



Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

208 Bull Street / Savannah, Georgia 31401 / 912.395.5600

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

8/01/2018

Dear Families,

The temperatures outside are still very hot and the days are long – but summer is coming to an end as we look forward to welcoming our students back to school this week! The teachers and staff of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools are already back in the classroom getting ready for the 2018-19 school year. The anticipation and excitement surrounding the first day of school has been building for weeks – waiting for the yellow buses to roll and the school bells to ring on Thursday, August 2nd.

This year, we will welcome the class of 2031 to become a part of the 38,000 students in pre-kindergarten through high school that make up the heart of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. Four hundred new teachers have joined the ranks of those already in the classrooms of our 55 schools. In all, more than 5600 SCCPSS employees including teachers, administrators, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers and many others are working hard to prepare our facilities and classrooms for the return of our students. It's an exciting time for our entire community!

This summer we have kept busy cleaning school buildings, having our buses inspected, and recruiting and hiring new employees throughout the district. We recently held a ribbon cutting for a beautiful new culinary lab at the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High with more to come as the career pathway programs at the school continue to develop and advance! We are in the design phase for the new ESPLOST funded Jenkins High School and Groves High School facilities and construction is beginning this fall on the new White Bluff Elementary facility – also funded by your ESPLOST pennies!

Along with those plans for new and improved facilities come new initiatives to keep our students safe. This year, we will add Safety Officers - civilian security officers - to monitor the entrances to our schools. The program was tested at a few schools during the spring of the last school year and was considered a success. New School Resource Officers are also being added to our elementary schools. We will have the expanded use of metal detectors, and random administrative inspections will also continue in our schools. We will begin this school year with our clear/mesh backpack policy enforced, but could consider a change for the spring semester as our new security initiatives move forward.

Of course, safety begins even before the students arrive on campus and continues after they leave. This year we have once again partnered with AAA for their “School’s Open, Drive Carefully” awareness campaign. We are reminding parents and other drivers to use caution when traveling around school buses and through school zones that have not been active for several months. Please remember to allow time to get where you are going and be patient as we transport our children to and from school safely.

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

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

This year, we hope to build on the success of the last school year which saw nearly 19-hundred students receive a diploma – those graduates earning 43-million dollars in scholarships to some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the nation! We will continue the second year of implementation of the Eureka Math and Balanced Literacy programs. We believe the success of those programs will be reflected in the district’s assessment scores. We will also continue the work to help our schools that are struggling reach the level of success we know they are capable of!

We have much to celebrate from the past year. When the state releases our official graduation rate this fall – we expect it to, once again increase. If that holds true, it will continue a trend that has been building year over year for the last decade. Our students, staff and schools continue to excel and be recognized. We now have two National Blue Ribbon Schools, two Lighthouse Schools to Watch, five AP Honors Schools, and we have one of only 46 schools in the nation to earn the distinction of being a National Green Ribbon School!

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 and YouTube and volunteer through Operation Beacon.

Everyone in our school district family is looking forward to the 2018-2019 academic year with enthusiasm and optimism. The Board of Education joins me in extending best wishes to all students, parents and employees for a productive school year filled with many excellent opportunities.

Working together, we will continue to inspire success and a lifetime of learning in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

M. Ann Levett

M. Ann Levett, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools