



GADSDEN Independent School District
Children First
November 2017



Superintendent's Corner

Greetings. It has been an honor to be selected as the superintendent of Gadsden ISD. I have spent the first couple of weeks visiting schools in the district, surveying stakeholders, and collaborating with community organizations. I am incredibly impressed with the work that is taking place in our schools and the welcoming culture in the district.

The following are items that might be of interest to you:

National Blue Ribbon Recognition: Desert View Elementary School was recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. Desert View principal, Mr. Jorge Araujo, along with Associate Superintendent, Ms. Yturralde, and Ms. Autry, Desert View teacher, represented Gadsden ISD in Washington D.C. to accept the award.

School Report Cards: Released by the Public Education Department (PED) were our annual school report cards. Two of our schools, Chaparral Elementary and Desert View Elementary, were identified by PED as "Reward Status" which recognizes the top 5% of schools based on academic performance. Full report cards can be found at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/ped/index.html> under the School Grading link.

Results-oriented Think Tank: Gadsden ISD was just recognized by "Think New Mexico" in their report "Improving Our Schools by Reallocating Dollars from Administration to the Classroom." Gadsden was specifically named as one of the high performing school districts in New Mexico in terms of graduation rates as well as math and reading proficiency levels. Based on the most recent district report card released by the Public Education Department New Mexico's 4-year graduation rate is 71%, while Gadsden ISD is 86%. The complete report can be accessed at: <http://www.thinknewmexico.org/>

Facilities: Our newest elementary school, Yucca Heights, was highlighted by the New Mexico Public School Facility Authority as being a model project from design to completion. The school is located in Chaparral, and is the first Gadsden school to be located in Otero County.

Bond Election: Gadsden ISD will asking voters to approve two items this coming Spring. The first, is authorized by the Capital Improvement Act (SB9) which is also known as the 2 mill levy. These funds are utilized for district facility maintenance and are critical in keeping our current facilities operating efficiently. Second, we will be asking voters to approve a general obligation bond. If approved, these funds are used to construct and remodel facilities to meet the needs of our students and the communities we serve.

Board Member Recognition: The role of a board member is one that is extremely critical to the success of the district. This governing body establishes the overall vision for the district and works to ensure student success is our main priority. New Mexico School Boards Association works to ensure all board members are well informed on current trends in education, prepared to advocate for public education with legislators and understand their role in the education process. Members of the Gadsden Board of Education have ALL earned the "Exemplary" status by earning more than 20 points during the 2016-17 school year exceeding the minimum requirement of 5 points per year.

Student Spotlight: Big shout out to our robotics team from Chaparral Middle School who participated in the New Mexico BEST Robotics competition and qualified to attend the regional competition in Dallas.

Thank you for your continued support of Gadsden ISD.

Travis L. Dempsey
Superintendent
Gadsden ISD