

---

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

---

August 11, 2009

---

We are at the beginning of a new school year and the start of the 10<sup>th</sup> year of this administration, now the second longest in the modern-day history of Baltimore County Public Schools.

The length of this tenure has enabled our school system to build on its strengths, fully develop and integrate new initiatives and strategies, and manage a stable transition in responding to legal, economic, political, and social changes.

As a result, our school system – which has the most schools and the most diversity in its history – is also performing at the highest level ever. For the past several years, we have made steady progress in improving student academic performance, increasing academic rigor, and expanding learning opportunities for both students and staff.

This past spring, the Panasonic Foundation (an independent foundation founded by the major technology corporation of the same name) featured Baltimore County Public Schools as a “best-practices” school system in its prestigious *Strategies* magazine.

As proud as I am of what we have accomplished, however, I am even more excited about what lies ahead. Ensuring that our students leave us college-ready, workforce-ready, and military ready drives us to pursue continual improvement.

Let me share with you just a few reasons to be excited about the upcoming school year:

### **Expansion of Chinese language instruction**

Mandarin Chinese language instruction has been added to four more high schools this school year – Randallstown, Towson, and Eastern Technical high schools, and Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts. With this expansion, nearly 600 children in 11 of our middle and high schools will be learning to speak, read, and write Chinese.

### **Fuller implementation of the Articulated Instruction Module (AIM)**

Both President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, in all of their recent remarks about education, have stressed the need for data systems that link students to teachers and help school leaders identify strengths and weaknesses. Governor Martin O’Malley, too, is talking about aligning data and tracking individual student learning. We have that and more in AIM. Our tool also provides parents with what they need to know about instructional expectations for their children and their children’s progress. Once again, we are ahead of the curve.

**New, stronger Curriculum & Instruction team**

This spring and summer we began some intensive improvements to our instructional program, and they will continue and grow during this school year, coordinated by a talented new leadership team.

**Virtual learning environment at Chesapeake**

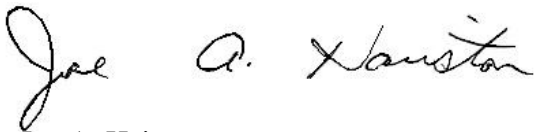
Our partners in this initiative – major defense contractors, Johns Hopkins University, and noted software developers – tell us that no one in the country is doing something quite like this sophisticated blend of technology and curriculum.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**

We are using AVID successfully to accelerate the academic progress of students in the “academic middle” in 23 high schools and four middle schools across Baltimore County.

That is where we are today, but we know that our true legacy will not be revealed until the students in our classrooms today take their places in the world as the next generation of innovators, thinkers, and leaders.

That is a powerful responsibility and opportunity, and it is one that we take pride in fulfilling.

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".

Joe A. Hairston  
Superintendent

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

### *Past*

- 7/16      **Offered greetings at New Administrators Academy, Loyola Graduate Center, Timonium**
- 7/17      **Participated in BCPS Curriculum & Instruction meeting, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 7/20      **Presented remarks at Southwest Area Retreat, Sheppard Pratt Conference Center**
- 7/20      **Interviewed by Arin Gencer of *The Baltimore Sun***
- 8/4        **Interviewed for *Comcast Local Edition* news segment airing in conjunction with *Headline News*, Comcast Studios, White Marsh**
- 8/10      **Interviewed by The Education Channel regarding Panasonic Foundation's *Strategies* magazine feature article for upcoming "Superintendent's Journal" production**
- 8/11      **Hosted Executive Leadership Retreat, Crowne Plaza Baltimore, Timonium**

### *Upcoming*

- 8/12      **To participate in meeting with Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, president of the Community College of Baltimore County, and her staff, CCBC Essex**
- 8/13      **To be interviewed by Tim Tooten of WBAL-TV**
- 8/18      **To give opening remarks at New Teacher Orientation, Randallstown High School**
- 8/21      **To give annual address at Administrative and Supervisory Meeting, Chesapeake High School**
- 8/22      **To participate in Board of Education Retreat, ESS Building**
- 8/31      **To make Opening Day School Visits**
- 9/4        **To participate in meeting of Public Schools Superintendents Association of Maryland, Anne Arundel County Board of Education**