

September 2010

Dear Parents and Students:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the 2010-11 school year. Before long, school hallways will resound with conversation and classrooms will buzz with anticipation of new learning. Our schools will open for students on Thursday, September 2. Staff members will begin their schedule on August 30.

As I complete my 5<sup>th</sup> full year as Superintendent, I have been most impressed with the continued high level of community, parent and staff support for education in Guilford. Without parent and community involvement and participation, our charge of providing an appropriate and challenging educational program for each and every child would be much more difficult.

Our vision is to create a high performance learning community where instruction invites effort and supports academic rigor for all students and educators. The faculty stands ready to assist us in moving toward that vision with the major emphasis placed on the expert instruction that takes place in a professional and collaborative environment.

A new district goal – “Our schools will be safe and caring places for learning by committing to building positive relationships within the school environment and throughout the community” – has been added this year in an effort to place greater emphasis on improving school culture. It is our desire to create dynamic learning cultures in our schools where positive relationships among staff, parents and students will support high level student achievement.

Terry Deal, Professor at Vanderbilt University, and author of numerous educational publications, states, “Reforms that bring new technologies or higher standards won’t succeed without being embedded in supportive, spirit-filled cultures. School won’t become what students deserve until cultural patterns and ways are shaped to support learning.”

In order for us to be successful in moving toward our vision and the accomplishment of our goals, we need continued parent and community support and involvement. We must share in the belief of high standards for all students and place a priority on student academic achievement through meaningful hard work. That expectation holds true for everyone including students, teachers and administrators. In these difficult economic times, it is even more critical for all stakeholders to clearly understand the educational vision of the Guilford Public Schools.

Our vision cannot be accomplished by dwelling on the past or by becoming comfortable with the status quo. Together, parents, students, teachers, and community members must strive for a better future. Best wishes to all for a successful 2010-11 school year!

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Forcella, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools