

# STRAIGHT TALK

By Dixie District School Superintendent – Mark Rains

September, 2011

We are in our sixth week of school. Our children are in the classrooms working towards academic progress. They are also participating in many after school extra-curricular activities, which I believe is very important for our students.

This is Homecoming Week at Dixie County High School. Students are showing their school spirit with dress up days, building floats, decorating banners, and getting ready for Bear Growl (Thursday at 7:00 p.m.), Parade (Friday at 3:00 p.m.) and the Game (Friday at 7:30 p.m.). There will also be an Alumni Reception in the Library following the game for all graduates and former DCHS students.

October 1<sup>st</sup> is the beginning of our FCAT instructional season. Our principals, reading coaches, and district directors will all be a visible, integral part of each school, as we strive to continue academic success for every student. We know that by working together in a collaborative effort, we will continue making positive steps in student achievement.

At a recent College and Careers Readiness Meeting, Florida Gateway College recognized and commended Dixie County for a 60% increase in student participation in Dual Enrollment courses. 137 students at Dixie County High School are currently enrolled in these courses either on-campus, at night, and/or virtually. Dual Enrollment courses allow students to earn both high school and college credit if they earn a "C" or better in the course. Dual Enrollment courses have gained in popularity because they are free to all students and help offset future college tuition for families of college-bound students, especially during these economic times. If you are interested in more information regarding Dual Enrollment, please visit <http://www.dixie.k12.fl.us/> or contact Julie Hurst at 352-498-6414 or Karen Ganus at 352-498-6413.

During the past two months, I have visited local organizations, agencies, and municipalities speaking about the educational system in Dixie County. This year, I will continue my open door policy and visits to the outlying communities. I will be in my satellite office at Old Town Elementary School (Building 6, Room 019) on October 26<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 8:00-10:00 a.m. I will be at Lily Creek Store on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00-12:00 to meet with residents of the Horseshoe area. My location in Jena will be at Casey's Cove Convenience Store on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. I will meet with Suwannee residents at the Salt Creek Restaurant on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. My goal is for these to be more convenient locations for our residents in the outlying areas to communicate with the Superintendent of Schools. However, all citizens are welcome to visit my Cross City office. My goal is to meet with citizens and listen to your ideas and concerns about our schools, so that we can work together to achieve the best education possible for all Dixie County children.

I would like to thank the American Legion Post 383 for the donation of American flags to our schools. They also displayed the flag at the football stadium during the first home game.

For current Dixie District Schools information, visit our website at <http://www.dixie.k12.fl.us>. We welcome your suggestions in making this a user friendly website for students, parents, and the community.

Mark A. Rains, Superintendent  
Dixie District Schools



*FCAT Awards were presented at the September 13 School Board Meeting. High achieving students from all schools were recognized, as well as teachers from our 3 "A" schools. "A" School plaques were presented to AES, OTEs, and RRMS. The School Board received an "A" District award.*