

August Educator for Returning Teachers

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!

This year, let's reach for the stars and make Prince George's County Public Schools the number one (#1) school district in the State of Maryland.

It would appear that, as soon as we finalize one school year, we launch into a new year. We, the Prince George's County Educators' Association (PGCEA), hope you had a restful and relaxing summer respite, however brief.

As your re-elected President of PGCEA, please allow me to extend to you a heartfelt welcome back to a new school year of much expectant success.

This past school year (2008-2009), although filled with financial restraints and major reductions, we miraculously achieved many outstanding successes. We realized that these gains were not without a price. It was through your unselfish commitments and untiring hard work that the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) was able to remain strong and produce the successes that we enjoyed. But, we cannot rest on our previous laurels.

Our mission is not yet complete, and the 2009-2010 school year brings with its inception new opportunities to continue our quest for more with less. Let us not be weary in our achievement, for we know that our "due season" will yield an abundance of greater gains if we remain strong in our resolve to excel in these turbulent times. "When the going gets tough, the tough gets going." Remember, we are strengthened in our adversities.

So, let me encourage your diligence in pursuit of the excellence you so eloquently present each year. Continue to focus on your daily curriculum objectives that you have established for your students. Forge partnerships with (veteran) colleagues in your building, your students' families, and your school administration.

PGCEA also encourages your continued commitment to self-improvement. The key to your self-improvement is revisiting teacher learning and teaching strategies. May we suggest Charlotte Danielson's primer, [A Framework for Learning to Teach](#) (2007). This publication addresses the age old question: What constitutes good teaching? We urge you to grasp hold of the philosophy expressed in this publication as your foundation upon which to "perfect your craft".

Again, on behalf of your local PGCEA, we say "welcome back" and wish you phenomenal success in the 2009-2010 school year.