



FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Michael Gwatney

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May 28, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff:

We made it! Congratulations on the completion of a successful school year. To say that we have overcome some difficulties would be an understatement. From any perspective, the past three months have likely been some of the most difficult of your career; however, it is important to remember that we have also celebrated many victories this school year (see the data from our last quarter in the attached document from Director of Instructional Technology Heather Finley). Through it all, we have been on this journey together, and we have demonstrated why the FCSS is a great place for our students to learn and for us to work. You have consistently proven this, even under duress, and I thank you.

Per our tradition, I wish we were celebrating together this afternoon in the Performing Arts Center, but that is not possible. For those who are retiring, I congratulate you and wish you the best. The Fannin County Board of Education – including members Chad Galloway, Terry Bramlett, Bobby Bearden, Mike Cole, and Lewis DeWeese – and I are grateful for what you have done, and we thank you for your service.

With the school year coming to a close, our attention turns to an uncertain 2020-2021. The pandemic has created health and financial concerns that are real and extreme. Although plans for the next school year have been made, including the 2020-2021 calendar, and now is typically the time to begin implementation, much is still unknown. Do not let this worry you. There is a great deal of hope for a bright and successful upcoming school year. We are a strong and capable school system, and we will make the next school year – whatever it holds – work for Fannin County.

Even though the school year is over, the pandemic is not. Just like the rapid changes that occurred in society last March, people everywhere are learning new processes as things gradually reopen. Please remember that patience and grace go a long way when dealing with uncertainty. As additional guidance is received, it is reasonable to expect more changes this summer, including updates to routines that seem newly established. My leadership team and I will continue to share updates as soon as possible. In the meantime, I encourage you to continue loving and supporting those around you. I wish you a safe, happy, and healthy break. May God continue to bless you and the Fannin County School System.

Sincerely,

Michael Gwatney, Ed.D.
Superintendent



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY... BY THE NUMBERS

68,000 + Meals Served

210

Amazing Teachers
that Transformed
Classrooms into Online
Learning Environments

2971 Awesome Students

216 Graduates

175+ Students Receiving online
Speech Therapy

257 Support Staff that have
Worked Tirelessly to Feed
Students and Support Online
Learning

1900+ Virtual
Meetings/Classrooms

700+
Google Classrooms

16 Bus Routes
Delivering Food

2200+

70
WiFi Hotspots in
Homes

Chromebooks for Teachers
and Students

2600+ Student and Parent Portals
Accounts