

December 2017

As the days remaining on the 2017 calendar quickly expire, we pause to reflect upon all that has been accomplished during the preceding months. Hanover County Public Schools has much to be thankful for again this year. We had a successful opening to the new school year as we welcomed over 18,000 students back into our twenty-five buildings. This was quickly followed by the announcement that all schools once again achieved full accreditation, upholding our long-standing tradition of excellence. The opening week of school also gave us the opportunity to unveil our first-ever "Classrooms of the Future." This new initiative, funded by the Hanover Education Foundation, allows our educators to apply for the opportunity to transform their classrooms into innovative, relevant, and active learning spaces that focus on collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. Teachers from South Anna Elementary School and Stonewall Jackson Middle School were the first to win this competition and are already providing our students with more hands-on, collaborative learning opportunities. They are also serving as models for other educators as we hope to expand this initiative in the coming years.



In October, our middle school teachers received laptop computers as part of the first phase of our five-year Technology Plan and Digital Learning Initiative. Additionally, upgrades in the technology infrastructure in all schools will ensure the necessary network is in place to support our devices for many years to come. Next year, laptops will be on the way for our elementary and high school teachers, and secondary students will be provided with devices in the final phases of our technology plan. Our Digital Learning Initiative is more than just providing another tool for educators and students. In fact, when coupled with professional development provided by our outstanding Curriculum and Instruction team, educators will be equipped to truly transform learning experiences to help ensure our students continue to receive the most relevant, equitable, and innovative education possible.

Our School Board, along with support from the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors, has been instrumental in providing the resources necessary for our continuous success. As we move into a new year, we look forward to sustaining our positive momentum with projects such as the renovations of the auditoriums at Patrick Henry and Lee-Davis High School, phase two of the five-year Technology Plan, and expanded learning opportunities for students and teachers alike.

We are grateful for the many accomplishments of this year and so much more. We look towards 2018 with much excitement and anticipation of the opportunities to help make it another great year for our students, staff, and community. Thank you for your unwavering support, and we hope you have a safe and restful holiday season and positive start to the New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Gill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M".

Michael B. Gill, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools