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James L. Henderson, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Connecting for Success: Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day

February 7, 2020

HCCSD Board Evaluates Superintendent as Exemplary

LEXINGTON, Miss. – The Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) Board of Education gave Superintendent Dr. James L. Henderson high marks for his performance.

In all areas of his superintendency, Dr. Henderson has exceeded the goals the Board set for him as evidenced by the countless ways of focusing on student learning and achievement. He has remained committed to keeping his promise of bringing the HCCSD into the 21st century with high quality programs, initiatives, teaching and learning strategies, technology, innovative schools, certified staff, and opportunities to grow and learn in a global community. He relentlessly seeks opportunities for the children of Holmes County to experience the world beyond their county lines.

In order to build staff capacity and develop leadership, Dr. Henderson has instituted the following:

1. Professional Development for all staff on *best-practice* instructional strategies
2. *Will You Be My Teacher?* campaign to recruit and retain certified teachers
3. *Promising Practicing Professionals (3P)* initiative to assist teachers in obtaining their Mississippi Teacher License
4. *MAPP Pipeline* for aspiring school-based and central office administrators
5. New laptops for all teachers, secretaries, MSIS Clerks and administrators
6. *Student Cohort Data Tracker* for all students in order to have timely updates on progress, trends and graduation rates
7. *1-to-1 Computing*: devices for all students in the 2020-2021 academic year
8. *New ClearTouch Interactive Panels* at the high school to facilitate improved instruction
9. *An aggressive and well-organized school bond referendum* which nearly passed

To increase financial support for the district, Dr. Henderson's leadership has facilitated the following:

1. *3 year competitive \$700,000 21st Century grant* for after-school and summer arts integration programming
2. *REACH MS PBIS* technical assistance grant
3. *\$700,000 STEAM Grant* applied for grades 7-12
4. *HCCSD Collegiate Academy Grant* applied for to promote dual enrollment and college credits
5. *K-8 After-School STEM Grant* applied for



To improve parent participation, communication and support, Dr. Henderson has instituted the following:

1. *Holmesccsd.org* website and social media platforms
2. *Direct link* for parents to reach the Superintendent
3. *Superintendent's Student Advisory Roundtable* to advise on issues from the students' perspective
4. *HCCSD Literacy Framework for Reading Instruction, Interventions and Language Development*
5. *Parent University* to help families support their children's success through resources, supports, and classes
6. *Universal Screening* to identify students at risk for learning difficulties
7. *Kindergarten Readiness Assessment* to provide parents, teachers and early childhood providers with a common understanding of what children are able to do to improve instruction and other services provided to students from birth to 3rd grade
8. *Brigance Early Childhood Screening* for a useful snapshot of a Pre-K child's development
9. *Active Parent/Active Student* portals to access attendance, discipline and grades online
10. *ACT Test Prep* and incentivized efforts for high ACT scores; extended ACT testing to 7th and 8th grade students
11. *Expanded Gifted Education* to grades 7-8
12. *New Curricular Resources:* Math K-12, Science 3-12, Reading Intervention K-8, Social Studies 3-8, PreK comprehensive curriculum
13. *Purchased more than \$100,000 worth* of fiction and non-fiction books for readers of all ages

To collect and manage the data that drives Dr. Henderson's decisions, the district has implemented the following:

1. *SchoolStatus:* assessments, benchmarks, academics and discipline
2. *TE21:* over 70,000 educational improvements aligned to College and Career Ready Standards
3. *Renaissance:* assesses reading and math skills, prescribes interventions
4. *Edgenuity:* online curriculum and blended learning solutions for credit recovery to help students graduate on time
5. *Major Clarity:* unifies teaching, counseling and career readiness
6. *NutriKids:* Menu Planning and Nutritional Analysis to control food costs, eliminate waste and meet USDA regulations
7. *Follett Destiny:* library manager to strengthen the bond between the library, the classroom and home

To take students beyond the county lines, Dr. Henderson secured funding for the following:

1. *Academic Learning Day at the State Fair*
2. *Summer Flight innovative summer school program* field trips to Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia
3. *College Visits* to Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia
4. *AP Physics* summer camps at Mississippi university campuses
5. *Robotics* conferences throughout the state of Mississippi
6. *Technology Student Association* district and state conferences in Mississippi
7. *Competition participations* by the high school band in—and out—of state
8. *Concert and university collaborations* by the high school choir throughout the state

To keep students focused on learning and achievement, Dr. Henderson celebrates the following:

1. Graduation rate increased nearly 10%
2. Dropout rate decreased 10%



3. Math proficiency increased 3%
4. Science proficiency increased nearly 7%
5. U.S. History proficiency increased 37%
6. 3 out of 6 schools increased or maintained reading proficiency
7. District has increased the percentage of students scoring At or Above Benchmark on the Universal Reading Assessment by 3%
8. District has decreased the amount of instructional days lost due to suspensions from last year to this year.
9. *National Honor Society* at the high school
10. *BETA Clubs* at the middle schools
11. *Graduates Within Reach Academy* for online credit recovery
12. *Doretha Draine Wiley Fine Arts Magnet Academy* at the high school

It is apparent that Dr. Henderson has established a framework of educational supports and employee development to ensure the success of Holmes County students and staff. It is clear that by keeping his focus on students, he has created a system to set high standards, work toward achieving those standards, measure the progress along the way, increase support and development where needed, and celebrate achievement. He is certainly deserving of this outstanding evaluation.

Parent Jamie Hart Winstead said that she really appreciates all the changes and improvements to the district that Dr. Henderson has put into effect. She said, "My 3rd grade daughter is thriving in school with all of the interventions and staff development to improve instruction and classroom management."

Dr. Henderson said that he's grateful to the team of educators who help make everything possible. He said, "The school board and the executive team work so very hard to bring the best to the district. The teachers, principals and district staff have a lot to be proud of, with our data trending in the right direction academically. In Robert Frost's words, 'we have miles to go before we sleep', but we are making impactful progress. We look forward to removing ourselves from the state's F list."

Media organizations in need of more information are asked to contact Ms. Deborah Antoine, Media Spokesperson by email: dantoine@holmesccsd.org, or call (662) 854-3447.

