



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

February 2010

SMSD Community,

Thank you for taking the time to read the Stafford MSD Superintendent Message.

As I write this message, there are 79 days of school left in the 2009-10 school year. When you consider that state-mandated testing, such as TAKS, typically takes approximately 15-18 days to administer and other assessments, such as semester final exams, take approximately 3-5 days to administer, of those 79 days approximately 23 days are dedicated to testing and not teaching. With that in mind, our teachers have approximately 56 days of school to provide meaningful and value-added instruction. I mention this because it is critical that every one of us continue to remind ourselves that as educators, parents, students, and community supporters, we must take advantage of each day our students are in our classrooms. Educators must provide quality academic programs and parents and the community must provide the required support to ensure students are in school. As always, SMSD, parents, and community members must continue to work together to ensure every one of the remaining 59 days are utilized to the fullest.

As you may be aware, I initiated an SMSD Vision and Planning process to be facilitated by Cambridge Strategic Services. The reason for this process is to begin the discussion on how the Stafford community and school district should continue focusing on the direction and future of SMSD. The goal is to simply bring a comprehensive group of educators and community members together to help renew and transform SMSD as we meet the future academic needs of our students. This will be a comprehensive process that will improve existing programs, develop relevant new programs, establish priorities, and force our district and community to think strategically about the future of SMSD. Our ultimate goal is to provide a relevant and meaningful academic experience for every student and allow each student the opportunity to be college or career ready upon graduation.

Currently, the initial 30-member Vision and Planning Committee is being established and will conduct their vision and planning session on February 28, March 1 and 2. There will be four to six action committees formed as a result of the initial Vision and Planning Committee's session. If you are a community member and want to participate in this important process for SMSD, please contact Dr. Jon Gray at 281.261.9232 or [jgray@stafford.msdc4.net](mailto:jgray@stafford.msdc4.net). I encourage anyone interested in participating to let us know.

Finally, one term that seems to be used quiet often in many areas of business and education is "value-add". Even in SMSD, I have found myself using that term more and more often and in many cases, I wonder if anyone really knows what it means, including myself. While recently reading an article that focused on educators who go above and beyond the call of duty, I came to the conclusion that the term "value-add" and "beyond the call of duty" basically means "one who does more than is expected". As an educational community, each one of us (educators, parents, community members, and business members) must adopt the attitude of providing a value-added service to our students so they are adequately prepared for the changing world they will be facing upon graduation from high school. Let's make the last 59 days of instruction value-added as well as the SMSD Vision and Planning process.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H.D. Chambers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

H.D. CHAMBERS