



## Board of Education Newsletter for October, November, & December 2013

The Jones County Board of Education met recently to establish goals that would help close the communication gap between the Board and the citizens that we serve. We hope this information will keep you informed of events that affect our school system and our community and will help you have a better understanding of our school system.

### Celebrations:

- As you know, under Georgia's Waiver for ESEA Requirements, Georgia schools may be identified as a **Priority, Focus, or Alert School**. **Priority Schools and Focus Schools** are identified and served for three years. They were identified last year, and Jones County did not have any Priority or Focus schools. **Alert Schools** are identified annually. The list of the 2013 Alert Schools came out and- ----**drum roll, please-----NONE of our SCHOOLS were identified as Alert Schools!**
- State Rankings for 2013**
  - Gray Elementary** is ranked the #1 elementary school in Jones County.
  - Gray Station Middle School** is ranked 61 out of 483 middle schools in Georgia and was awarded Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals Breakout School for 2013.
  - Jones County District** is ranked 54th out of 160 Districts in Georgia. [www.schooligger.com](http://www.schooligger.com)

Mrs. Angela Jones, a 10th - 12th grade Math teacher at Jones County High School, was named Teacher of the Year.

### School visits by the Board of Education

The Board of Education visited schools on Nov. 1st and Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. All board members attended and enjoyed visiting classrooms. Each school presented updates and information on their School Improvement Plan. They shared ideas of how to improve areas of weakness.

**Gray Station Middle School:** GSMS football team won the CGMSAL Football Championship.

**Dames Ferry** Cheerleaders competed in the Ga. Blast Cheerleading Competition in Stockbridge on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. The girls came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their division.

### BOE meetings:

The Board of Education meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

### Highlights:

Mr. Mathews shared the State Funding of Education in Georgia report. He highlighted that since 2003, state funding for Jones County Schools has been reduced by 27 million dollars due to austerity cuts.

### Georgia School Board Association:

The Jones Board of Education has achieved Quality Board status. This award will be given at the December GSBA conference.

### New Gray Elementary School:

Mr. Mathews shared that the site work has begun on the new Gray Elementary School. He stated that, weather permitting and with few unexpected issues, the school is scheduled to be finished by this time next year.

**November and December** paychecks will be paid on the last day before each holiday break.

### State Level & Important Legislation:

### Good News about Georgia Education:

### Georgia students show Gains in all areas on National Assessment of Educational Progress:

The results of the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress show Georgia's students improving in 4th grade reading and math, as well as 8th grade reading and math. Georgia had higher results than the national average on the 4th grade reading test.

### Legislation:

In accordance with *O.C.G.A. § 20-2-84.3*, districts will be required to select a status of Charter System, IE2, or keep the current status with additional accountability. Legislators must decide to enforce the June 30, 2015 deadline, or to repeal this section of the law.