

## Superintendent's Message

Walter R. Clemons, Ph.D.

January 14, 2016

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.

Gloucester County Public Schools is one of thirty-seven school divisions that are classified as "Fully Accredited" by the Commonwealth of Virginia as it pertains to the Standards of Learning Assessments. Also, Gloucester County Public Schools is one of only twelve school divisions in the Commonwealth that met all Federal Annual Measurable Objectives. In addition, Botetourt Elementary School has been awarded the honor of being classified as a "Distinguished" Title I school, which only 46 schools in the Commonwealth achieved. Please take the time to congratulate the students, teachers and staff for all of their hard work when you see them.

Ms. Jennifer Worrell (Petsworth Elementary) was featured in the Virginia Journal of Teaching, which is a publication of the Virginia Education Association. Please visit the GCPS website (homepage) where you can read her cover story entitled "Celebrate Teaching." Also, Ms. Kathy Autrey (Abingdon Elementary) and Ms. LeeAnn Rigau (Peasley Middle) received National Board Certification for Professional Teacher Standards. In addition, Ms. LaQuiche Parrott (now Dr. Parrott/ principal at Abingdon Elementary) completed the requirements to earn her Doctoral degree from Virginia Tech. As always, we 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 Executive Director of Human Resources & Compliance (Ms. Gwyn Ciemniecki) and a new assistant principal at Gloucester High School (Mr. William Hicks). Also, Mr. Stefan Mygas (former assistant principal at Gloucester High School) is now serving in the capacity of Division Secondary Mathematics Coach.

Gloucester County Public Schools once again 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) continues to serve as the Virginia School Boards Association regional chairperson for the Eastern Region. I would also like to thank Mr. Kevin Smith and Ms. Kim Hensley for their

work serving on the Gloucester County School Board and welcome new school board members Mr. Jarret Lee and Mrs. Robin Rice. I also want to thank Ms. Roberta Shifflett (Bethel Elementary) for all her years of service to Gloucester County Public Schools and congratulate her on her retirement. In addition, I want to thank Interim County Administrator Mr. Sandy Wanner for all that he has done for the County and his support for the school division and extend a warm welcome to new County Administrator Mr. Brent Fedors.

Finally, we are at the time of year when we will be developing the Division's operating budget for the 2016-2017 school year and I encourage your input and support. It takes all of us working together which makes Gloucester County Public Schools one of the top school divisions in the Commonwealth. In closing, I look forward to continuously working with all community stakeholders and I sincerely thank you for your time.