

# CHILDREN FIRST

By Dixie District School Superintendent – Mike Thomas

January, 2018

Happy New Year! We are off to a great start for the beginning of the second semester.

I am spending a lot of time in classrooms and reviewing the data at all schools, working to ensure that our students are ready for the upcoming testing season. I am also continuing to monitor student attendance. It is my personal goal for our students to graduate with the appropriate education to achieve their goals and be successful in their chosen career.

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 many years.



*Congratulations to the DCHS Beta Club for their success at the recent Florida Beta Club Convention.*

The Flu illness has increased in our schools during the past two weeks. Our school district is working closely with the health department to help students avoid the illness. Information is posted on the district website and we have purchased hand sanitizer and wipes for our schools.

The tenth annual *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! 2018* was held during the week of January 22-26. The goal of this Department of Education scheduled week is to promote literacy and excellent reading habits in the students of Florida. Thanks to our community for supporting this endeavor. Sheriff Dewey Hatcher, Johnny Geathers, P.J. Hope, Ben Carilla, several local baseball players, and I had the opportunity to read to students at our elementary schools. If you would like to participate in future reading events or volunteer in any of our schools, please contact my office.

3D printing is now a reality for all Dixie District Schools. Students are learning the basics of making a physical object from a digital model through project based learning. 3D printing enhances science, technology, engineering, art, math (STEAM) & design skills currently being taught in our Pre-K-12 classrooms. Students are now able to take an idea, model it using their district supplied Chromebook, and bring it to life by printing it on the 3D printer. The future is now in Dixie District Schools!

Our district is currently going through the textbook adoption process for science. The state has made many changes to this process, including giving the public opportunities to offer input on the adopted textbook timeline and plan, as well as the textbooks our schools have chosen through the adoption process. The public can view the science textbooks the schools selected by going to the district website and accessing copies online.

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 state. The DCHS Beta Club recently attended state convention and brought home several top awards, along with election of the state secretary. The DCHS Junior Varsity High Q team has excelled in the North Florida High Q Conference (Alpha Division) and will compete next week at the Regional Tournament. DCHS students won several individual awards, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team trophy at the 2018 Northern Regional Science Olympiad Tournament recently held at the University of Florida. In addition, FBLA and HOSA will be competing at local and state levels this Spring.

Dixie County athletic programs are currently experiencing successful records. DCHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team is midway through what has been an exciting and successful season, currently with a record of 10-3. Dixie County will host the District Boys Basketball Tournament during the week of February 12-17. DCHS Varsity Girls Basketball, with a current season record of 6-8 will play in the District Tournament beginning February 5 at Trenton High School. Baseball, softball, and boys weightlifting begin soon, and schedules are posted on the District website.

We are looking forward to completion of the New Dixie County Middle-High School. It will be ready for students when they return in August for the 2018-2019 school year.

*Mike Thomas, Superintendent  
Dixie District Schools*