

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

The 2006-07 school year is rapidly coming to a close. It is with a great sense of urgency that we focus on the vision and goals of the school district, and remind all stakeholders that failure is not an option when it comes to the welfare of our students.

The Oktibbeha County School District has as its vision the development of a culture of excellence in every area of the district in terms of: (1) the academic achievement of our students in the classroom, (2) the athletic performance of our students in the sports arena, (3) the safe and efficient transportation of our students to and from school, (4) the serving of delicious and nutritious meals, (5) the maintenance of our buildings and campuses, (6) the utilization of technology to enhance the delivery of our instructional program, (6) the management of financial resources, (7) the reduction of students classified as needing special attention and, (8) the improvement of the average daily attendance. The realization of this vision is an ongoing process and not an event. Although there has been an enormous amount of progress in the school district in recent years in all the above mentioned areas, we have much to accomplish in the near future if we are to achieve excellence.

In the academic area both of our elementary schools, East Oktibbeha Elementary and West Oktibbeha Elementary, were among 12 schools recognized statewide in October, 2006 by the Mississippi Department of Education during the Closing of the Achievement Gap banquet in Jackson. Also, one of our elementary schools, West Oktibbeha Elementary, achieved a Level 4 performance based on test results from the Spring of 2006, and the other elementary school, East Oktibbeha Elementary, is on the verge of achieving that Level 4 performance. The high schools have made steady progress in moving toward a Level 3 performance, and there is every expectation that Level 3 will be achieved during the Spring 2007 testing cycle. The school district is accredited and all schools in the district are meeting Adequate Yearly Progress in satisfying the requirements of "No Child Left Behind". Also, in order to enhance our instructional programs and the achievement of our students, we have numerous grants that are utilized to fund reading, extended day and extended year programs.

In the athletic arena, both of the high school football teams, East Oktibbeha High (8-2) and West Oktibbeha High (7-3) made the playoffs for the 2006-07 season. The basketball season got off to a good start with the East Oktibbeha High boys ranked number 1 in Class 1A and the East Oktibbeha High girls ranked number 2 in Class 1A in the State. Also, East Oktibbeha High has two basketball players, Janerio Bush and April Sykes, listed among the Dandy Dozen in the state. West Oktibbeha High boys went deep into the state basketball tournament last year (2005-06) and are expected to have an outstanding year during the 2006-07 campaign based on some key players returning from last year's squad. The West Oktibbeha High girls were very young last year (2005-06), but are expected to be much improved this year (2006-07). For two years (2005-06, 2006-07) in a row the East Oktibbeha High

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Titans and Lady Titans are the North District and North State Tournament Champions and will travel to Jackson to participate in the State Tournament. The West Oktibbeha High boys again went deep into the State Tournament, but due to some injuries to key players were not quite able to get to the State Tournament in Jackson.

Our transportation system is among the best in the state in terms of updated equipment. All of our buses that are used for regular routes are within the proper age range. Our food service department has become so efficient in its operation that there are surplus funds that must be spent to comply with a regulation that allows only a certain amount of surplus funds to be available. Our buildings and campuses are well maintained. We have had numerous State Department of Education officials comment on how impressed they were with how well our buildings and campuses are maintained. Our technology efforts are on target in terms of the utilization to enhance the delivery of our instructional program. There is a sufficient number of computers in each classroom as well as other resources in the technology area to assist in carrying out our instructional program. The district has set as its goal an average daily attendance of 98% and progress is being made toward that end.

The aforementioned statements were intended to make the stakeholders in the Oktibbeha County School District aware of the progress in the district, and encourage all stakeholders to join in the effort as we stride to be recognized as one of the best school districts in Mississippi and the nation.

It is my wish that you continue to enjoy an outstanding school year in all areas!