



NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2109 NEWTON DRIVE, N.E.
P.O. BOX 1469
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30015

DR. R. STEVEN WHATLEY
Superintendent

PHONE
770-787-1330
FAX
770-385-6915

January 5, 2009

Dear Parents,

To address a concern from the local community regarding a need to offer parental choice options within the Newton County Schools, a theme school committee, over a period of five months, studied and researched theme schools to determine options and to set suggested parameters. The committee developed a general list of recommendations which were presented to the board at a work session on October 14, 2008.

The middle (6-8) theme school will be located at Clements Middle School. It must include a minimum of 624 students to receive state funding. Students currently zoned to attend Clements will be zoned to Liberty Middle School, the new school on Salem Rd. scheduled to open in July 2009.

The focus of the theme school will be parental involvement. Parents will be a vital part of the program as they work to reinforce the instructional program and to provide support to the school. A committee of parents will work with the principal to design a parent/student contract that will be required of all parents and students who choose to attend the theme school. The committee will also decide which parental activities will be approved to meet the requirement of specified numbers of volunteer hours a year and other issues, such as the wearing of uniforms. In addition, the school may pilot other special features such as the development and implementation of a program which integrates research-centered/hands-on projects, the requiring of higher order problem solving and critical thinking, particularly in the areas of math and science; and increased reading assignments at home that are continued throughout the summer.

Informational sessions on the opening of Clements Middle as a parent involvement theme school will be held at 6:30 PM as noted below. Interested parents are invited to attend.

- January 8, 2009 Clements Middle School – 6:30 PM
- January 12, 2009 Cousins Middle School – 6:30 PM
- January 15, 2009 Veterans Memorial Middle School – 6:30 PM
- January 22, 2009 Indian Creek Middle School – 6:30 PM
- January 26, 2009 Newton County Board of Education – 6:30 PM

If you have questions or concerns prior to the meeting, please contact the principal at your child's school.

Sincerely,

R. Steven Whatley, Superintendent