

RICHMOND COUNTY



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DANA T. BEDDEN, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Vice-President

Dear Richmond County Staff, Students, Parents, and Community,

During the past year, our nation, state, and local economy has endured significant financial challenges. During my first two years as Superintendent of Schools, we have endured over \$60 million dollars in budget reductions that without a doubt will make it very challenging to continue the success we have had with improving student learning and achievement during the past two years.

The primary challenge for our school system is to prepare students for careers and postsecondary education. The goal is to have high-achieving schools that teach all students a rigorous academic core, show students the relationship between school studies and future success, and provide students with personal support.

Even with our current financial challenges, I, along with the almost 5000 employees in Richmond County School System, remain committed to providing our children a high quality education. As we open the 2009-2010 school year, our commitment to our children and you will be rooted in Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. This focus will help us continue our efforts to provide high quality, effective instruction for all students in Richmond County. Clearly stated, our vision is to have a system full of learners who will lead in tomorrow's society.

Having effective schools will be the key to meeting our vision. In Richmond County, we will consider ourselves to be effective once we have a "systems approach to teaching and learning" that has:

1. A clear focus on our mission with an urgency regarding "Learning for All"
2. Strong Instructional Leadership
3. Safe and orderly environments
4. A climate of high expectations
5. Multiple opportunities to learn and increased student time on task
6. Frequent and timely monitoring of student progress
7. Positive home and community relationships

Building a better school system is a challenging and rewarding task. To be successful, we will need the support of everyone in our surrounding community to make it a reality.

"Great Things Are Not Done By Impulse, But By A Series Of Small Things Brought Together." -Vincent van Gogh

Sincerely,

Dana T. Bedden, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools