

DADE COUNTY SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016





SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jan Irons Harris

Hello, Dade County!

I began my tenure as your new superintendent on April 1, 2016. In preparation for my application and interview for this key leadership position, I reviewed numerous sources of information related to Dade County Schools such as organization/management, finances, curriculum, technology, personnel, facilities, student achievement, extracurricular activities, special education, and school climate. Additionally, I visited each of your schools and saw the well-maintained school campuses. From my review, it's evident to me that the people of Dade County love their children and value education. Board members and school leaders, through the years, guarded the schools and children of this fine community.

I want to offer my congratulations to your former superintendent, Ms. Cherie Swader, on her well-deserved retirement, and I want to wish her well in the next chapter of her life. She faithfully served the children of Dade County in her roles as teacher, principal and superintendent.

The leadership baton is now handed to me. I humbly accept it and pledge to protect and prepare our deserving students who are entrusted to my care. My watchful eyes will be upon them as I promise to uphold federal and state laws as well as policy set forth by the Dade County Board of Education. I will adhere to the highest ethical standards in administering my duties.

At this time, I want to thank Board Chair Carolyn Bradford, Vice-Chair David Powell and Board Members Jennifer Hartline, Cindy Shaw and Johnny Warren for their confidence in me. I will diligently strive to exceed their expectations of my job performance. Furthermore, I pledge to encourage and strengthen our principals, teachers and staff as we work together to prepare our students for lifelong success.

We have much to celebrate in Dade County Schools. Please join me in commending our students, faculty and staff for their accomplishments during the 2015-2016 school year.

With warmest regards,

Jan Harris



Ms. Cherie Swader,
Retired Superintendent



Dade County Board of Education:

Front, l to r: Carolyn Bradford, Chair; Dr. Jan Irons Harris, Superintendent. Back, l to r: Johnny Warren, Board Member; Cindy Shaw, Board Member; Jennifer Hartline, Board Member; David Powell, Vice-Chair

The Dade County Board of Education encompasses five members, people from different areas of life who devote their time to public service as elected officials. The Board of Education members work together to help provide vision and direction for the school system, employment of the superintendent, policy creation in accordance with state law to establish standards, evaluation and accountability of essential operations of the school district, property acquisition and preparation of the district's budget.

The members of the Dade County Board of Education are committed to making a difference in the lives of our students.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS



Billy Hooker, Associate Superintendent Facilities:

FY2016 was a year for facility planning, a plan review/approval by a state review team, and completion of several capital outlay projects. This was the year for the renewal of our Five-Year Facilities Plan. Assessments were coordinated with

DCS administrators and board, Associated Architectural Services, and the State Department regional capital outlay specialist in preparing the plan. This plan will serve the system during the next four years and is based on the next five year projections for enrollment and capital improvement needs. The state review team was very complimentary and the state regional specialists made the statement, "I wanted to share with you what a class act Dade County Schools did with the survey team visit. ...you did a super job!" While this was a major accomplishment this year, many of our facilities were also upgraded to provide safe and secure environments for learning. Some of those accomplishments include:

- Beginning of HVAC System Replacement at DCHS
- Construction of a new Security Entrance at DCHS
- Room renovation for the new HeadStart program at DVS
- Tiling project of classrooms at DVS
- Asbestos Abatement at DVS and the old Health Department Building
- Gym floors refinished at DCHS and DES

- Demolition of the old Health Department Building
- Renovation and Implementation of DMS Pre-Engineering/Video Broadcast Technology Classroom
- Renovation of new Science Labs DMS
- Fencing at DES for Safety
- Security Entry systems at each school
- Installation of HeadStart playground in DVS courtyard

Federal Programs: Title I, Part A - \$428,360

- Funded Salary and Benefits for 3 Class Size Reduction Teachers, 2 Paraprofessionals, and 1 Academic Coach at DES and 75% of an Academic Coach at DVS
- Provided screening software, intervention programs for all academic content, materials and supplies, and professional learning for the instructional program at DVS

Title II, Part A - \$111,727

- Funded Salary and Benefits for 25% of an Academic Coach at DVS
- Funded professional learning for core academic teachers and administrative staff, and instructional support teams. Professional learning included all academic areas of instruction and Victoria Bernhardt's Continuous School Improvement with Dr. Mary Hooper, professor, West Georgia College.

Title III, Limited English Proficient Learners

- Utilized the consortium for ESOL professional learning with Northwest Georgia RESA



Special Programs:

Debra Brackett, Director

- 408 students received special education services
- 26 special education teachers, 4 speech therapists and 27 paraprofessionals provided services for students with disabilities

- 6 *Bright From the Start* Pre-K Classrooms served 130 students
- Added a school psychologist to staff
- Training provided to 6 teachers in preparation for implementation of ASPIRE (Active Student Participation Inspires Real Engagement) program in middle and high school
- Special Education Leadership Team training provided for implementing state IEP program
- Developed/implemented SSIP (Student Success Imagine the Possibilities) Plan
- Provided RTI (Response to Intervention)/SST (Student Support Team) training to all elementary and middle school teachers
- Provided Mindset training to all administrators, special education

teachers, bus drivers and paraprofessionals

- Provided Co-Teaching training to all teachers at DES
- Provided Special Education Folder Review Training for all special education teachers
- Hosted Special Olympics for 35 Olympians

Special Programs, Events, and Projects with the Parent Mentor, Cynthia Daniels:

- Purchased and Implemented the PAES (Practical Assessment Exploration System) Lab at DMS
- First year of PAES Lab implementation at DCHS
- Provided two opportunities for parents to receive information concerning the NOW/COMP Waivers
- Held an Autism Workshop for teachers and parents
- Partnered with Parent 2 Parent of Georgia
- Held an IEP Workshop for Parents
- Collaborated with the Department of Juvenile Justice and other agencies
- Created Project Christopher: Select juniors and seniors mentor 8th grade students about upcoming high school career



School Nutrition: Beth Blevins, Director

- Every cafeteria in the system received a perfect sanitation score (100) from the Georgia Department of Public Health
- 16 nutrition staff members hold the ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification through the National Restaurant Association

- Every member of the school nutrition team completed state-approved food safety training
- In addition to holding an advanced degree in Public Health, the School Nutrition Director is certified through the Georgia Professional

Standards Commission and has completed over 50 hours of training

- Provided over 2,600 healthy lunches to local children during the Seamless Summer meal program.
- Partnered with the Farm to School Program to plant fruits, vegetables and herbs at DMS and DCHS
- Partnered with Trenton United Methodist Church to provide weekend meals for children in need
- Fostered community involvement by hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, Muffins for Moms, Doughnuts for Dads, Veterans' Breakfast and Grandparents' lunch

PRINCIPALS' SUMMARIES



Davis Elementary School (DVS)

James Fahrney, Jr., Principal

School-Wide Highlights:

- Named a High Progress Reward School
- Earned a CCRPI score of 85 and 4-Star Climate Rating
- Student enrollment increased 10%

- Students' combined scores outperformed the combined state average in every content area by an average of 10 points; economically disadvantaged students by an average of 17 points; students with special needs, 24 points
- Wendi Fields directed three plays featuring students in grades K-5
- Kathy Morrow and Tina Ragon added to our staff to serve a second Pre-K classroom

Parent and Community Involvement:

- 75-member DVS Chorus had a dozen performances including Dollywood (special thanks to Jessica Howard and Brandi Steele)
- Annual sock, clothing, and coat drive was a big success
- First Annual Christmas Toy Drive in honor of Deputy Mark Garner collected hundreds of books and toys for children in need
- Pennies for Patients raised \$800 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; Jump Rope for Heart, \$400 for the American Heart Assoc.
- Cafeteria encouraged family involvement by offering Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads, Grandparents' Lunch, Veterans' Lunch and special dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- McTeacher Night at the Trenton McDonald's raised over \$1,000

Initiatives:

- 10-a-Day Program rewarded students for reading at least 10

pages a day; end result - over 1 million pages read

- Science and Social Studies Night was a huge success with over 70 projects on a wide variety of topics
- Team Sports, Art, and Science Lab offered to students in grades 3-5 during Academy Time

Technology:

- One-to-one computer ratio for students in grades 3-5
- Students in K-2 had access to at least 10 devices per class
- eBooks added to the library; made available online or via Kindle
- Math and Reading programs made available online for student use at school and at home

Behavior:

- SOAR Program - over 2,500 Buzzworthy Cards awarded
- Buzzworthy Students recognized over the intercom daily; 5 winners selected weekly
- Only 5 discipline events for the year that resulted in in-school or out-of-school suspensions
- PTO rewarded students in the Bee Good Cafe with ice cream
- Lookout Mtn. Community Services began in-school counseling
- C.A.B. (Caring Adult in the Building) Program provided staff mentors for students with a variety of needs

Facilities:

- Front door security system added to improve student safety
- New flooring in Rock Building
- New furniture and mural added in the Media Center
- New Head Start program added for children age newborn-2
- Farm to Table Initiative - 2 Outdoor classrooms, 100 blueberry bushes and 20 apple trees planted



Dade Elementary School (DES)

Tracy Blevins, Principal

School-Wide Highlights:

- Earned a CCRPI score of 81.6 (up from 62.9 in 2012 and 6.1 points above the state average)
- Earned a 4-Star Climate Rating
- 5% above the state average for Math

achievement; 6% above for Science achievement

- Lexile scores above the state average in grades 3-5
- 9% above the Northwest Georgia RESA average for Lexile scores (reading/vocabulary); 7% above the state average
- 11% above the state average for 3rd grade math scores
- Ella Thomas, 5th grade student, placed 1st in county, district, and regional oratorical competitions sponsored by the Optimist Club
- Early Intervention Developmental Preschool serving 3- and 4-year-old children

Parent and Community Involvement:

- Parent trainings offered: Title I parent meetings, grade level transition meetings, Common Core, and testing parent meetings
- Active school council
- Community/business involvement: Veteran's Day Breakfast, Community Trick or Treating Event, Thanksgiving Lunch
- Weekend snack bag distribution to DES students through community support and collaboration
- Community outreach programs: Thanksgiving canned food drive and food box distribution, "White Christmas" gift collection and donation to the Sheriff's Department, "Pennies for Pets" collection and donation to the local animal shelter

- Red Ribbon Activities sponsored by Dade County Sheriff's Dept.
- Participant in Lion's Club "Let Every Child See" glasses program

Initiatives:

- Attendance awards and recognition for students each 9 weeks
- Active student clubs and student council
- Math fact automaticity program in place - "The Great Race"
- 92% of students grades 3-5 achieved multiplication math fact goal
- 2nd grade reading remediation program
- Active 4-H program; student/community member mentor program

Technology:

- 10 or more wireless devices in each K-5 classroom
- Interactive white board in all classrooms
- Math and reading resources, and several software programs available to students for home and school use

Behavior:

- Positive Behavior System ("PAWS"itive Pride) in place
- Student/Teacher mentor program in place
- Counseling from outside agencies offered for students in need
- Character Education implemented in all classrooms
- CHAMPS program offered to 5th grade students

Facilities:

- Front door security system added to monitor campus visitors
- Over 75 cameras in place to monitor building activity





Dade County Middle School (DMS)

Jamison Griffin, Principal

School-Wide Highlights:

- 11% gain in CCRPI Score to 74.7 - highest score for DMS since CCRPI inception in 2012
- 6th grade social studies had highest median student growth in the state (92%). Thanks, 6th

grade teachers James Emmet & Margaret Smart!

- New engineering & video broadcasting lab made student-led news and announcements possible
- DMS has a Twitter page and a YouTube Channel
- New Science lab for 7th & 8th grades
- New ELA textbooks purchased for 6th-8th grades
- New scholastic reading inventory purchased to help identify and assist struggling readers
- \$8,000 raised by newly established PTO made up of parents, teachers & community members
- Rachel Thorne finished 12th in the Chattanooga Area Spelling Bee; Ty Fuqu & Elijah Gilbreath also represented DMS

PTO Community Events & Fundraisers:

- 5K community run/walk
- Winter dance
- Spring Spectacular Carnival

Student Voice & Culture:

- Nationally renowned motivational speaker, RV Brown, provided an inspiring and life-changing message to students
- Launched HoWse system (modeled after "Ron Clark Academy") to help students make meaningful connections, develop interpersonal skills with one another, and to curb bullying

Extracurricular:

- Girls basketball team NGAC tournament Champs & division winners
- Boys basketball team NGAC runner up & division winners
- Chorus made GMEA All-State

- Cassidy Walker named to GMEA All-State Chorus for 2nd year
- GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation
- 6th Grade Chorus received a score of Superior
- 8th Grade Chorus became first in DMS history to receive a score of Superior in Sight-Reading all three years (6th-8th grade)
- 7th & 8th graders made a history field trip to Savannah

Staff (Master's Degree - 20, Specialist Degree - 6, Doctorate Degree - 3, Gifted Endorsed - 12)

- Math and Science teachers participated in regional collective professional development
- Jamie Bonner (8th grade Science) participated in Naval Academy Teacher Boot Camp
- Dr. Tom Randolph (8th grade ELA) was an instructor in Northern Iraq (Dohuk) Red Cross refugee camp, and participated in the Georgia Educational Leadership Institute conference
- Matt Jelley (7th grade ELA) selected by the state to determine GA Milestone assessment scoring

Social Media outlets & support

- Website - <http://dms.dadecountyschools.org/>
 - Principal's Corner - <http://dmsprincipalcorner.weebly.com/>
 - YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWJnPcmi-DmyR6tKTDlxAQ>
 - Follow us on Twitter - https://twitter.com/Dade_Middle
- #Get Behind the W

Vision

- As an educational family made up of teachers, students, & parents, Dade Middle School exists to use the power of learning and knowledge to unify and grow our community forward to expand the horizons of our students and bring about a cultural renewal.
- Teacher motto - *Growing Forward*
- Student motto - *Get behind the W*





Dade County High School (DCHS)

Josh Ingle, Principal

- School Council Members elected: Danette Dawson, Holly Moore, Dana Nethery, Daniel Middlebrooks, Lisa Davidson, Philip Bell
- 9.8% increase in 2015 Cohort Graduation Rate (4 year rate)
- Increased 2015 CCR score by 5.3 points over 2014
- DCHS American Literature ranks 2nd in Georgia on district data (of 187 reported districts) with 82% of students meeting typical or high growth on 2016 GA Milestones
- Move On When Ready/Dual Enrollment Options expanded
- Graduates eligible to earn up to 21 college credits through Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Environmental Science & FCCLA students participated in Farm to School initiative
- Testing site for ACT/SAT
- Hosted State Superintendent Richard Woods for roundtable discussion
- Social Studies Teachers attended Bruce Lesh's workshop "Why Don't You Just Tell Us The Answers?"
- Language Arts Teacher Megan Baugh selected to serve on the ELA GA Milestones Item Review Team
- Senior Kyle Suter received the Optimist Club STAR Student Award
- Megan Baugh selected by Kyle Suter for STAR Teacher Award
- Senior Molly Trantham nominated as FCA Student Athlete of the Year and runner-up for Lookout Mountain Area FCA student athlete
- Junior Jed Henderson placed 3rd at FBLA Nationals in Agribusiness
- Senior Fletcher Keaton placed 1st at State TSA competition in Photographic Technology
- Junior Ben Smith recognized by Optimist Club for essay contest
- Junior Abigail Graham received scholarship to Natural Resources Conservation Camp at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Senior Keith Jones advanced to GHSA state wrestling tournament

- Students Cassie Rae Higdon and Gage Henry advanced to GHSA state track meet
- Key Club/Junior Chamber of Commerce partnered with DMS for Project Christopher
- Updated engineering lab to industry standards, mechatronics lab
- Audio/Video Broadcast Program partnered with local Internet service provider and began building content for local TV channel
- Hosted Dade & Davis Pre-K students for Project Graduation
- Developed plans to restore Agriculture Education to CTAE program
- Promoted safe driving through National "Save A Life Tour" with Dade County Sheriff's Department
- 2015 – 2016 Region 7-AA Literary Champions
- Junior Dylan Knox selected for GMEA District 7 Honor Band
- Freshman Sara Wade selected for UTC Honor Band
- Band Instructor marched in Veterans Day Parade in NYC
- DCHS students Katie Dawson, Steven Brown, Rebecca Chapman, Jonah Browder participated in UGA District Honor Band
- Twenty-eight students participated in District Honor Chorus
- Chorus presented annual Christmas & Spring Coffeehouse
- Drama partnered with DVS 3rd grade for Theatre for Youth Project
- Drama presented Mary Rogers' "Once Upon A Mattress"
- Art teacher hosted annual art show with student work displayed
- Approximately 120 DCHS students completed CTAE Pathways
- Football, Softball and Girls Soccer Teams advanced to GHSA State Playoffs
- Seniors Teddy Cole and Dequavis Cole signed letters of intent to play football at Highland Community College in Highland, KS
- Senior Kayla Smith signed letter of intent to North Georgia College to cheerlead
- Senior and Valedictorian Haley Keesler signed letter of intent to Agnes Scott College to play softball
- Senior Keith Jones signed letter of intent to Northwest Kansas Technical College to wrestle

DADE COUNTY'S TOP TEN

- 1 Haley Keesler
- 2 Houston Poston
- 3 Kyle Suter
- 4 Taylor Hibbs
- 5 Caitlin McWilliams
- 6 Catherine Taylor
- 7 Logan Cloud
- 8 Morgan Holland
- 9 Molly Trantham
- 10 Kattie Williams



FINANCIAL REPORT



Paula Stallings, Director of Finance

- Student instructional days - 180
- Dade County Schools received "clean" FY15 audit with no findings
- Financial Efficiency Star Rating equals ★★★
- Total FY 2015 Revenues were \$18,191,071 — State 57%, Local 36%, Federal 7%

• SPLOST \$4,089,532

FY 2015 Expenditures

Percentage

Instruction	\$12,480,345	69%
Pupil Services	\$466,552	3%
Staff Services	\$967,457	5%
General Administration	\$662,450	4%
School Administration	\$1,442,390	8%
Transportation	\$737,109	4%
Maintenance and Operations	\$1,435,026	8%
Total Expenditures	\$18,191,329	100%



School Improvement:

Jennifer Jackson, Director

- Teachers from all levels—elementary, middle and high—participated in professional development in work-based learning with a STEM focus in middle and high, DES and DMS received gifted endorsements and redelivered research-based practices back to their respective schools

- Provided training from GaDOE consultants regarding homeless, neglected and delinquent students to school counselors

- DES and DMS attended the annual English as a Second Language conference where they participated in hands-on activities to increase literacy for all learners
- Began work on Continuous School Improvement with Dr. Mary Hooper based on the work of Dr. Victoria Bernhardt
- Student Information System changed from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus in order to better analyze data and communicate effectively with stakeholders
- All school leaders attended training from the Professional Standards Commission regarding teacher certification updates
- Tribunal training from Dr. Jimmy Stokes and Cory Kirby

BY THE NUMBERS

2016 ACT SCORES:

School/State

English

Math

Reading

Science

Composite

95/58,073

19.5/20.7

18.9/20.6

21.3/21.8

20.2/21.0

20.1/21.1

GRADUATION RATES:

DCHS

STATE

2016/GA MILESTONES

2016	86.7%	78.9%	+5% increase in Biology Scores
2015	76.9%	72.6%	+13% increase in Geometry
2014	80.7%	71.8%	+16% increase in Economics

45% of 2016 Graduates were eligible for GA HOPE scholarship

AP SCORES:

Subject

Students

Avg Score

scoring 3+

Teacher

Calculus	1	3	1	Online
Eng. Language	31	1.7	3	Baugh
US Gov & Politics	28	1.2	1	Warren
US History	38	1.3	3	Warren
World History	39	1.4	1	McMahan
Totals	137	1.7	9	

2015 CCRPI SCORES

AND CLIMATE RATINGS:

District

CCRPI Score

State Avg

Climate Rating

Dade County

78.2

75.5

N/A

DVS

85.1

76

★★★★

DES

81.6

76

★★★★

DMS

74.7

71.2

★★

DCHS

72.9

75.8

★★★

SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

Ethnicity:

African American	1%
Asian/Indian	1%
Multi-racial	2%
Hispanic	1%
White	95%

Enrollment: 2,152 students

Dade Elementary 788, Davis Elementary 304,
Dade Middle 471, Dade High 589

Attendance: 94.83%

Per Pupil Expenditure:\$8,822
(Statewide average \$8,665)

Value of Scholarships offered to Class of 2016:\$330,000
(excluding GA HOPE Scholarship)

Ad valorem tax: 15.083 mils

Employees: 313 total

Classified employees.....126

Certified employees 187

Teacher Qualifications:

Bachelors 26%

Masters 47%

EdSpecialist 23%

Doctorate 4%

All schools are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DCS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR!



Susan Rose
Dade Elementary
Teacher of the Year



Jessica Howard
Davis Elementary
Teacher of the Year



Kim Ambrose
Dade County Middle
Teacher of the Year



Pam Barton
Dade County High
Teacher of the Year



Megan Baugh
Dade County Chamber
Educator of the Year

James Fahrney, Jr.
Dade County Chamber
Educator of the Year



Dade Elementary School

Tracy Blevins, Principal
306 Wolverine Drive
Trenton, GA 30752
706-657-8253

<http://des.dadecountyschools.org/>



Davis Elementary School

James Fahrney, Jr., Principal
5491 Hwy 301
Trenton, GA 30752
706-657-6300

<http://davis.dadecountyschools.org/>



Dade Middle School

Jamison Griffin, Principal
250 Pace Drive
Trenton, GA 30752
706-657-6491

<http://dms.dadecountyschools.org/>



Dade County High School

Josh Ingle, Principal
300 Tradition Lane
Trenton, GA 30752
706-657-7517

<http://dchs.dadecountyschools.org/>

Dade County Board of Education

52 Tradition Lane • Trenton, GA 30752 • 706-657-4361

Dr. Jan Irons Harris, Superintendent; Billy Hooker, Associate Superintendent

Directors: Beth Blevins, School Nutrition; Debra Brackett, Special Programs; Jennifer Jackson, School Improvement;

Paula Stallings, Finance

www.dadecs.org

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in any program or activity, on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age.