

School Matters - August 23, 2013

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School Matters

Friday, August 23, 2013

Welcome Back!

In Davie County Schools, we have a vision to be the national model in creating educational excellence through innovative and personalized experiences. We truly believe all children can grow academically, identify and develop their own talents and leadership skills, and find success. We are excited to begin a new school year and to implement the strategies we have outlined in our 2013-2017 Strategic Plan.

As I reflect on this past school year, we have experienced so much academic success among our students. We are blessed to have quality teachers who dedicate their lives to providing unique learning experiences for the children we serve. Our schools are fortunate to have the support of so many business and community partners. Our community has experienced economic growth with the numerous announcements of new businesses, and we look forward to establishing strong relationships with those businesses who have chosen to invest in Davie County. We saw some of our schools recognized nationally in NewsWeek and US News and World Report. We brought hundreds of parents, citizens, staff, and students together to develop a five-year strategic plan, as well as provide feedback for plans to build one

new high school and repurpose the existing high school site. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of 6500 students, their families, and the future of our community.

This summer, we had a series of exciting opportunities for students to continue to grow academically. Many of the summer camps and activities across the district were possible due to the financial support of the Davie Community Foundation. One new camp was a result of new partnerships with CERTL and the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

We will begin the school year with new resources for our teachers and students. Our staff will be learning more about PowerSchool as we implement this new student information system. Later in the school year, we will introduce a parent and student portal to PowerSchool that will provide electronic access to student assignments and grades. Our teachers will also gain access to a suite of digital instructional resources through the implementation of HomeBase. These and many other initiatives will support instruction and more efficient communication throughout our organization.

Parents, you are our greatest educational partners, and I appreciate all you do to encourage and continue the academic growth of your child at home. I would also encourage members of our community to consider joining the 2000+ volunteers who support learning, or have lunch with a child in our schools. If you are interested in a tremendously rewarding volunteer experience, contact one of our principals to find out where your talents can be used in our schools!

Please consider sharing this with others so they may, too, join our ***School Matters*** distribution list. Have a fantastic 2013-14 school year; there ARE great days ahead!



Back to School Convocation

Speaking of great days, we held our annual Back to School Convocation for our employees on Wednesday. It's a time to gather, build excitement and share encouragement for the new school year. Jason Lockington with Ashley Furniture was our guest speaker and told our staff about how attitude was the key factor in Ashley Furniture's decision to locate their largest manufacturing and distribution center in the world right here in Davie County. The theme of great attitude carried through the entire program as our Stars of the Year for 2013-2014 were announced. Congratulations to

the following Stars!

- Bus Driver of the Year, **Susan Athey**
- Transportation Professional of the Year, **Bob Michalski**
- Custodial Team of the Year, **Mocksville Elementary School: Eddie Johnson, Tammy Hudson, Dennis Argueta, Billy Keenan**
- Maintenance Person of the Year, **Leaman Cartner**
- Child Nutrition Manager of the Year, **Talia Booie**
- Child Nutrition Person of the Year, **Kathy Murphy**
- Student Services Person of the Year, **Angela Lankford**
- EC Related Service Person of the Year, **Michelle Turner**
- EC Teacher of the Year, **Hannah Beck**
- Office Professional of the Year, **Beth Keville**
- Administrator of the Year, **Noël Grady-Smith**
- Assistant Principal of the Year, **Doyle Nicholson**
- Principal of the Year, **Joy Morrison**
- Teacher Assistant of the Year, **Joan Forbes**
- Teacher of the Year, **Brooke Jennings**



Flow Honda Surprises Teacher of the Year

Brooke Jennings was especially excited as Brian Nicolay from Flow Honda in Statesville presented her with a Honda Accord to drive during this school year. Congratulations Brooke and thank you Flow Honda for your investments in Davie County Schools!

Ready, Set, Succeed

Students had a great day Saturday, August 17, with the YMCA Bright Beginnings and the Back 2 School Empowerment Day with the Build A Backpack distribution. Select students from Cooleemee, Cornatzer and Mocksville elementary schools met at the Davie Family YMCA for breakfast before heading over to Walmart to purchase back to school outfits. Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Mocksville, Hillsdale Sunrise Rotary

Club, school employees and community were partnered with students to help them shop. The students were excited about their purchases and appreciative of the experience.



After shopping, the Davie County High School gym was packed with students and parents for the Back 2 School Empowerment Day. This event is held annually for all students to get ready, set and succeed! Students and their parents enjoyed games, bounce houses, speakers and music. Lunch was provided and students received their backpacks from the Build A Backpack effort. Many thanks to all those that help make this a wonderful day for our families and to prepare our students for a successful school year.

Back 2 School Empowerment Sponsors

Churches

Calvary Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Holiness Church, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, New Bethel Baptist Church, Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church, New Jerusalem Apostolic Church, Clement Grove Church of God, New Life Apostolic Church, Eagle Heights Church, Piney Grove United Methodist Church, Fairfield Baptist Church, Refuge Community Church, First Baptist Church, Rock Hill Church of Christ, Friendship Baptist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Hillsdale United Methodist Church, St. John AME Zion Church, Mainville AME Zion Church, Mocksville 2nd Presbyterian Church

Businesses

Bank of the Carolinas, Hair Solutions, C & D Express Enterprises Inc., Ingersoll Rand, Coca Cola, Johnson Insurance Services, Dollar General, Piedmont Natural Gas, Flowers Bakery, Wal-Mart, Food Lion, W.C. Construction Company LLC, Graham Funeral Home

Organizations

ADK Beta Mu Chapter, DC Moms, Corinthian Lodge #17, Le Jour des Femmes, Davie Business Women Association, NAACP, Davie County Schools, Rotary Club of

Mocksville, Davie County United Way, Smart Start of Davie County, Davie YMCA

Individuals

Rev. Andrew Brown, Mr. Cameron Ijames, Rev. Daniel Brown, Mr. Derrick A. Ijames, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carter, Mr. Bill and Mrs. June Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carter, Ms. Carolyn Peebles, Mr. and Mrs. James Clement, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hardister, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shamel, Mr. Franklin A. Holman, Ms. Jane Simpson, Ms. Wanda G. Hoots, Dr. William P. Steed, Representative Julia Howard

Sincerely,



Darrin L. Hartness, Ed. D.
Superintendent



School Bus Safety

Please be safe as our students make their way to school and remember to watch for the buses. Visit <http://www.ncbussafety.org/> for more information on bus safety, including fun activities for students and safety tips for parents, teachers and bus drivers.



Fridays are School Spirit Day

Davie County Early College High School staff celebrate the new school year wearing their new Davie County Schools' shirts.

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