



Jefferson County School District
Adrian Hammitte, Ph.D., Superintendent of Education

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Jefferson County School District
942 Main Street
Fayette, MS 39069

Dear Jefferson County School District Family,

Malcolm X once stated, "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

Greetings, Tiger Nation! I hope this correspondence finds you safe and well. Furthermore, I pray that each of you had a restful and enjoyable summer. It is now time to get back to the business of educating our scholars. I know that you all are up for the task, and I am excited about what we are going to accomplish together.

As we all know, COVID-19 has changed not only the way we educate children but also our way of life. Moreover, we are in the middle of a public health crisis. As a result, we also have an educational crisis. Given this new reality, as superintendent, my highest priority is to protect the students and employees of the Jefferson County School District. We have put systems, safeguards, protocols, and other health measures in place to reduce the risk of contracting the virus. Additionally, we are working closely with local and state health officials to ensure we are implementing best practices.

Our theme for this school year is *Transforming Together*. This is a befitting theme because there is a need to transform our entire approach to educating children. Our bold vision for academic excellence calls for enhancing the professional growth of all educators, delivering high-quality instruction, implementing an effective virtual learning pathway, and ensuring personalized learning for every child. Transforming our approach to educating children will strengthen our ability to achieve the academic goals set forth by the Board of Trustees.

Therefore, as we embark on a new school year, let us continue to provide every child with a quality education. I am incredibly proud of the strides we made this past school year on our quest for academic excellence. However, knowing that the pandemic presents a new set of obstacles, it is vital that we create and take advantage of new opportunities. With that said, this is a suitable moment to advance virtual learning in the Jefferson County School District. William G. Spady stated, "All students can learn and succeed, but not in the same way and not in the same day." This quote speaks volumes to the need to personalize learning for every child.

I also recognize that there are grave concerns and fears about returning to school during a pandemic. Every employee of the Jefferson County School District should know that I am fully committed to providing a safe learning environment. Just as important, I strongly believe that everyone should be respected, valued, and appreciated. Teachers are the heart of the District, but everyone plays a crucial role in its success.

Years from now, we want to look back at this moment and say that together we overcame one of our lifetime's worst pandemics. We want historians to say that despite the challenges, the Jefferson County School District employees worked together to prepare the next generation of leaders.

To that end, we have a generation of children depending on us. They have big dreams, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and resources to achieve them.

My promise to you is that we will embrace this moment with courage, hope, and faith. COURAGE to continue our quest for academic excellence despite the uncertainties; HOPE that our tomorrows will be better than today because of the decisions we make; and FAITH in knowing that all things are possible.

Thanks again for all that you do for our boys and girls. Let us continue to dream big, work hard, and transform together!

I hope everyone has a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Hammitte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "H".

Adrian Hammitte
Superintendent of Education

Vision Statement

The Jefferson County School District will be a premier educational institution, a source of pride and creativity, and the cornerstone of academic excellence producing life-long learners who are college and career ready.