



Canton Public School District

Tiger Talk

Volume 4, Issue 1

August/September, 2007

CSAS A LEVEL 4 EXEMPLARY SCHOOL

The Canton Public School District salutes the Canton School of Arts and Sciences for a job well done. In its first year in the state achievement and growth model, Canton School of Arts and Science reaches a **Level 4 Exemplary Accreditation** and it exceeds its expected growth for student achievement. CSAS also met its Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the Federal Model. Dr. Pallascene Cole, Principal of Canton School of Arts and Sciences, says, "We are excited about our accomplishments. I attribute our success to hard working teachers, students, parents, and the community. It truly took all of us working together as a district and supporting each other to achieve greater academic success. Now we are striving to reach a Level 5. Superintendent Dwight Luckett says, "The district is excited and en-

couraged by the Level 4 rating achieved at Canton School of Arts and Sciences. When everyone works together to achieve a common goal there is no limit to the district's potential for academic success." However, Luckett says he realizes there is still much work to be done district-wide. "With the increase in rigorous testing to be administered during the 2007-'08 school year we must stay focused and committed to improving as educators so that we may better educate our students. While we have shown progress over the last few years, we must understand and accept the fact that there is a tremendous amount of room for improvement in our school district. We will continue to make the necessary changes in order to provide our students with the best quality education possible. We must remember that it takes a total community effort to reach our maximum educational capacity," says Luckett.



Diane Bruser/CPSD Curriculum Director gives this analysis of the data: Canton Elementary

- Canton Elementary School ranked a **Level 2** in the 2007 Achievement Model. The school did not meet its growth expectation.
- Canton Elementary is currently in its second year of school improvement. Although, CES made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2006, Federal guidelines changed for 2007.
- Efforts to meet Federal guidelines for the per-

centage of IEP students (special education students) tested at grade level, rather than instructional level impacted CES' achievement results in the State and Federal Accreditation Model. We are confident that with effective co-teaching and early inclusion opportunities for IEP students, we can improve student achievement for all students.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I cannot commend the Principal, Faculty, and Staff at Canton School of Arts and Sciences enough for all of their hard work for attaining a Level 4 Exemplary Accreditation. I also commend Central Office personnel and the community for its support in helping the school achieve academic success in its first year of opening its doors. Working together we can achieve so much more. While we are very proud of the students' accomplishments at CSAS, we have so much more to achieve district-wide. Let us remember that we cannot reach our full potential on our own. We must continue to work together to improve the educational futures of all of our students.



Dwight J. Luckett

Change is inevitable. Staying the same will only get us the same results. Embracing change affords us the opportunity to reach our goals quicker. I welcome aboard new Tigers to the team to help us achieve our mission of moving our entire district forward. These highly qualified professionals not only bring a wealth of knowledge to our district but they also care about educating our students so they can have unlimited opportunities in life. Those opportunities can ensure our children will have a better quality of life.

I also want to thank our parents for attending Open House at our schools. Your support is invaluable. Your children's future depends on you staying involved in their lives. Let us continue to work together to reach our goals.

Remember Working Together Works!

Dwight J. Luckett

Superintendent

SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES *Leading the Way to A Brighter Future*



Leigh Michael Pace
Vice Chairman



Jimmie Goodloe
Member



Olivia Harrell
Secretary



Walter Jones
Member



John Christopher
Board Attorney



Derek Starling,
Board Chairman

Our School Board Members Share their Time Because they Care

In public schools, the giving starts at the top with the school board. The board's job is to determine a vision for education; design a structure to achieve that vision; assure the schools are accountable to the local community; and advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. These responsibilities require the unselfish giving of time and service. There are an endless number of meetings and school functions to attend; unlimited amounts of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study; and a variety of difficult decisions to make.

The Canton Public School District says THANK YOU to its supportive School Board Members.

SCHOOL LEVELS *cont'd*

Nichols Middle School

- Nichols ranked a **Level 2** in the Achievement model. Although we would have preferred more growth, we are encouraged to see continued incremental growth.
- Nichols met AYP in Reading/Language Arts and Math for all sub-groups except for Special Education students.
 - Nichols Middle School is partnering with the Southern Regional Education Board to

implement its nationally recognized school improvement model "*Making Middle Schools Work*" in an effort to gain greater student achievement.

Canton High School

- Canton High School's Achievement Level ranking slipped from Level 3 to a **Level 2** in 2007. This was due to the decrease in passing rates for three of the four Subject Area Tests.
 - CHS met AYP goals for Algebra I,

graduation rate increase, and percent of students tested. However, the decline in English II scores caused the school not to meet its overall Federal AYP standard.

- CHS has implemented the Southern Regional Education Board's "*High Schools that Work*" in an effort to improve academic performance.
- Canton High Principal Cleveland Anderson says,** "We have put several intervention strategies in place to

achieve higher levels of academic success for our students. We also are increasing avenues for student remediation. We will use test data to drive our instruction as we continue in our efforts to improve."

Diane Bruser/CPSD Curriculum Director says, "We're not where we would like to be in overall student achievement but academic achievement is clearly our priority and focus as we work to move all of our schools to successful performing and above."

NEW TIGERS ABOARD

Alice Hunter joins the Canton Public School District as its Teacher Support Team Coordinator. Her primary responsibility is to ensure that each school within our district has a functioning and effective Teacher Support Team (TST) and provide continuing professional development workshops and information for each school.

The role of the TST in each school is to assist the teachers with providing instructional and behavioral strategies, resources, and support for those students that have been identified as at-risk of school failure. The overall responsibilities of each TST are to:

- Provide support to each teacher

- Provide instructional/behavioral strategies and resources to the teacher
- Aid in reducing the number of students referred for special education assessment and services
- Aid in reducing the number of students that drop-out prior to receiving his/her high school diploma
- Aid in identifying best practices for instructional leadership

Educational Background:

- Hinds Community College: Associate Arts Degree ~ Special Education
- University of Southern MS: Bachelors of Science Degree ~ Special Education
- MS State University: Masters Degree ~ Special Education
- MS State University: Specialist Degree ~ Education Leadership

Work History:

- Hinds County Public School District ~ K-5 Special Education ~ 1989-1991
- Meridian Public School District ~ K-12 Special Education ~ 1991-1999
- Meridian Public School District ~ Director of Special Education ~ 1999-2006
- Meridian Public School District ~ Director of Elementary Alternative & Student Support ~ 2006-2007



Alice P. Hunter, Ed. S.
Teacher Support Team
Coordinator

NEW TIGERS

Michael Ellis currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Nichols Middle School. He is a native of Jackson, MS where he received his bachelor's degree in Accounting from Jackson State University in May 1989. Ellis received his master's degree in Educational Administration from Jackson State University in May 1999. He is currently enrolled at Mississippi State University where he is pursuing a doctorate degree in Educational Administration. Ellis' work experience includes the following:

Teacher at Rowan Middle School for two years, Director of Parent Relations at the Mississippi Department of Education, Education Specialist, and for 8½ years he served as an Educational Auditor. He has also served as principal of Chastain Middle School and Durant High School, and Assistant Principal at Florence High School. Ellis is excited to join the Tiger Team and looks forward to making a difference in the lives of our students.



Michael Ellis
Assistant Principal
Nichols Middle School



Mrs. La Shonda S. Catchings currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Nichols Middle School. She received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Tougaloo College in 1995. She began teaching sixth and seventh grade History at Chastain Middle School in 1998, while completing a Master's Degree in both History and Education Administration from Jackson State University. In 2003, she began working at the Mississippi Department of Education as an Education Specialist in the Office of School Improvement. She also worked in partnership with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction in the area of Social Studies. Catchings worked as an Instructional Specialist for the Madison County School District from 2005 until 2007. Catchings is excited to join the Tiger Team and is already "*Working Together*" to make positive changes at Nichols Middle School.



La Shonda Catchings
Assistant Principal
Nichols Middle School

NEW TIGERS

Bobby L. Washington is the new Principal of McNeal Elementary. He was born in Hollandale, Mississippi. He graduated from Simmons High School in 1980. Washington graduated in 1986 from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education (K-12). He spent thirteen years in Omaha, Nebraska as an Elementary Music Teacher and as a Vice Principal in the Omaha Public School District. Washington served as an Elementary Principal and a Vice Principal for the Kansas City Missouri School District from 2001-2006. He believes education is one of the greatest equalizers to mankind. Washington says, "Being blessed to attend Southern University and receive a quality education exposed me to positive values that may not have been possible otherwise. A quality education taught me that the values of hard work, patience, and dedication was necessary in order to achieve your goals in life." He says receiving a quality education also came with an additional price that he gladly accepts. "I am indebted to those teachers and educators who taught me. I must serve with dignity and humility and continue to give back to those who are in need," says Washington.



Bobby Washington
Principal
McNeal Elementary School

Ms. Tempie L. Walker currently serves as Assistant Principal at McNeal Elementary. Walker is from Drew, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Delta State University. She received her Bachelor's and Masters in Social Science Education and recently received a degree in Educational Leadership from DSU. She has taught Special Education for over seven years in the Mississippi Delta. She comes to the district from the West Bolivar School District in Rosedale. Her life's motto is to give your best at all times and try to do it with a smile. She looks forward to a prosperous year and career with the Canton Public School District.



Tempie Walker
Assistant Principal

Mrs. LeTina Guice-Thomas currently serves as Assistant Principal at Canton School of Arts and Sciences. Prior to this new assignment she was a Curriculum Specialist during the 2005-06 school year at Canton School of Arts and Sciences. Guice-Thomas served as a Second and Third Grade Elementary Teacher at Canton Elementary School during the 2002-2005 school years. She has also taught various subjects and grades in the Jefferson County School District during the summer months. She attained her undergraduate degree from William Carey College and Master's from Belhaven College. She is married with a beautiful daughter.



LeTina Guice-Thomas
Assistant Principal
Canton School Of Arts & Sciences

OPEN HOUSE

The Canton Public School District thanks parents for supporting our schools by attending "Open House".

CANTON SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES



MCNEAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



CANTON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER



CANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



CANTON HIGH SCHOOL



NICHOLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



DISTRICT CALENDAR 2007-08

First Semester

First Day for Teachers

District Professional Development Days
Convocation / Building Level Professional Dev / Faculty Planning
Building Level Professional Dev / Faculty Planning

First Day for Students

Labor Day Holiday (Schools/Central Office Closed)

Issue 1st Term Interim Appraisals

SATP Online Retests

SATP Writing Retest

First Term Ends (45 days)

Professional Development Day (No Students)

Parent / Teacher Conf. Day (No Students)

Issue 2nd Term Interim Appraisals

Thanksgiving (Schools Closed; 12-month employees off Wed.-Fri.)

SATP Online Retests

SATP Writing Retest

Last Day for Students (60% Day for Students)

Second Term Ends (45 days)

Christmas Holiday (Schools Closed; 12 month employees on duty)

Students/Teachers Return to School

Second Semester

Second Semester Begins

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Schools/Central Office Closed)

Parent/Teacher Conf. Day (No Students)

English Language Proficiency Test

Issue 3rd Term Interim Appraisals

Winter Break (Schools Closed)

Professional Development Day (No Students)

MS Science Test (Grades 5 & 8)

Third Term Ends (46 Days)

Spring Break / Easter Holiday (Schools Closed)

Inclement Weather Day (or Easter Holiday)

Fourth Term Begins

MS-CPAS Administration

SATP English II Writing Test & Retest

SATP Online Retests

SATP Primary Administration

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

MS Curriculum Test (MCT2)

Last Day for Students (60% Day for Students)

Fourth Term Ends (44 days)

Last Day for Teachers

August 2, 2007

August 2 - 3, 2007

August 6, 2007

August 7, 2007

August 8, 2007

September 3, 2007

September 7, 2007

Sept. 24 - 27, 2007

September 28, 2007

October 10, 2007

October 19, 2007

October 22, 2007

November 14, 2007

Nov. 19 - Nov. 23, 2007

Dec. 3 - 6, 2007

December 7, 2007

December 21, 2007

December 21, 2007

Dec. 24, 2007 - January 4, 2008

Monday, January 7, 2008

Monday, January 7, 2008

January 21, 2008

January 22, 2008

February 1 - 29, 2008

February 8, 2008

February 15, 2008

February 18, 2008

March 5, 2008

Friday, March 14, 2008

March 17 - 21, 2008

March 24, 2008

March 25, 2008

TBA

March 27, 2008

March 31 - April 3, 2008

April 29 - May 2, 2008

May 5 - 13, 2008

May 13 - 14, 2008

May 23, 2008

May 23, 2008

May 27, 2008

- Students days = 90 per semester; teacher days = 96 and 94 each semester respectively
Student days = 180 (+ 1Inclement Weather Day) Teacher days = 190

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL

- Mr. Dwight Luckett, Superintendent.....859-4110
 Mrs. Betty J. Traylor, Executive Secretary
 Ms. Delois Harden, Receptionist

- Dr. Morris Stanton, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.....859-3089
 Mrs. Gloria C. Davis, Executive Secretary

- Mrs. Beverly Luckett, Director of Public Relations.....859-2367

- Ms. Diane Bruser, Director of Curriculum.....859-6720
 Mr. Ralph Fields, Curriculum Coordinator
 Dr. Emma George, Curriculum Coordinator
 Ms. Alice Beals, Secretary

- Mrs. Mary Jones, Director of State & Federal Programs.....859-2359
 Mr. W. K. Luckett, Jr., Supervisor
 Mrs. Jacquelin Cotton, Secretary
 Mrs. Denise Green, Instructional Technology Intervention
 Mrs. Yvette Young, Instructional Facilitator

- Ms. Bettye Hart, Director of Child Nutrition.....859-6189
 Mr. Charles Nash, Supervisor
 Mrs. Matisha Luckett, Secretary

- Ms. Patricia Jordan, Director of Exceptional Services.....859-2179
 Mrs. Ruby Holden, Supervisor
 Ms. Effie Jackson, Psychometrist
 Mrs. Deborah Fields, Case Manager
 Mrs. Debra Whitehead, Behavioral Specialist
 Ms. Dorothy Elam, Parent Interviewer/Home Visitor
 Mrs. Neshay Jackson, Secretary

- Ms. Clara Gray, Business Administrator..... 859-1152 / 859-2341 / 859-2260
 Mrs. Bonnie Smith, Assistant Director
 Mrs. Na'Son White, Internal Auditor
 Ms. Goffan Simmons, Payroll Clerk
 Ms. Tywonda Robinson, Payroll Clerk/Fixed Assets
 Mrs. Martha O'Cain, Purchasing Agent
 Mrs. Minnie Roberson, Accounts Payable Clerk
 Mrs. Shanton Kelly, Secretary

- Mr. Cleo Brooks, Director of Technology.....859-6850
 Mr. Timothy Luckett, Technician
 Mr. Christopher Love, Technician
 Mr. Troy Washington, Technician
 Ms. Jimmie G. Robertson, Secretary

- Mr. Hosea Anderson, Director of Maintenance/ Transportation.....859-5002
 Mr. James Harris, Custodial Supervisor
 Mrs. Erma J. Cole, Secretary

CANTON HIGH SCHOOL



**Cleveland Anderson
Principal**

Canton High School
634 Finney Road
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clevelandanderson@cantonschools.net

As principal of Canton High School , I feel it is necessary to always reflect on the district's mission statement. If we want to have a progressive school, the support of the total community is imperative in enabling our students to become analytical thinkers, self- directed life-long learners and in finality, responsible citizens who are destined to give back to the community.

Our priority is to stress the fact that the student is the most important element in education. We believe that each student enrolled here should be given every possible opportunity to succeed.

I would like to thank each parent who supports us in our efforts to nurture, mold and educate our students, so that one day they will surpass us in their achievements. If we work together, we can provide the best possible education for our students.

Cleveland Anderson

NICHOLS MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Roosevelt Greenwood
Principal**

Nichols Middle School

529 Mace Street

Canton, MS

Phone:(601)

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rooseveltgreenwood@cantonschools.net

It is a sincere pleasure to have students back at Nichols Middle School. During the summer break, our teachers participated in curriculum projects, professional development, and instructional planning for our new school year. Our custodial staff worked diligently to clean and prepare classrooms and we welcomed two new Administrators, Lashonda Catchings, and Michael Ellis to our school. To begin the year, our teachers are engaging students in teambuilding activities that help to create strong and caring classroom communities. These communities are the foundation upon which learning is fostered and enriched. Each student is unique and is an important part of our learning community. Through activities, dialogue, articulation, and assessments, we will learn more about your child as an individual student and young person. Knowing your child well helps us meet, extend, and enrich their individual academic needs.

School begins each day promptly at 7:55 A.M. Breakfast is served beginning at 7:15 A.M. Because supervision of students does not begin until 7:10 A.M., please do not drop off or allow students to arrive at school before that time. School dismisses daily at 3:00 P.M.

Your partnership is essential to your child's academic success and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the school year. We invite you to stay in close communication with your child's teacher. Safety and security of all students is a top priority. We ask that all parents and visitors stop in the office to check in with our office staff as soon as you arrive at Nichols. In order to ensure student safety, it is critical that we know who is in our school building each school day. If someone other than yourself, a sibling or a person listed on your child's Emergency Information Card will be picking your child up from school, you must notify us ahead of time so that we can help you plan.

Thank you for working together with us to provide your child with the best possible education and experience. Your input and ideas are important to us. Please feel free to contact us.

Remember working together works!

Roosevelt Greenwood

CANTON CAREER CENTER



Michael Myrick
Director

Canton Career Center
487 North Union Extension
Canton, MS
Phone: (601) 859-3984
Fax: (601) 859-1115
michaelmyrick@cantonschools.net

What are you going to do when you finish school? Most students would say, "I am going to college." That's what you should do! Still, the questions remains: What are you going to do when you finish school? Thanks to our school board, superintendent, administrators, and teachers, students in this district have an abundance of resources to help prepare and guide them through this process. Remember that your counselor and teachers will assist in making decisions that will directly impact your future. Call on them!

Tom Landry, the former head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, described a pro-football coach as "someone who makes grown men do what they don't want to do in order to be what they want to be." Do you think that teachers and principals might be guilty of the same?

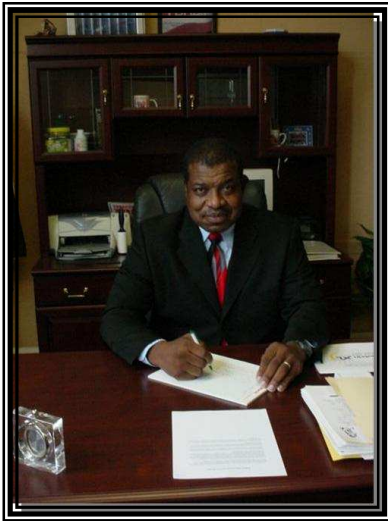
The 2007-2008 school year will be the best ever for both the faculty and students at the Canton Career Center. We look forward to working together toward a common goal of quality instruction and excellent achievement.

Our expectations are high, but the rewards will be outstanding. The work may be hard, but nothing easy is ever of great value. At the end, we will, students and faculty, be proud of our accomplishments.

Let me remind you that the Canton Career Center is a part of Canton High School. Thus, its policies will be governed by the same rules and regulations as those of the high school.

Michael Myrick

CANTON EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER



Roosevelt Roberts
Principal

Canton Educational Services Center

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As we prepare to start a new school year, we encourage parents and guardians to take an active role in their children's education. At Canton Educational Services Center, the faculty, and staff remain committed to the academic success of our students.

In order for our students to be successful, they must be committed to doing all assignments. Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's work, by calling the school and talking with their children's teachers.

To assist with monitoring, we will send out progress reports every three weeks. Please sign and return progress reports. Report cards are issued to the parents or guardians during the first reporting period. It is important that parents attend all scheduled parent conferences and PTO meetings. Parent Teacher conferences will be the second Monday of each month.

Parents, we need your help with attendance, please ensure that your children are at school on time each day, and dressed in the proper attire. Please limit early dismissal, unless it is necessary.

We would like to challenge parents and the community to become actively involved in the education of our students. The faculty and staff at CESC are committed to the success of our students.

We truly believe in our motto, *"Making a difference one child at a time."*

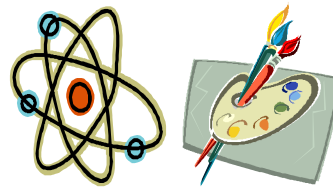
Roosevelt Roberts

CANTON SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Dr. Pallascene Bright Cole
Principal

Canton School of Arts and Sciences
A Multiple Intelligences Learning Environment
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pallascenecole@cantonschools.net



Canton School of Arts and Sciences helps students to realize their smarts potential so they can master challenging and rigorous academic content.

Our goal is to provide a learning environment where students will meet and exceed academic standards, make thoughtful decisions, and solve problems through artistic, exploratory and discovery activities.

CSAS has approximately 475 kindergarten through fifth grade students. There are 22 new pre-kindergarteners from *Friends of Children* housed in our facility.

Our students are transported to and from school by public buses, private vans, and vehicles.

All teachers at our school are highly qualified teachers and have an average of 5 years or more of professional experience. Teachers have participated in over 40 hours of professional development to prepare for school opening. All teachers and assistants participate in weekly professional development sessions. Fifty-five percent of teachers have advanced degrees.

Working together, we can provide an excellent education for our students.

Dr. Pallascene Bright Cole

CANTON ELEMENTARY



Rhonda Powe
Principal

Canton Elementary School

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Canton, MS

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Our staff is delighted and eager to serve and provide our students with the most effective instruction possible for success. In addition, we are excited about working collaboratively with our parents and the community to ensure all of our students excels to his/her greatest potential. We will continue to set high expectations for learning and strive for **EXCELLENCE** in all that we do.

We will operate a safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning. Therefore, we expect our students to come to school prepared and ready to learn as well as follow all rules and procedures. Your child's teacher will read and discuss the contents of student handbook during the first days of school. In addition, we are asking you to do the same and reiterate the importance of going to school prepared and ready to learn each day.

In an effort to guard instruction, we expect students to report to school daily arrive on time and remain at school throughout the instructional day. The instructional day begins at 7:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Breakfast is served at 7:00 a.m.

All students must be properly supervised at all times. Therefore, please refrain from dropping students off before 7:00 a.m.

We have several activities involving parents and students that will take place this year. We encourage all parents to participate and support our students.

The emblem of the Canton Public School District is the starfish, which represents parents, students, teachers, administrators and the community working together to make a difference in our children and our community.

Together We Will Make The Difference!

We are looking forward to an academic year of **EXCELLENCE!**

Rhonda D. Powe

MCNEAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Bobby Washington
Principal

McNeal Elementary School
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Canton, MS

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bobbywashington@cantonschools.net

As the new principal of McNeal Elementary, I am excited to be working with parents, staff, central office, and the community to meet the needs of our students.

One of our goals is to make sure that each child receives a high quality education. Our aim is to give our students the skills necessary to be successful once they leave McNeal Elementary. Central Office, McNeal Elementary Staff, the Canton Community, and parents will work together to ensure that our students receive a first-rate education.

A second goal of ours is to set high standards for everyone at McNeal Elementary. Students can and will rise up to standards set by the staff. Treating everyone with dignity and respect is a vital part of setting high standards for our students. Every child is precious and will have the opportunity to be successful. We will operate in a safe and orderly environment at all times.

Parents will be an integral part of our success at McNeal Elementary. Parents are encouraged to communicate and to stay in close contact with the administration and staff, regarding your child's education. Your partnership is welcomed and greatly appreciated.

The emblem of the Canton Public School District is the starfish, representing students, parents, teachers, community, and administrators working together to make a positive difference in the lives of our children.

Our district motto is "Working Together Works."

We look forward to a great school year!

Bobby L. Washington

