

Message from the Principal
March 2009

Well the DSTP is here again already. All of the work that students and teachers have been doing for months will be judged by the results that students achieve in the next several weeks. As I have come to get to know this school and its students better over the past several months I am at once more optimistic and more concerned about how our students will fare. It is clearer to me, with each passing day that the students of John Dickinson High School are capable of great things. I am concerned by the ways that the judgments of the past impact the students that are here now. There are many in the community who attach negative labels to this school and I am beginning to understand how those labels affect the children that walk these halls.

Dickinson is undertaking a variety of improvement initiatives and we need parents to get more involved to help us help students. Parent involvement can take many forms. Parents can join PTA, Sports Boosters or Performing Arts Boosters. Parents can also get directly involved in school improvement planning by joining the Community Advisory Board or CAB. The CAB operates parallel to our School Based Leadership Team and uses student achievement and climate data to make long-term plans. Please contact the school to see how you can get involved.

We are also beginning the work that leads to those exciting end-of-year activities for seniors and to the next school year for underclassmen. Senior final exams will likely fall in late May this year (this schedule has not yet been finalized) and that leaves only several weeks before the “finish line.” The scheduling process for underclassmen has already begun and will accelerate after the DSTP. All students should have selected classes for next year by Spring break which begins on April 10 this year. Parents will get a course verification sheet at home that allows you to take a close look at the courses your child has selected and to make whatever changes you feel are necessary.

While the attention of the administration remains on the daily education and operations of the school, our planning efforts are already reaching out toward next year. We are continuously working to improve the educational outcomes for our students and to help them realize that the choices that they make today will determine the opportunities they have tomorrow. It's About Choices...