



Superintendent  
D. Mark Byrd, Ed. S.

Assistant Superintendent  
Westley Wood, Ed. D.

Chief Academic Officer  
Donna Cotton, Ed. D.

August 20, 2019

Dear Students, Parents and Members of the Wilkes County Schools Family,

As we begin the 2019-2020 school year, I hope you all enjoyed your summer and that you share my enthusiasm for what I believe will be a great year for students and teachers in Wilkes County Schools. The beginning of the school year is an exciting time for students, teachers and parents, and I hope we can continue that momentum throughout the entire year.

Due to recent events throughout our country, school safety will remain on the forefront throughout the year. I encourage all of us to pay more attention to those around us and to our surroundings, and to let someone know if you see or hear a cause for concern. We can all be proactive in our efforts to prevent issues of violence, and nothing matters more than the safety of our students and staff.

A major focus for our system this year will be to reflect on our practice and to look for ways that we can all become better at what we do, whether we are teachers, students, coaches or the superintendent. I believe that every student who walks through our doors should grow academically each year and that every employee should look for ways that they can improve to help ensure student growth. As I have shared throughout my 3 ½ years as superintendent, I believe the students of Wilkes County deserve the best educational opportunities possible and it is the responsibility of the adults to make sure this happens. I am still amazed at what I see our students accomplish, and I want us to work together to help them to achieve even more!

In closing, I look forward to working with you to make the 2019-2020 school year the best that it can possibly be and to ensure that our students and staff have the best opportunities available. I am a firm believer that education is the key to a better future and I know that our school system has the people and resources in place to make the world around us a better place for all. Again, I hope you are excited about this school year and I look forward to you sharing with me the great things taking place in Wilkes County Schools.

Thank you,

D. Mark Byrd  
Superintendent  
Wilkes County Schools