



# FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUPERINTENDENT  
Dr. Michael Gwatney

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October 12, 2020

Dear FCSS Community:

Welcome to the second quarter of the 2020-2021 school year! When we began this most unusual school year, there were some who believed we would not make it through the first quarter without shutting down in-person education, at least for a short time. Through the diligent efforts of our entire FCSS community, though, we have been able to continue face-to-face learning, as well as offering an online learning model for students and parents who feel that is best for their family. There have been bumps in the road, and each day has certainly had its challenges, but everyone has worked hard to prepare, and we have succeeded together.

It has been said success occurs when opportunity meets preparation. Although many traditional events have cancelled or been highly modified (and the pandemic will require this to continue for some time), a great deal of planning has taken place to provide as many opportunities as realistically possible this year. I am thankful we have been able to have traditional school and so many of the extracurricular activities that go with it. If you have not been doing so, I encourage you to follow each school's social media and website to see the many exciting things that are happening each day. It is uplifting and encouraging to see the phenomenal learning experiences and other activities that are safely occurring. Each success is an accomplishment, and this is especially important to remember during the uncertainty of today's world.

As we move forward during the second nine weeks, please continue to protect your health. Keep following the recommendations of the medical community; as evidenced by our ability to remain open, their guidance definitely works. Also remember to keep the ideals of faith, hope, and love at the forefront; focus on the good things that you can do today – “right here and right now.” We are blessed to have each other, and as I have said many times since last March, grace and kindness always go a long way in life.

None of us are left to face the next challenges alone. Let us continue to encourage those around us as we strive to meet the needs of our students and make our school system a bright spot, even during a pandemic. As always, reach out to your child's school or my office if you have questions; we will do what we can to help. My prayers continue for you and your family. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael Gwatney, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

*The Fannin County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed, or disability in admission to its programs, services, and activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of operations. This also includes but is not limited to additions, modifications, or alterations to the physical plan of any school facility.*