

August 1, 2009

Dear College Gardens Elementary School Community,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a safe, restful, and relaxing summer.

The beginning of the 2009-2010 school year holds great promise for the students we serve. At every level of College Gardens — from teachers to parents, from office administrators to paraeducators to building service workers— we are focused on our mission to improve student achievement.

Student achievement is the key focus of everything we do. We recognize that our students bring different abilities into classrooms with varying degrees of readiness to learn. We must continue to hold tenaciously to the view that all students, with no exceptions and no excuses, must be held to high expectations of academic progress and that skilled and knowledgeable educators can assist all students.

It is that devotion to our students, to our community, and to our profession that will guide us in the coming year as we meet the challenges that lie ahead. Our greatest challenge is how to improve achievement for all students regardless of race or socio-economic status.

Emphasizing parent involvement and engaging our community to support student achievement must figure prominently in our work. We must nurture our relationship by keeping each other well informed on any issues and asking for support for the challenges we face. This is, and shall remain, a journey, not a destination, filled with challenges and professionally speaking, its greatest rewards.

Finally, let me share with you the values that will inform and guide my reaction to people and events: All students can learn at high levels and must be given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in multiple ways. In order to do this, I believe in building strong, collaborative relationships among all stakeholders. Collaboration allows high student achievement to be possible. All members of the educational community must work together in a collaborative, innovative environment and be committed to high standards. To do what is best by students, final decisions should be based on thoughtful analysis of data. I also believe that effective and thoughtful planning corresponds with high results. To achieve high results, a principal must provide teachers and staff with the tools and resources necessary to ensure a high-quality education. To achieve the values I have discovered through my time as an educator, it is important that continuous improvement be a vital component to the success of our organization. I will seek win-win solutions to solving a problem when possible so that all needs are being met.

On behalf of the over 700 students we serve and the more than eighty College Gardens employees, I want to thank you for your tireless support of our school. I believe the 2009-2010 school year will be another milestone in our journey toward greatness for every child.

I look forward to our work together and to continuous accomplishments on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,

Albert P. DuPont, Ed.D.
Principal