

# CHILDREN FIRST

By Dixie District School Superintendent – Mike Thomas

January, 2017

Happy New Year! Dixie District Schools are off to a great start for the new year, and the beginning of the second semester.

I am humbled to serve as your Superintendent of Schools. As I have developed my goals as Superintendent, my top priority is to maintain a safe and secure environment for our children and faculty. Our children must be in a safe environment to elevate their learning experience.

As we have just completed the holiday season, it is refreshing to see our students giving back to the community with various projects throughout the year. Holiday baskets were prepared by various clubs. The band program, consisting of students from RRMS and DCHS presented an outstanding concert, which was well attended by our community.



Thank you to the Dixie County Rotary Club for the donation of dictionaries to all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Old Town Elementary School and Anderson Elementary School. This has been a project of our local Rotary Club for over ten years.

*Students at Dixie District Schools are pressing towards the future with technology. Chromebooks have been purchased to create a more extensive learning environment for every K-12 student.*

Students at Dixie District Schools are pressing towards the future with new technology. We have purchased Chromebooks to create a “one-to-one” learning environment for every District student. The Chromebooks were purchased using the Digital Classroom Plan (DCP) Allocation. During the 2014 Florida Legislative Session, Section 1001.20, Florida Statutes, was updated to require the Florida Department of Education to develop a five-year digital classrooms plan to assist districts in establishing Florida Digital Classrooms. Dixie District Schools are in the third year of the plan and are on track to have all the computers distributed to the entire K-12 student body in the next few months. Chromebooks are web-based laptop computers that allow all students and teachers to work and interact in a common online environment.

Dixie District Schools strives towards academic success for all students. At DCHS, students are afforded the opportunity to compete academically with some of the brightest students in the area through the High Q team. This year, the DCHS Junior Varsity team won the North Florida High Q Conference, Alpha Division-Best Season Record trophy, with an undefeated regular season. The DCHS Beta Club recently attended state convention and brought home several top awards, including 1<sup>st</sup> Place Division 1 Social Studies, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Recyclable Art and Art Best In Show. In addition, FBLA and HOSA will be competing at local and state levels this Spring.

Dixie County athletic programs are currently experiencing successful records. The DCHS Girls Weightlifting team, in the third year of the program, finished the season second in the District, with an impressive record of 7-2-1. DCHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team is midway through what has been an exciting and successful season, currently with a record of 6-2. Their District Tournament will begin February 6 in Bell. DCHS Varsity Girls Basketball play Chiefland on January 31 at 6:00 p.m. at Trenton High School for the first round of their District Tournament. RRMS Girls Basketball Team is currently 8-2, going into the SMAC tournament this week. Baseball, softball, and boys weightlifting begin soon, and schedules will be posted on the District website.

On January 5, I attended the Dixie County Legislative Delegation Meeting to ask for assistance in receiving the remaining funds to complete construction of the New Dixie County Middle-High School. Sen. Bradley and Rep. Clemons were both well aware of our situation and are working together with us on the issue in Tallahassee.

This week is Reading Literacy Week, and our schools are celebrating by having community leaders read to our students. Thanks to our community for supporting literacy week.

*Mike Thomas, Superintendent  
Dixie District Schools*