



Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

8/01/2019

208 Bull Street / Savannah, Georgia 31401 / 912.395.5600

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families,

Our summer break may be coming to an end, but there is plenty to look forward to as we begin the new school year! Teachers and staff of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools are already back in the classroom getting ready to welcome students back to school on Monday, August 5th for the 2019-20 school year. Few experiences in the life of a child can match the excitement and enthusiasm of the first day of school. The opportunity to meet new teachers and friends as well as reconnect with those they have not seen since last school year builds anticipation for the return to the classroom!

When the school bells ring on Monday, nearly 38,000 students will continue their journey forward, and more than 5,600 SCCPSS employees who have spent time over the past month preparing for their arrival will welcome them with open arms! Teachers, administrators, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers and many others are focused on our most important goal – student achievement. It serves as the motivation behind all we do.

Staff have kept busy cleaning school buildings, making sure our buses are inspected, ordering food for breakfast and lunches, and hiring new employees to make this goal a reality. Each employee has a part to play in the process of being ready for this new school year.

As we enter the 2019-20 school year, construction of the new White Bluff Elementary School is underway, site work is beginning for the new Jenkins High School, and the construction of the district's first of three athletic complex projects (including a football stadium) is well underway at Islands High. Construction of the new auditorium at Beach High School is just beginning, new CTAE labs are ready for use for the Career Academy at the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High, and a new Choice Program – Junior Achievement's 3DE Academy - is getting started there as well. The addition of the 3DE Academy at Savannah High is the first time Junior Achievement has expanded the successful program outside the Atlanta metropolitan area. The construction progress couldn't happen if it weren't for the funds provided by your ESPLOST pennies - 45% of which is paid for by out of county visitors.

Along with those plans for new and improved facilities and programs come expanded security initiatives to keep our students safe. School security officers will continue to monitor the entrances to our schools as the very important work of adding new security vestibules continues to make great progress. Campus Police will continue to promote our anonymous School Safety Hotline operated in partnership with Crimestoppers, and you'll hear more about our "Say Something" campaign designed to encourage greater reporting of suspicious activity. The district is once again partnering with AAA on its "School's Open, Drive Carefully" awareness campaign to remind drivers to slow down and use caution when in school zones that haven't been active for a few months. Remember, we all play a role in school safety. Our schools are safe, and together we can keep them that way!

Mission - To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels.

Vision - From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures

We have much to celebrate from the past year. More than 2,100 graduates crossed the stage at the Savannah Civic Center in May. Many of those students headed off to begin their careers with skills learned in the classrooms and labs of the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System. Many others headed off to some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation with more than 43-million dollars in scholarship money awarded. Many graduates also enlisted in the military.

The accomplishments of our staff, students, and schools continue to draw recognition on local, state, and national levels. We now have two National Green Ribbon Schools with Gadsden Elementary joining Godley Station K8 in being recognized for teaching conscientious environmental preservation and sustainability. That recognition adds to the two National Blue Ribbon Schools, two Lighthouse Schools to Watch, four AP Honors Schools, and an Apple Distinguished School that already draw accolades to our district!

This year, we will build on the success of the last school year which saw four of our schools exit the state designation of “Turnaround Eligible” status - a testament to continued academic progress and rigor. We will continue the dedicated work that has proven successful to ensure critical accountability gains are met and to guide any other school that may need additional resources. Together, we are one team with one goal in mind – student achievement. We are committed to ensure all schools reach the level of success we know they are capable of!

With the new year getting underway, we invite parents to learn more about our schools by visiting the district’s website, www.sccpss.com, and your child’s school website. We also encourage parents to connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and SmugMug. And don’t miss your opportunity to further contribute to your child’s educational experience by volunteering in our schools through Operation Beacon – just click the link located on our website to register.

Everyone in our school district family is looking forward to a 2019-2020 academic year that is sure to be filled with endless possibilities. The Board of Education joins me in extending best wishes to all students, parents/guardians, and employees for a productive school year filled with joy and excitement.

Working together, we will continue to pave the way forward. Through hard work and innovative leadership, we will inspire student achievement and a lifetime of learning in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. I am proud to be your Superintendent and I wish you the very best this school year!

Sincerely,

M. Ann Levett

M. Ann Levett, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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