For some, a dream is something unattainable. But I see it differently. I believe a dream is an achievable outcome. One that’s as individual as the dreamer. Our teachers, administrators and staff are committed to helping our students realize their dreams. They are attentive, engaged, active listeners who are genuinely interested and invested in the vision each student has for his or her life.

During the 2015–2016 school year, I applied those same principles to hearing about the vision and dreams our constituencies have for our school system. I thoroughly enjoyed my Listening with Lowder Community Feedback sessions, which provided invaluable input as I took on the responsibility of interim superintendent and then ultimately as the district’s 10th superintendent. Equally as important were my listening sessions with our student advisory groups. They allowed me to hear, compare and contrast what our students said they needed and wanted with the feedback I received from teachers, administrators, parents, staff, and the community.

I spent most of the year with my ear to the ground and my feet pounding the pavement—listening and learning, meeting and greeting, and planning and preparing. It was a whirlwind for sure. We had much to celebrate—the i3 INSPIRE grant, a basketball state championship, groundbreakings for two replacement schools, the expansion of our STEM program, and flourishing community partnerships, to name a few.

This edition of our retrospective annual report looks back at the 2015-2016 school year, recapping the numerous dreams that were achieved during the year—our accomplishments and successes, as well as our challenges.

When one’s dream is realized, it lifts the spirits of an individual. When many dreams are realized, it can lift the spirits of a community, and when community dreams are realized, they can lift the spirit of a nation. In Cabarrus County Schools, we try each and every day to contribute to realizing all three.

Sincerely,

Chris

Chris Lowder, Ed.D.
Superintendent
The Cabarrus County Board of Education unanimously voted to adopt a new Strategic Plan in May 2016. The plan was developed with input from school personnel and community comments at Superintendent Lowder’s feedback sessions. The new plan, as well as new mission and vision statements, will guide our district’s work over the next several years.

Mission
Empowering students to build their futures.

Vision
Inspiring minds, engaging hearts, and shaping futures.

Beliefs
• educating the whole child
• personalized educational approaches for each child
• caring and respectful relationships
• safe, motivating, and inviting learning environments
• integrity and honesty
• parent and community partnerships
• fiscal responsibility and efficient operations
• data-driven decisions
• achieving success and educational excellence.

Cabarrus County Board of Education
Barry Shoemaker – Board Chair
Carolyn Carpenter – Vice Chair
Cindy Fertenbaugh – Member
Tim Furr – Member
David Harrison – Member
Vince Powell – Member
Rob Walter – Member

Cabarrus County Schools Cabinet
Chris Lowder, Ed.D. – Superintendent
Lynn Rhymer – Deputy Superintendent, Operations
Crystal Hill, Ed.D. – Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction
Glenda Jones – Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Kelly Kluttz, CPA – Chief Financial Officer
Kelly Propst, Ed.D. – Assistant Superintendent, Auxiliary Services
Although students’ academic success is our objective, our ultimate goal is to inspire our students to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more.”

Emily Francis, CCS 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year

89.5%
Cabarrus County Schools continues to strive to achieve 100 percent graduation rate.

More than 400 CCS middle school students visited Wayne Brothers Inc. as part of Construction Career Days. Wayne Brothers Inc. partnered with CCS to launch an educational campaign showcasing some of the major aspects of applied technology in construction, helping students understand the importance of non-traditional disciplines for construction, as well as all the rewards and benefits associated with a career in the industry.

All A Buzz
Bryce Biehle, an 8th grader at J.N. Fries Magnet School, was crowned the 2016 Cabarrus County Schools Spelling Bee Champion, his 2nd consecutive year of winning the district bee. Kendall Davidson, a 5th grader at Harrisburg Elementary School, was the runner-up.

Going for the Global Championship – JMRHS Pulls 3-Peat in Robotics Competition
Jay M. Robinson High School’s VEX Robotics Team A won their third consecutive year as state robotics champions, dominating the field by winning the VRC Tournament, Design Award and Programming skills challenge. This performance sent Team A to the VEX World Championships to compete against the top 450 high school teams from 32 different countries at the VEX World Championship event in Louisville, Kentucky.

91% of our teachers met or exceeded state goals.

What CCS Teachers Ranked in Effectiveness, 2 Years in a Row!

Two CCS teachers spent a part of their summer in South Africa as part of the 2016 Go Global NC teachers program.
Kelly Bumgardner, 2015 CCS Teacher of the Year and an English-Language Arts teacher at Northwest Cabarrus Middle School, and Angie Martin, 2016 Teacher of the Year at J.N. Fries Magnet School, spent 10 days visiting schools, experiencing South Africa’s cultural diversity and learning about apartheid, slavery, and human rights. They also had a life-changing visit to Robben Island, the site of Nelson Mandela’s 18-year imprisonment.
Three Cabarrus County Schools educators, Laura Bryson, Northwest Cabarrus High School, Allison Hahn, Central Cabarrus High School, and Army Steele, Beverly Hills Elementary School, were selected to participate in the Center for International Understanding (CIU)’s 2015 Global Teachers program. The group, 36 in all, traveled to Singapore and Malaysia to gain a firsthand international experience that helps them bring a deeper global awareness and understanding to the classroom. The 2015 program for K-12 teachers from across North Carolina provided teachers the opportunity to learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and urban education through a global lens.

Emily Francis, an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at W. M. Irvin Elementary School, was named Cabarrus County Schools Teacher of the Year for 2015-2016. Emily began her career with CCS in 2004 as a teacher assistant. This experience, combined with her personal experience of moving to the United States from Guatemala when she was 15, inspired her to become an ESL educator. Since 2004, Emily has earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees, as well as a graduate certificate in teaching ESL from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In 2012, she fulfilled her dream of becoming a teacher when she started her teaching career at W.M. Irvin Elementary.
1. New Odell Elementary Construction
2. Mount Pleasant Middle School bonfire groundbreaking
3. District Spelling Bee
4. Cabarrus County Schools and Kannapolis City Schools were united for a few moments before the start of the annual Battle of the Bell Game, benefiting United Way.
5. Students socialize during the groundbreaking dance party at Royal Oaks Elementary School.
6. Charles E. Boger Elementary School and C.C. Griffin Middle School receive grants from the Jimmie Johnson Foundation Champions Grant program totaling more than $90,000. Boger received a grant for $81,537, and C.C. Griffin received a grant for $13,600.
7. Each Cabarrus County elementary school library received $100 to spend on new books thanks to a generous, anonymous donation presented by the Cabarrus County Education Foundation.
8. Education Center employees participated in United Way’s Season of Caring by volunteering at Cabarrus Victims Assistance Network (CVAN). Our volunteers cut back overgrown bushes, painted, trimmed trees, wacked weeds and raked leaves at six houses. This marked the fourth consecutive year volunteering at CVAN. CCS Central Office employees have been participating in the United Way Season of Caring since 2010.
9. During the first half of the year, Superintendent Chris Lowder hosted five Listening with Lowder Community Feedback Sessions to hear the ideas, concerns and interests of parents, students and community members. The 90-minute sessions gave Dr. Lowder a chance to hear ideas and concerns from stakeholders.
NASCAR Helps Give CCS Kids Smiles Students at Royal Oaks Elementary and Wolf Meadow Elementary Schools participated in a special high-speed oral health education event that left them with big smiles and new tips for improving their dental health—all thanks to NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jeff Gordon, NASCAR celebrities, 3M Oral Care, the ADA Foundation’s Give Kids A Smile® program, CareCredit, Henry Schein Cares and Arm & Hammer.

Sheyenne Marshall’s Memory Lives On Governor Pat McCrory visited Cox Mill High School to sign Sheyenne’s Law, a state law which toughens penalties for boat operators who cause death or injury while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The law was named after Sheyenne Marshall, a Cox Mill High School student who was tragically killed by an impaired boater on Lake Norman in July 2015.

Dream on for Ne’Quan: Students Helping Students Dream On 3 (DO3), a non-profit organization with a vision of “a community united in making dreams come true”, helped make Hickory Ridge High School student Ne’Quan Deas’ dream come true after a team of eight high school students who worked with DO3 to help make their fellow classmate’s wildest sports dream come true. After multiple fundraisers that collected more than $8,000, DO3 and the Junior Dream Team helped send Ne’Quan and his family to Nashville to attend a Tennessee Titans NFL football game, turning Ne’Quan’s dream into a reality.

Students Help “Feed the Hungry” More than 570,000 meals were packaged during the two-day Feed the Hungry event and were sent on their way to Haiti where they were served at Haitian schools as the children’s lunch and also passed out to families through the nutrition program at Lifeline Christian Mission in Grand Goave, Haiti. The event also benefited local families and produced more than 4,000 pounds of donated nonperishable food items for the food banks of Cabarrus County through Cooperative Christian Ministries.

Fundraising Reality Check Cabarrus County Schools’ student leaders met a Carolinas HealthCare—Northeast to learn more about breast cancer. The location is also home to where some of the funding raised from the annual “King of the Court” event goes. They had a full, informative tour of the facilities, where students asked questions and saw what, on average, five people per week diagnosed with breast cancer go through while there. Students also saw firsthand areas that their fundraising helps.

A Boy’s Life Mason Koob, a 9th grader at Mount Pleasant High School, was selected to share his story in the August edition of Boy’s Life magazine for Scouts in Action. Mason saved himself as well as his father from a flood and fire. He is a Life Scout currently working on his Eagle Scout requirements. Only 24 scouts are chosen each year for a spot in the publication.
KIDS:PLUS
The Cabarrus County Schools before and after school childcare program, KIDS:PLUS, continues to provide five-star rated care in each of our elementary schools across the district. Each of our centers participates in the School-Age Care Environmental Rating Scale Assessment and has earned a five-star rated license. In September 2015 KIDS:PLUS reached a milestone when its enrollment increased to 1,100 and ended the year growing toward 1,200, a number they had not served since 2008.

KIDS:PLUS also operates a summer camp program that keeps students engaged and learning throughout their summer break, offering daily opportunities for students to participate in reading, math and science activities.

Mount Pleasant Middle School (MPMS) held a Bonfire Bonanza to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new school. Students, staff, and community members enjoyed a night of food and fun around a bonfire located at the new MPMS site. School officials and local elected officials addressed the crowd and thanked the community for its patience and diligence in making this project a reality.

KIDS:PLUS celebrated its first Special Day of the 2015-2016 school year with a field trip. Two-hundred and sixty children were able to visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte thanks to a donation from the Kasey Kahne Foundation.

"Excellent public education is a major quality of life factor that attracts businesses, families and individuals to a community, and we know that Cabarrus County Schools makes our community an attractive and smart choice for many. By offering traditional education and continually expanding school choice through magnet programs, IB and STEM options and Career Technical Education academies, CCS offers a broad range of opportunities and interests that prepares students for future careers and higher education."
— Barbi Jones, Executive Director
Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce

BEST LEVELS OF SUPPORT

CCS and Hilbish Ford Honors 50th Teacher of the Month
Christine Jansen, a 5th grade teacher at W.R. Odell Elementary School, was named the CCS Hilbish Ford Teacher of the Month, the 50th award given. Since the award’s inception, Hilbish Ford has honored a CCS teacher for his or her outstanding work in the classroom each month. Teachers are nominated by parents or students. Hilbish presents the teacher with a trophy and a cash prize. Superintendent Chris Lowder, Hilbish Ford General Manager Tim Vaughn and W.R. Odell Elementary Principal Jim Helf honor Mrs. Jansen as her husband and daughter join her for the celebration.

Uwharrie Bank’s Regional President for Retail Banking Pat Horton and Concord Branch Manager Cheryl Deammon presented the supplies to Superintendent Lowder, that included paper, binders, notebooks, book bags, glue sticks and lots more.

Subaru Concord customers and employees donated 100 prize-winning books to CCS schools with the goal of engaging young learners in the world of science and inspiring them to want to learn more.
1. Thirty students from A.T. Allen Elementary School received a special surprise—a $200 holiday shopping spree with members of the Carolina Panthers! This special day was made possible by a partnership with the Carolina Panthers, Academy Sports and United Way Central Carolinas.

2. Logan Patterson, a 1st grade student at Winecoff Elementary School, had his artwork selected as the official design for the 2016 Special Olympics Cabarrus County Spring Games.

3. Students at the Opportunity School built a food pantry to assist peers in need, with more than 30 students gathering over 200 items during a dedicated food drive.

4. Central Cabarrus High School transforms into a Florida high school for the movie Paper Towns.

5. CCS launched its Instagram site which visually highlights special moments in time within CCS.
Homegrown Talent / CCS Alumni
A selection of employees who graduated from a CCS high school. To see more alumni photos, visit www.cabarrusschools.info.
In its first state championship appearance, the Jay M. Robinson men’s basketball team coached by Lavar Batts, Sr., clinched the 3A state title. The matchup between Jay M. Robinson High School and Terry Sanford High School was a tight game all the way, but Robinson came out on top with 59 points over Terry Sanford’s 55. Senior Daniel Spencer was named the game’s MVP and led all scorers with 24 points. A little more than one week later, the team paraded past friends, family, and fans through Downtown Concord and was recognized during a special ceremony for its state championship win. The 2015-2016 men’s basketball team’s season was entered into the Congressional Record by Congressman Richard Hudson, and March 21st was proclaimed Bulldog Day in the City of Concord and Cabarrus County.

Mount Pleasant High School’s Academy of Energy & Sustainability was selected to receive an NC GreenPower Grant to install solar panels on campus. The program provides a matching grant for the installation of a solar PV array providing clean, green renewable energy.

The Cabarrus County Board of Education voted to allow Wolf Meadow Elementary School to operate on a balanced calendar (also known as year-round school) beginning during the 2016-2017 school year.

Cox Mill High School’s Academy of Information Technology was selected to join the Lenovo Scholar Network. The Lenovo Scholar Network is designed to encourage greater interest among high school students in STEM subjects while providing them with the high-tech skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

The Cabarrus County Board of Education approved adding Beverly Hills Elementary School and R. Brown McAllister Elementary School as STEM schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

Cabarrus-Kannapolis Early College High School was named as a School of Innovation and Excellence by NC New Schools/Breakthrough Learning for leadership in academic excellence and innovative practice.

Coltrane-Webb Elementary, Patriots Elementary and Central Cabarrus High STEM were deemed Distinguished STEM Schools on the Model Level, the state’s highest rating for STEM schools.

Weddington Hills Elementary School successfully completed the authorization process and is an official International Baccalaureate World School. The IB program offers a high-quality continuum of international education. By adding the Primary Years Programme for elementary students, Cabarrus County Schools now has a K-12 continuum in place for an IB education.
### Elementary Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.T. Allen</td>
<td>3939 Abilene Road, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 788-2182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>2425 Midland Road, Concord, NC 28017</td>
<td>(704) 888-5811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Hills</td>
<td>67 Palaside Drive NE, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 782-0115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl A. Furr</td>
<td>2725 Clover Road, Concord, NC 28027</td>
<td>(704) 788-4300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles E. Boger</td>
<td>5150 Dove Field Lane, Concord, NC 28027</td>
<td>(704) 786-4300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coltrane-Webb</td>
<td>61 Spring Street NW, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 786-1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Mill</td>
<td>1450 Cox Mill Road, Concord, NC 28027</td>
<td>(704) 795-6519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrisburg</td>
<td>3900 Stalings Road, Harrisburg, NC 28075</td>
<td>(704) 455-5118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Frances Wall Center</td>
<td>3801 Highway 601 South, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 782-5712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Middle Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mount Pleasant Middle</td>
<td>466 Walker Road, Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriots</td>
<td>1510 Holden Avenue, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 455-1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitts School Road</td>
<td>720 Pitts School Road SW, Concord, NC 28027</td>
<td>(704) 788-3430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Brown McAllister</td>
<td>541 Sunnyside Drive SE, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 788-3165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky River</td>
<td>5454 Rocky River Road, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 795-4505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Oaks Elementary</td>
<td>5150 Dove Field Lane, Kannapolis, NC 28081</td>
<td>(704) 788-1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.M. Irwin</td>
<td>1400 Gold Rush Drive, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 782-8864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.R. Odell Elementary</td>
<td>1885 Odell School Road, Concord, NC 28027</td>
<td>(704) 260-6030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.R. Odell Primary</td>
<td>1215 Moss Farm Road, Concord, NC 28027</td>
<td>(704) 782-0601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### High Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>481 Burrage Road NE, Concord, NC 28025</td>
<td>(704) 786-4161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Mill</td>
<td>1355 Cox Mill Road, Concord, NC 28027</td>
<td>(704) 788-6700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disclaimer: Cabarrus County Schools is committed to equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, ethnic origin, or handicapping condition. (Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964).