

Superintendent's Message

Walter R. Clemons, Ph.D.

November 13, 2020

Dear Gloucester County Community:

I want to take this time to say thank you with sincere gratitude for your support thus far throughout 2020-21 school year. As always, I want to personally tell you how much I appreciate all of our faculty, staff, students, parents and the entire community for your efforts as we continuously strive for excellence in all that we do. Gloucester County Public Schools continues to operate in an extremely efficient and effective manner, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please rest assured that we in GCPS will do all that we can to support our students, families and staff throughout the course of this year. There have been some exciting things happening in the school district since my last message that I would like to share with the community at this time.

I am pleased to announce that effective November 12, 2020, students in all grade levels (PreK-12) will have transitioned to in-person learning for those families who selected to do so. We also continue to provide fully remote learning options for families as well. This feat could not have been accomplished without your unwavering support, and I want to personally give accolades to our awesome teachers and support staff in making this a reality.

We want to sincerely thank the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors for providing additional County Cares Act funding in the amount of a little more than nine hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars to support our health and safety efforts. These funds will be utilized for the purchase of Needlepoint Bi-Polar Ionization Units that will be installed in all of our school buildings. These units improve environmental conditions to include elimination of pathogens (bacteria, viruses, mold), particle reduction and smoke control, and odor neutralization.

We also are in the process of purchasing the latest technology for our teachers to equip them with the tools they need to best teach our students in remote learning/virtual as well as in-person environments. I also want to sincerely thank the citizens of Gloucester County who supported the Sales Tax Referendum that will prove to be beneficial in helping us move forward with much needed capital improvement projects for Gloucester County Public Schools.

Finally, and as always, I encourage you to support the Gloucester County Educational Foundation as your support 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.