

January 20, 2016

### **A Message From Your Superintendent: Capital Projects Update**

The Gainesville City School System is excited to announce plans to begin capital outlay projects that were identified in the ESPLOST V referendum.

The architects are busy developing the plans for the school that will be built in the Mundy Mill Subdivision. The Georgia Department of Education should approve the plans in March 2016. GCSS will break ground once the plans are approved. The anticipated opening of the school is fall of 2017.

Centennial Arts Academy will be having a thirty (30) classroom addition built. The plans for the structure should be approved by the Georgia Department of Education in March 2016. The construction phase will begin immediately following the approval. The anticipated opening of the Centennial addition is December 2016.

A new school building will be built for students at Enota MI Academy. The new building will be built in a way that preserves the unique qualities of the current building. The district is looking for ways to connect the old building with a new building. For example, the beautiful wooden doors at the front of Enota's school will be preserved and used in some way in the new building. Our Enota students will begin the 2016-2017 school year in their current facility. In December 2016, Enota MI Academy, grades Kindergarten through five, will move to a temporary site. The Enota family will be housed in structures that are located on the property near Centennial Arts Academy. The Enota family will occupy the two modular units currently being utilized by Centennial Arts Academy and one modular unit currently being used by Lanier Technical College. Additionally, the new addition at Centennial Arts Academy will house Centennial students on one floor and Enota students on the other floor. The Enota family will begin the 2017-2018 school year in the temporary location but will complete the 2017-2018 school year in their new school building. A map of the school complex has been provided outlining where the new Centennial addition will be located and which facilities Enota MI Academy will occupy.

Activity classes such as Physical Education and Creative Movement will take place in the empty gym at the Ninth Grade Center. Enota students will have designated lunch periods at either Centennial Arts Academy or the Ninth Grade Center. The Enota School Nutrition Program team will join the School Nutrition staffs at Centennial and the Ninth Grade Center to assist with food preparation. An Enota office and car rider drop off will be identified.

Additional parking is being created on the complex in order to accommodate the need for increased student, staff and parent parking for Enota, Centennial and Gainesville High School. The City of Gainesville has agreed to allow the school district to open the road from the Centennial property onto Chestatee Road during the construction phase. Gainesville City School

System is working with the Gainesville City Traffic Planner to help determine ways to increase traffic capacity throughout the total educational complex. Additional bus shuttle sites will be identified to encourage Centennial and Enota car rider families to take advantage of the school transportation provided.

The plans as outlined will allow our district to expend funds on permanent classrooms instead of investing in additional modular units. We are eager to begin construction so that in the very near future we can see teaching and learning taking place in new facilities that will meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learner.

It is our intention to communicate with our Red Elephant family and community all through the planning and building phases. We look forward to the wonderful future that is in store for our students, our school and our community!