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On Fire For Their **Future**



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Strategic Plan  
**2020**



# ***FOCUS*** *ON THE* ***PLAN***

Increasing opportunities for all Madison County Schools students has long been the focus of all work being done in the district. As is demonstrated in the vision, the district is striving to give students as many tools as possible to make a positive impact in their community. Those tools are presented to our students through a variety of opportunities they will encounter along the way.

So how do we increase the opportunities for our students to broaden their tool kits? Many factors play a part in increasing those opportunities and the opportunities come in a variety of forms. As educators, we tend to view things from an academic perspective. We ask how we can increase rigor, relevance, and standards. We ask how we can move our students from point A on the academic scale to point Z by the time they graduate. We know we cannot focus solely on the academic development of our students, but on their personal development as well.

With these areas of opportunity in mind, stakeholders were able to provide us with a great deal of insight as to the priorities of the community.



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## Letter from the **Superintendent**

Following my first full year as superintendent, it seemed an appropriate time to engage our community stakeholders in discussion about the future of the district. The discussion centered around creating a path for the future of the district based on what the greatest needs of the community are.

Madison County Schools vision was developed by the Board of Education in 2014. The vision reads, "Madison County Schools, in partnership with the community, strives to equip educators and students with the **skills to lead** by example, **develop and speak** with a unique voice, and **explore their academic curiosity** to make a positive impact on our community and world."

With this vision in mind, the district invited a large group of community stakeholders to join us in conversation that will lead to the development of the district's strategic plan. The strategic plan will help guide our decision-making and steer our course over the next five years. We were not hoping to develop a "to do" list, but more of a living document that will keep us focused and moving the district in the right direction for our students, our staff, our families, and our community.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to present the strategic plan to you. As we move into the future of Madison County Schools, we feel certain this plan will help us make the right decisions and help the district continue to be an education leader in the state.

### **David Gilliam**

*Superintendent  
Madison County Schools*

### Areas of **Opportunity**

- College Readiness
- Career Readiness
- Student Growth and Academic Progress

### School Facility **Improvement**

- Technology
- Eliminating Barriers
- Community Involvement
- Extra- and Co-Curricular Activities

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## What is the **Plan?**

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*Discussion during the strategic planning session gave the district insight as to the primary focus of the community. Fortunately, that focus aligns largely with the focus of the district.*

*These are the top priorities that will guide the district over the next five years.*





## Skills to **Lead**

- Help students learn life and communications skills
- Increase community involvement opportunities for every student
- Continue improvements in technology, including working on one-to-one initiatives and becoming a paperless district, particularly introducing a paperless option for parents and guardians as well as online volunteer training
- Increase extra- and co-curricular opportunities, including working toward adequate facilities, practice schedules at all schools, and transportation options
- Continue to recruit and retain staff that help students increase their skills to lead



## Develop and Speak with a **Unique Voice**

- Increase mental healthcare services, including psychologists for all schools and additional guidance counselors designated for mental health in addition to the guidance counselors for academics
- Build relationships between adults and students to create more opportunities
- Increase parent and guardian involvement as well as community involvement through shared opportunities
- Continue to recruit and retain staff who encourage the development of a unique voice



## Explore Academic **Curiosity**

- Focus on life and communications skills, including career centers and a balance between content and real-world application
- Allow students to choose their own pathways, including more information on co-op and pathway options
- Expand early childhood development through programming and opportunities for families with young children
- Create opportunities for community involvement in various pathway experiences
- Continue to recruit and retain staff who help encourage academic curiosity



# ***ON FIRE*** *FOR THEIR* ***FUTURE***

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*This profile describes the expectations our community believes are required of successful leaders who graduate from Madison County Schools.*



# Profile of a **Graduate**

## Lifelong **Learner**

- Academic performance
- Personal responsibility and accountability
- Punctuality, preparedness and organization

## Critical **Thinker**

- Set goals
- Work habits and persistence
- Make sound judgments and decisions
- Reflect on improving learning

## Responsible **Citizen**

- Community service
- Shows empathy and respect

## Effective **Communicator**

- Explore career pathways
- Respectful interaction and communication to all

## Respected **Collaborator**

- Work together for common goals
- Flexible, helpful

**“Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire.”**

**Jennifer Lee**

*Chief creative officer, Walt Disney Animation Studios*



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