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

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September 5, 2007

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I want to thank and congratulate everyone involved in another successful school year start. It is no small feat to prepare 170 buildings and their grounds, hire staff, arrange bus routes, register new students, plan meals, buy supplies, orient new teachers, print materials, refine curriculum, and accomplish countless other tasks to get ready for the arrival of more than 105,000 students.

Two noteworthy events in the past few weeks highlight our commitment to ensure equity and access for all students, to deliver high-quality rigorous instruction, and to enrich our effectiveness through collaborations with institutions that share our goals.

The first of these events, last Thursday, was the announcement of the College Gateway Partnership. Developed with the Community College of Baltimore County, this groundbreaking initiative will provide full-day college experiences for more than 2,000 eighth graders from nine Baltimore County middle schools.

Every Wednesday, throughout the school year, a group of approximately 25 students, along with their teachers and counselors, will be on each of CCBC's three campuses, engaged in classes specially created for them and taught by CCBC and BCPS faculty.

The new College Gateway Partnership is a capstone to our college readiness activities for secondary students. Far more than a field trip, it is an authentic learning experience for students, an opportunity to walk the campus, sit in the classrooms, and learn from professors, just as they would in college.

Through this initiative, students will better understand the connection between the work they do in their classes today and their future educational and career options. Participating in classes on a CCBC campus will enable our middle school students to more clearly envision themselves as future college students.

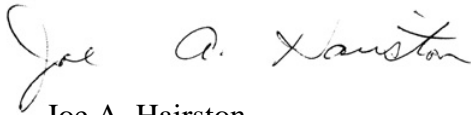
While the College Gateway Partnership event focused on preparing our students for life after high school, an event yesterday celebrated efforts to strengthen instruction for our youngest and newest students. The event was the grand opening of Hawthorne Elementary School's Early Childhood Education Center. This model center, an entire wing of the school, serves approximately 220 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students and focuses on implementing best practices for young learners. Through a partnership with Towson University, student interns from Towson assist in classrooms, and the university offers early childhood education courses on-site at Hawthorne.

The annexation of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes from Deep Creek Elementary School to Hawthorne Elementary School (a move designed to ease overcrowding at Deep Creek Elementary School) created a unique opportunity to establish the Early Childhood Education Center.

Through this center, Hawthorne is also expanding opportunities for early childhood education teachers to receive professional development and for parents to participate in a series of workshops.

The center benefits participating teachers, Hawthorne Elementary and Towson University students, and Hawthorne parents, and will contribute to the development of better prepared early childhood education teachers in general.

From serving our youngest students to those preparing for higher education and careers, Baltimore County Public Schools continues to establish and maintain a culture of higher expectations and expanded opportunities for all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe A. Hairston".

Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

## **Review of Superintendent's Calendar**

### *Past*

- 8/15      **Offered keynote address at New Teacher Induction, Randallstown High School**
- 8/17      **Presented annual address at Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Meeting, Loch Raven High School**
- 8/18      **Minority Achievement Advisory Group Retreat, Maritime Institute of Technology Training and Conference Center**
- 8/20      **Visited Chesapeake High School with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick**
- 8/23      **Brought greetings to TABCO Representatives Meeting, Timonium Holiday Inn**
- 8/24      **Offered welcoming remarks at Jonathan Kozol presentation, Martin's West**
- 8/24      **Held a Teachers Focus Group meeting to discuss curriculum and instruction**
- 8/25      **2007 Football Jamboree, Dundalk High School**
- 8/27      **Opening day school visits to Franklin Middle School, Cedarmere Elementary School, Hebbville Elementary School, George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Crossroads Center, and Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts**
- 8/30      **Offered remarks at College Gateway Partnership Kickoff (with Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, President, Community College of Baltimore County), Dundalk Middle School**
- 9/4        **Offered remarks at grand opening of Hawthorne Elementary School Early Childhood Education Center (with Towson University College of Education Dean Dr. Raymond P. Lorion)**

### *Upcoming*

- 9/6        **To serve on education panel with State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy Grasmick at Maryland Military Installation Council Meeting, Crownsville**
- 9/7        **Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, Frederick County Public Schools**

- 9/7 **Norwood Elementary School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**
- 9/10 **Lockheed Martin Partnership Kickoff, Chesapeake High School**
- 9/11 **Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning, PreK-16, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Annapolis**
- 9/11 **To speak at Baltimore County Association of Black School Educators meeting (location to be decided)**
- 9/12 **FMA Live!, Community College of Baltimore County – Dundalk**
- 9/17 **Baltimore Regional Employer Awards Breakfast, Martin’s West**