

The Future Story  
Of  
Candler County School District

I think most of us, given the chance, would probably take the opportunity to see into the future. It is only human to sometimes stop and wonder where we will be years from now. Whether that glimpse can come to us by way of cars turned into time machines or jeweled fortune tellers reading our palms, the truth is, we do think about our futures. So that is what we are about to do! Take a chance with us by following us on this journey. Calm your fears and push away your doubts. Follow us, as we take this opportunity to see the fruits of our labors; to see where we are years from now. Come on, step inside this dark, small room. Come and have a seat at our table. Shhhh! Concentrate, quiet now, gaze into the ball, the beautiful, smooth, clear crystal ball. Get ready to see into the future; the future of the Candler County School System!

We see all our schools in Candler County displaying their orange and black spirit colors. Each campus is clean and beautiful with new state of the art facilities. As we look inside the halls and walls of these schools, we see smiles of the students and staff. Attendance is at an all time high. The learning environment is pleasing to the eye and it is easy to hear and see that learning and engagement is occurring in every classroom. All classrooms are 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology ready with teachers integrating technology daily with their instruction. All students are reading on or above grade level which is attributed to highly qualified teachers implementing higher order literacy with in their daily lessons. Our numbers have dropped to 20% for students who need Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions and our special education population has dropped from 15% to 9% due to planned interventions and focus monitoring. Motivation, responsibility and self-direction are evident in the students. Ninety percent (90%) of our students are meeting graduation requirements. Our graduates are actively pursuing and completing post secondary schooling and securing gainful employment matched with their career objectives. These jobs are available because clean industry has moved into our area to an upgraded industrial park. Listen closely and you will hear the school assemblies celebrating their third year of AYP! The systems overall performances growth index has risen by 15% since 2010 and we met or exceeded that state average in all core areas (Math Reading, ELA, Social Studies, and Science) assessed in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. We are also in the top five (5) of 18 systems in the First District RESA with the corresponding grades and core areas as stated above.

Master teachers are in their classrooms as facilitators of learning. All components of standards-based classrooms are evident. Teachers are meeting the needs of all learners by differentiated instruction. Collaborative and effective team work is happening through Professional Learning Communities and the leadership team of the schools. These teams are focused on student learning. Teachers are constantly reading, researching and discussing issues, sharing student work and planning for instruction. They are meeting across grade levels on a regular basis so that the continuum of standards is clear and there are no learning gaps in content grade to grade.

As you peer into this crystal ball you may be asking yourself how this occurred. With the opportunity of looking into the future, we can now see how a common vision and mission throughout a school district can guide all of its stakeholders towards school improvement. The vision was embraced and all were totally committed to the mission at hand. The attitude of “whatever it takes” had prevailed and “whatever it took” had been done.

As the old saying goes, “we never stop learning”. This is and will always be true for the educational stakeholders of Candler County. We want to continue to strive for excellence. We believe in continuous improvement and with the possibility of “mission accomplished” we remain motivated by the prospect of our future.