



February 22, 2010

Message from the Superintendent



How do you capture a kid's heart?

When you think about your favorite teacher in school, you probably remember someone who made learning fun, who cared about you, and who taught you some lessons about life as well as about academics. My favorite teacher was Mrs. Gladys Young at Southwest Guilford High School. She always greeted me with a smile and was truly interested in me as a person. Her class was difficult, and I wanted to always perform at my best for her. She respected her students as individuals, yet held us to high standards.

As the superintendent of Hickory Public Schools, I want to reinforce the idea that we are a **learning organization** where the adults as well as the students are committed to continuous improvement. While professional development regarding how to teach a quality lesson is important, equally important is to provide professional development for faculty on how to create the best climate for learning in every classroom.

Our teachers will be focusing on how to build strong relationships with students. **Capturing Kids' Hearts** is a three day professional development experience in which 200 faculty members will participate over the next few months. We hope to expand this training for all faculty members in the upcoming school year.

During these three days, teachers will learn and practice skills they will use and model in their schools. By developing safe, trusting, and self-managing classrooms, **Capturing Kids' Hearts** builds students' motivation and helps them take responsibility for their actions and performance.

In Hickory Public Schools, we believe that building positive relationships between adults and students enhances the quality of education that students receive. For more information on **Capturing Kids' Hearts** please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lillie Cox

Students Who Drop Out of School

Reducing the dropout rate is a priority for Hickory Public Schools. Students report that a lack of meaningful relationships is one of the primary reasons they leave school. Through professional development, teachers will learn skills to create a safe, trusting, and positive atmosphere in their classrooms for all students to learn.

Dr. Cox will post Messages throughout the school year on important topics which affect and impact the school community. Check the HPS website www.hickoryschools.net for the most recent Message under the News section. Archived Messages can be found on the Superintendent's page.