

Meridian

Public School District



Wildcats,

As we wrap up the first quarter, I would like to thank you for the progress you have helped us make since July 1, 2016! The District is making changes and improvements daily toward advancing our success and improving in the areas of opportunity.

The MPSD Board of Trustees challenged me with five goals this year, and I am pleased to report that we have already made progress in all five areas.

To give you an idea of some of the progress that has been made, here are some examples of what we have achieved under each goal:

Provide high quality instruction for all students

- This year, the District made leadership changes in the four lowest performing schools.
- I have met with and heard from our secondary students regarding areas of strengths and weaknesses as well as ideas for improvement. I am already implementing some of their ideas!
- Changes to the instructional practices of the district are being made in many areas including the pacing guides. This also includes less time spent testing and more time spent on the academic needs of each individual student.
- Schools are working on 21st Century skills including the improvement of the social skills of students.
- Students in fifth through twelfth grades now have their very own Chrome book (laptop) to aid and enhance instruction.
- Reality Fair was held for students in the Meridian High School Freshman Academy to teach basic personal financial management skills through real life scenarios and to help prepare students for the responsibilities they will face as they graduate from high school, make decisions about college/careers, and begin families.
- Meridian High School hosted the first College Application Fair in October, and I am pleased to report that 92 percent of our seniors applied for college admission on that day!
- We have begun recognizing student academic excellence with the first 30+ point ACT Club.

Maintain safe and attractive learning environments

- Roofs have been replaced at Harris Lower and Magnolia schools.
- Across the district, paint is being freshened up and improvements are being made as time and budget allow.
- A beautification committee is being created to provide feedback and ideas on ways to continue to improve the learning environments for our students. I would like to give a special thanks to our community partners and parents who have worked so hard to assist us in enhancing our campuses!
- The safety of our students and staff remains a priority and an additional School Resource Officer has been hired.





Dr. Amy Carter participates in a Science experiment at the Parent University with students from Crestwood Elementary.

Create strong relationships with parents and the community

- I have made an effort to increase the visibility and accessibility of the superintendent in the community by consistently visiting schools, meeting with parents and community members, attending community meetings and events, committing to speaking engagements, attending back to school rallies, and much more.
- MPSD met with the Parent Advisory Committee to plan and host a Parent University early in the school year to establish a strong parent partnership.
- A formal Adopt-A-School program is being created by members of Leadership 52.
- I also hosted a Meet and Greet in August to introduce myself as well as Leadership 52 to the business community to begin establishing strong partnerships.

Recruit and retain highly qualified teachers

- Teacher training has been a major area of focus this year. New teachers are receiving mentoring as well as monthly meetings to provide additional support. All teachers are receiving ongoing training and professional development to support academic excellence in the classroom.
- Recruiting is in full swing as the District is attending college recruiting fairs as well as building partnerships with colleges and universities to recruit teachers in new and innovative ways.
- We are in the beginning phases of forming partnerships with universities across the state to offer teachers the opportunity to gain advanced degrees as well as leadership training.

Hopefully, this snapshot gives you a glance into of the work that I have been doing over the past few months to ensure a high quality education for all children in Meridian in preparation for college or the career of their choice.

Please continue to Believe in Blue and support the District! I look forward to updating you of our progress throughout the year.



Dr. Carter gains feedback from Student Council Representatives at Carver Middle School.

Continue to maintain a sound financial fund balance

- District and school leaders are looking at existing programs, their use, and impact on student learning.
- While working on the 10 year capital improvement plan, the district is looking at creative ways to partner with the county and city.
- The finance team is committed to meeting the goal of a balanced budget while still providing the resources necessary to help students and staff with other goals.

Dr. Amy J. Carter

Advancing our Success

