


**FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.**



by **Dr. Barry Harding**  
Public Schools  
of Robeson County

Despite the fact that it's not anything new, I still find it hard to realize that school is already underway and we are just barely into August. I imagine that there are some parents and students who feel the same way. That goes for teachers too who, after all, have to stay a few days after school is out in the spring and have to report a few days before school starts or, should I say, late summer. I won't even discuss some teachers being involved with summer programs to be better prepared to teach our children. For them they may feel as if they had no summer at all. Being the dedicated people they are, though, furthering their education is a fact of life.

As school gets underway, numerous changes take place across the county that affect a large percentage of our population. Parents, for example, have to adjust their schedules to accommodate their children's schedules. If students don't ride the bus, transportation arrangements need to be made. That goes beyond just getting the students to school for classes but also to get them to the special activities they are involved in - academic, athletic or social. Parents might also be considering how they can get involved with their children's schools so that their children know that they're behind them in their academic efforts. They could become a member of the school's

PTO or could be a volunteer. There's also the matter of staying in touch with their child's progress by scheduling occasional meetings with the child's teachers.

A proper balance between time for studying and extracurricular activities should be decided on. While the latter has its place, it's important to understand the main reason for being in school is to learn. Thus homework and the like should take up the major part of the child's schedule. Still, it's worthwhile to point out that participating in athletics provides an opportunity to learn about teamwork and good sportsmanship. Parents, too, can exhibit the latter by how they react to their child's coach or to officials - reactions which can have a positive or negative effect on their child.

Parents can also have an effect on whether a student shows proper respect for a teacher. If the parent doesn't show their child that they respect the teacher, then it's possible that the child likewise will show the teacher no respect. Poor behavior in the classroom is, of course, detrimental to learning. Poor behavior on the

school bus, likewise, cannot be tolerated. It can result in being banned from riding the bus which is a privilege - not a right.

While many of you may not have a child in school, you are affected by the opening of school if you drive a vehicle and must acknowledge the presence of school buses on the streets and highways. They require constant attention because of the frequent stops they must make to pick up and drop off children. The law requires that you stop when you come upon a bus loading or unloading children regardless of which direction its going in. To do otherwise could have disastrous results. Don't forget, too, children waiting at the roadside for their bus.

Generally, everyone looks forward to school's beginning. Let's all try to make it a happy one.

E-mail the editor at [brayboyconnee@hotmail.com](mailto:brayboyconnee@hotmail.com). Tell the Carolina Indian Voice what's happening with you.

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