

CHILDREN FIRST

By Dixie District School Superintendent – Mike Thomas

February - March, 2017

The 12th Annual Dixie County Education-Business Partnership Luncheon was held on February 24. Our business partners assist the school district by providing an environment in which students can reach their full potential, our goal is to offer the opportunity for every child to be successful. We were pleased to have State Representative Chuck Clemons as guest speaker.



The Dixie County Education-Business Partnership Luncheon Meeting was held on February 24. Thanks to RRMS and DCHS Band students for providing entertainment to the group of business leaders!

The 2017 legislative session began on March 7. I have been in Tallahassee meeting with legislators lobbying for various bills that affect education legislation, and most importantly the students of Dixie County. Senate Bill 964 is before the legislature to be considered for changes to testing requirements for K-12 students. This bill will eliminate some EOC exams and will allow testing only in the last four weeks of school, which gives teachers more time to prepare our students. I

attended a press conference on behalf of our schools and spoke with legislators on March 8 in support of these common sense changes to testing. We will also continue to pursue the remaining balance to complete the Dixie County Middle-High School project during the current legislative session.

The **2017-2018** school year calendar has been approved and is posted on the district website. This calendar is posted early to assist as families prepare for vacations and child care for the upcoming year.

Many of our students, who are 4-H and FFA members have participated in the Suwannee River Fair during the past few weeks. These students worked many hours to prepare their projects for the fair, and I am proud of the way they represented Dixie County.

I am very proud of the DCHS STEM Club for winning first place in the Regional Science Olympiad competition. Under the direction of Mr. Kumar, Mrs. Beck, Dr. Keels, and Ms. Burke, the students are preparing for the state competition on March 25 in Orlando.

Spring sports programs are in action, with softball and baseball at RRMS and DCHS, along with boys weightlifting at DCHS. I encourage you to attend a game and support our students as they display outstanding sportsmanship. Schedules are posted on the district website and are available at our offices. Congratulations to Coach William Graham and Caleb Buzbee for leading the DCHS Boys Basketball team to the state Elite 8 in Class 1A.

The following employees will be recognized at the School Board Meeting on April 11:

School Related Employees of the Year:

*Anderson Elementary School – Earnestine Osteen
Old Town Elementary School – Lyndell Howell
Transportation – Doris Cavender*

*Dixie County High School – Susan Kerslake
Ruth Rains Middle School – Janet Jones
District Level – Serrell Ross*

Teachers of the Year:

*Anderson Elementary School – April Kight
Old Town Elementary School – Susan Crise*

*Dixie County High School – Mari-Michael Smith
Ruth Rains Middle School – Anne Jones*

For current information about our schools, visit the Dixie District Schools website at www.dixie.k12.fl.us.

*Mike Thomas, Superintendent
Dixie District Schools*