

# STRAIGHT TALK

By Dixie District School Superintendent – Mark Rains

July, 2011

Dixie District Schools – an “A” District! In early July, we received news from the Florida Department of Education that Dixie District Schools received an “A” for our district grade. Anderson Elementary School, Old Town Elementary School, and Ruth Rains Middle School all received solid “A”s. Although the state will release high school grades later this year, Dixie County High School earned 528 points, highest points ever for their effort on FCAT. One of my five goals as Superintendent of Schools is to insure that all FCAT scores are at or above the state average. Our district score ranked us 12<sup>th</sup> in the state! We will continue working to maintain this level of excellence for our students.



*Dixie District Schools is recognized as an “A” school district at the July School Board Meeting.*

I extend congratulations to students, parents, teachers, and administrators for their hard work and dedication to their academic success. We will continue to celebrate FCAT success as we recognize our high achieving students at the School Board Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Summer projects are in progress and will soon be completed as we welcome students back to school on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Improvements have been made to facilities at all schools.

Open House and Meet Your Teacher Programs are August 18<sup>th</sup>. Please visit our website ([www.dixie.k12.fl.us](http://www.dixie.k12.fl.us)) for the scheduled times at all schools.

The Class Size Reduction law is now in effect. Students may see a change in their classes during the first month of school. We ask students, parents, and staff to be patient with the school system as we strive to adjust to meet the requirements of this law.

The Superintendent’s Community Drug Advisory Committee is continuing to meet and will be promoting activities this fall for students and the community. The next meeting will be August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 823 SE 349 Highway, Old Town. The public is invited to attend.

Back To School Guides will be available soon in your community. These informative guides contain helpful information for the entire school year. They will be available, free of charge in locations throughout your community and on the district website.

This summer, I have visited the outlying areas and heard your ideas for our schools. My goal is to visit these communities for our residents in the Suwannee, Jena, and Horseshoe Beach areas to communicate with the Superintendent of Schools. I have an open door policy and always welcome your concerns and suggestions for our school system.

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.

*The way to a child’s mind is through the heart.*

Mark A. Rains, Superintendent  
Dixie District Schools