
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

September 18, 2007

Over the past several years, our school system has achieved an admirable level of stability. This stability of leadership, academic programs, and staff is one of our strengths and has contributed to our high levels of student achievement. We have achieved this stability by following our foundational document, the *Blueprint for Progress*, and implementing new initiatives only if they are proven effective and sustainable.

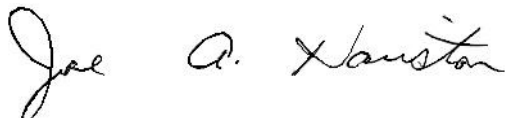
We achieve by being consistent with our mission, consistent with our focus, consistent with our values, consistent in behavior and expectations, and consistent in the leadership we model.

Our consistency leads to our stability. As we continue to move forward, facing new challenges and higher expectations, I am reminding staff, parents, and students alike that we must continue to be consistent with an even higher degree of quality.

As educator Dr. Ron Edmonds once said, "We can, whenever and wherever we choose, successfully teach all children whose schooling is of interest to us. We already know more than we need to do that. Whether or not we do it must finally depend on how we feel about the fact that we haven't so far."

We must remain focused on our goal and that is to ensure that all students reach their highest potential and graduate ready for success in college, careers, and life. We demonstrate our focus in many ways, for example: by eliminating low-level courses; by bringing AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) into every high school so that we can raise the level of expectation systemwide; and by differentiating our instruction – tailoring it to meet each student's unique learning style and needs. We demonstrate our focus through our commitment to staff development and the effective use of instructional technology. At this time of year, in accordance with our "phase planning" process, we demonstrate our focus by having principals and department chairs conduct in-depth classroom observations.

By being consistent and focused, we ensure a high quality education for every student. When all students excel, so will our school system.



Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 9/6 Served 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 Offered greetings at Norwood Elementary School 50th Anniversary Celebration
- 9/10 Gave remarks at Lockheed Martin Partnership Kickoff, Chesapeake High School
- 9/11 Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning, PreK-16, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Annapolis
- 9/11 Made presentation at Baltimore County Association of Black School Educators meeting, Deer Park Middle Magnet School
- 9/12 FMA Live!, Community College of Baltimore County – Dundalk
- 9/15 Offered greetings at the African American Cultural Festival, Courthouse Square, Towson
- 9/17 Baltimore Regional Employer Awards Breakfast, Martin's West

Upcoming

- 9/19 Principals' Meeting, Holiday Inn Select, Timonium
- 9/19 Superintendent's Student Advisory Board meeting
- 9/19 Board of Education Work Session on FY 2009 Capital Budget, ESS
- 9/20-9/22 AVID/College Board Superintendents Collaborative, Dallas, Texas
- 9/24 Superintendent's lunch and informal dialogue with middle school principals, Greenwood Administration Building
- 9/25 2007-2008 College Board/AVID Kick-off Ceremony, ESS
- 9/26 To bring greetings to Safe Schools Conference, Timonium Holiday Inn

- 9/27 **Bridge to Excellence Stakeholder Meeting, Maryland State Department of Education**
- 9/27 **Minority Achievement Advisory Group, Greenwood Administration Building**
- 9/29 **Student Council Leadership Workshop, Camp Ramblewood**
- 9/29 **Children's Cancer Foundation Ball, Towson University**
- 10/1 **Maryland Partnership for Teaching and Learning, PreK-16, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Annapolis**
- 10/2-3 **Maryland Association of Boards of Education conference, Ocean City**
- 10/5 **Teacher of the Year Gala, Martin's West, Woodlawn**