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# Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

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November 22, 2005

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Last week was American Education Week, and I had the opportunity to visit several schools across the county and to participate in several events including the Annual High School Honors Concert, the new Ella W. Campbell Oratorical Contest, Lansdowne High School's Parent Appreciation Dinner, and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Family Fun Night and Parent Summit.

I was, of course, proud to see staff and students eagerly participating in the teaching and learning process, but I was especially excited to see so many parents in our schools and at events to support their children and all our students.

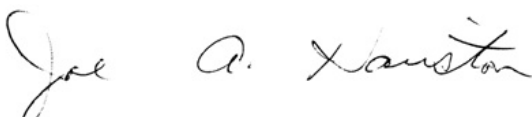
Parents are our students' first and most influential teachers. Students spend far more time outside of school than in school so the lessons they learn at home and in the community are critical to their success in school and in life.

As role models, motivators, advocates, tutors, classroom volunteers, PTA members, and more, parents are our partners in the educational process, and they share in the success we have achieved thus far in fulfilling the vision of our *Blueprint for Progress*.

In the coming months, I will be speaking more and more about the importance of intensifying our focus and improving the quality of our effort. This message is a message for all of our stakeholders – including parents. It is a reminder that all of us need to do still more.

Our school system is strong. Our students are making consistent academic progress year after year. But the point of the *Blueprint* and of my administration is larger than that. The message is that all students can, should, and will reach high standards. Reaching this goal will require all of us – especially parents – working together more closely on behalf of our students.

Parents are encouraged to learn more about our schools and to get more involved in the educational process. In addition, I am urging Baltimore County Public Schools staff and stakeholders to find more ways to facilitate parent and community involvement and to honor the contributions they bring.



Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

## School System Updates and Achievements

- **On Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., more than 350 parents and students from Dogwood, Featherbed Lane, Hebbville, and Milbrook elementary schools gathered to participate in a special Family Fun Night and Parent Summit.** At this event, parents learned more about the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (or STEM) Academy initiative at these schools. Funded by the National Science Foundation, this \$13 million, multiyear initiative unites Baltimore County Public Schools and University of Maryland, Baltimore County in supporting enhanced teaching and learning through intensive teacher recruitment, professional development, and teacher education.

I hosted the event along with Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, the staff of Dogwood Elementary School, and Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County – who also served as the evening’s keynote speaker. While Dr. Hrabowski spoke to parents about the opportunities STEM offers students and the many ways that parents can support their children’s academic success, students were engaged in hands-on mathematics, science, technology, and engineering activities, including visiting Starlab, a portable planetarium.

- **In honor of American Education Week and Children’s Book Week, Franklin Elementary School held a ceremony to celebrate the community-sponsored remodeling of its library.** At the event, a sign featuring the library’s new name – Franklin Elementary Community Library – was unveiled. In total, the community raised \$40,000 to cover the costs of new wood shelving, carpeting, computer tables, and comfortable seating (e.g., benches and rocking chairs).

## Review of Superintendent’s Calendar

### *Past*

- 11/11            **Featured presenter at 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Educational Technology Consortium Conference, Atlanta**
- 11/14            **High School Honors Concert at the Meyerhoff**
- 11/14-18        **American Education Week: *A Strong America Starts with Great Community Public Schools***  
Visits to: Chesapeake High School, Colgate Elementary School, Deep Creek Middle School, Dogwood Elementary School, Lansdowne Elementary School, Lansdowne High School, Lansdowne Middle School, Milford Mill Academy, and Seven Oaks Elementary School
- 11/15            **Friends of Maryland Education Awards Luncheon**

- 11/16            **Legislative Dinner – District 42**
- 11/17            **Governor’s Summit on Math, Science, and Technology Education, Rockville**
- 11/17            **Lansdowne High Parent Appreciation Dinner**
- 11/17            **Parent Summit with UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski and Del. Adrienne Jones**
- 11/21            **Lunch with High School Principals**
- 11/21            **Legislative Dinner - District 11**
- Upcoming*
- 11/23            **Chase Elementary School Library Dedication**
- 11/29            **Legislative Lunch – District 10**
- 11/29            **Board of Education Dinner with County Executive Jim Smith and County Council Members**
- 11/30            **K-16 Leadership Council Meeting at Maryland State Department of Education**
- 11/30            **Legislative Dinner – District 7**
- 12/4-6           **Cambrium Learning Conference, Washington, D.C.**
- 12/6             **Board of Education Dinner with TABCO**