal at Peasley Middle School.

Construction of the new Page Middle School is steadily progressing and we are looking forward to our scheduled opening in the fall of 2015. I am also pleased to announce that Gloucester County Public Schools received Platinum Certification as a Green School Division at the Virginia School Boards Association Annual Convention held in Williamsburg, VA this past November. In addition, Mrs. Anita Parker (Gloucester County Public Schools Board Member) has been selected as the Virginia School Boards Association regional chairperson for the Eastern Region.

Finally, I encourage each of you to provide comments and input regarding our District Comprehensive Plan which is in the development phase. Your participation, support and involvement in this process is greatly welcomed and appreciated. We had four meetings (one each in September through December of 2014) regarding the Comprehensive Plan and were very pleased with the turnout of Division staff and community members who provided input

and support. A draft of the plan will be forthcoming in the very near future and will be placed on our Division website for your review and comments. We are also at the time of year when we will be developing the Division's operating budget for the 2015-2016 school year and encourage your input and support. In closing, I look forward to continuously working with all community stakeholders and I sincerely thank you for your time.