

## **Superintendent's Message**

**Walter R. Clemons, Ph.D.**

**July 1, 2016**

**Dear Gloucester County Community Members:**

**On behalf of the Gloucester County School Board, it brings me great pleasure to extend this opening 2016-17 message to the community of Gloucester County. I want to sincerely thank all students, parents, faculty, staff and community members for an outstanding 2015-16 school year. It is once again an honor and privilege to serve as your Superintendent of Schools, and I look forward to working together with all stakeholders to move Gloucester County Public Schools to greater heights. Our top priority will continue to be improving student academic achievement where all schools meet state and federal benchmarks and all students consistently receive world-class educational experiences and opportunities.**

**The summer has been and will continue to be extremely busy in preparation for the 2016-17 school year. Central office, building level administrators and teachers have been in various workshops and trainings regarding best practices and strategies to enhance student academic performance. Curriculum writing projects are ongoing and technology upgrades and maintenance repairs are also ongoing throughout the district. The Human Resources department is working vigorously to fill all vacancies and we are excited about all new and returning staff for the 2016-17 school year. We will provide an update of new personnel to GCPSS later this summer.**

**As we move into the 2016-17 school year, the Capital Improvement Plan for Gloucester County Public Schools includes startup funding to explore a reconceptualization of Gloucester High School and the types of learning experiences and opportunities that our community desires for its future graduates and citizens. Portions of Gloucester High School are long overdue for renovation and revitalization; therefore, this initial "Master Plan Study" will serve as a starting point for the School Board to seek community input regarding key educational specifications and concepts to support a contemporary high school redesign process. One component of this process will involve a community forum, sometime during the early fall, to include a screening of an influential educational documentary film, as well as an opportunity for reflection and discussion of next steps. We feel the time is right to take advantage of this state and national interest and begin the important community conversation about the promising potential for Gloucester High School and its importance as a social, cultural, and developmental cornerstone of Gloucester County. More information about this exciting event will also be forthcoming later this summer.**

**Finally, I encourage you to support the Gloucester County Education Foundation, the Gloucester County Education Association and join the various parent/teacher associations. 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. Also, please take a moment to thank our faculty and staff when you see them for the wonderful job they do with our students each and every day.**

**In closing, thanks so much for your time and I look forward to an outstanding 2016-17 school year!**