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

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August 12, 2008

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In less than two weeks, our students will be back in our classrooms. The level of activity throughout the school system today reflects our enthusiasm to facilitate learning for these young people.

Right now, Michael Phelps, one of our graduates and the son of one of our principals, is *the* star of the summer Olympics, offering all of us a glimpse of what can be achieved when we focus on excellence. In Michael, we are witnessing the combination of innate talent with undiluted passion, dedication, and hard work.

Each day, we have the opportunity to nurture young people who will set new world records and who will be the leaders and innovators this nation needs. Each day in our classrooms is another opportunity to fulfill the promise of our *Blueprint for Progress*.

Recent recognitions continue to confirm that Baltimore County Public Schools is a strong school system advancing toward greatness.

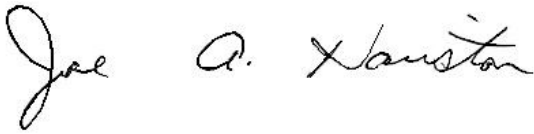
First, we learned that a new report issued in late July by the Schott Foundation for Public Education once again identifies Baltimore County Public Schools as having the highest graduation rate for African American males among the 50 largest school districts in the nation. According to the Schott report, during the 2005-2006 school year, Baltimore County Public Schools achieved a graduation rate of 72 percent for African American males compared to 47 percent for African American males nationally and 55 percent for African American males in Maryland. In addition, the gap between graduation rates for African American males versus white males was 7 percent in Baltimore County compared to 28 percent nationally and 24 percent in Maryland.

A few days after the Schott Foundation report was released, *The Sun* reported that Baltimore County Public Schools is now “the region’s only system with wireless connections in every classroom.” In an editorial titled “Other systems should follow Baltimore County’s example,” the newspaper wrote “Clearly this is the wave of the future, and Baltimore County is helping lead the way.”

Finally, just last week, I was proud to represent the school system as the opening speaker at a U.S. Department of Education Technology Summit. Because of our school system’s national stature in the field of instructional technology, I was asked to share with teachers our perspective on the importance of embracing technology as a teaching tool.

These acknowledgements and activities are the “medals” we are earning as we strive to achieve the highest possible level of success in education. They are further evidence that

we can and will provide a rigorous education for all of our students, including those who will one day make us all proud on the world stage.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe A. Hairston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "A." before the last name.

Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 7/10        **Shared remarks at New Administrators Academy, Loyola Graduate Center, Timonium**
- 7/16        **Interviewed by Gina Davis of *The Sun***
- 7/18 – 7/21 **Attended ERDI, Chicago**
- 8/6         **Presented opening address, US Department of Education Technology Summit, University of Maryland, College Park**
- 8/7         **Participated in Superintendent's Business Services and Curriculum and Instruction Retreat, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**
- 8/8         **Interviewed by Arin Gancer of *The Sun***
- 8/9         **Participated in annual Board of Education of Baltimore County Retreat and New Board Member Orientation, Greenwood**
- 8/12        **Offered welcoming remarks, New Teacher Orientation, Randallstown High School**

### *Upcoming*

- 8/12        **To offer welcoming remarks, New Teacher Orientation, Randallstown High School**
- 8/14        **To participate in Rotary Towson Tri-Club Networking event, Confetti's Event Center, Towson**
- 8/15        **To present annual address at Administrative and Supervisory Meeting, Loch Raven High School**
- 8/20        **To share greetings, along with County Chief of Police, with school resource officers, Hunt Valley Marriott**
- 8/23        **To visit Football Jamboree, Dundalk High School**
- 8/25        **To make annual first day of school visits throughout the county**

- 8/28      **To offer greetings at Rigorous Instructional Workshop, Crowne Plaza  
Baltimore, Timonium**
- 9/5        **To participate in meeting of Public School Superintendents Association  
of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**