

Dear Butler County School System Parents and Guardians,

My wife, Debra, and I are very blessed to be a part of the Butler County school community family and we look forward to building a relationship upon trust and respect with all staff and community. Entering my 27<sup>th</sup> year in education and 13<sup>th</sup> year as a school superintendent, I have evolved as an educator to find it is not just a job but a calling. I am serious and passionate in my responsibility to educate and care for our children.

Welcome back to school! Great things will transpire during the 2017-18 school year for not only our children, but our entire school community family. This school year, we are “going back to the basics.” First, we need to ensure that no student is hungry or does not feel safe. Therefore, we are going to work with community organizations to make sure our students have access to food and basic necessities. We are also going to tighten up on discipline, understanding that true discipline illustrates the love and care we have for our staff, students and community. Additionally, we seek to provide more opportunities for students to be involved both in the classroom and with extracurricular activities thus giving our students a deeper sense of love and belonging – not to mention increased school spirit! All students have physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual characteristics. We will educate them with such an understanding.

I am very proud of our administrative, teaching and support staff team. Please help me welcome our new Georgiana Principal, Curtis Moorer to our school family. Please also welcome Bryant Marlow as the new Greenville Middle School Principal and his Assistant Principals Joey Hamilton and Shawaungela Bolden to the GMS family. There are other administrative, teaching and support staff adjustments we hope to finalize in the next couple weeks. With such adjustments, I feel we have an excellent team heading into the 2017-2018 school year and I look forward to seeing our students on the first day of school **Wednesday, August 9**.

To a Successful School Year,

John