



Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I will be walking Ward 3 again this fall in order to inform you of the latest news of the Marietta City School system. Any comments or feedback would be helpful and enable me to do a better job of representing you. I can be reached by email or phone- **Whatapane@bellsouth.net / 770 427-4956**. Attached you will find the highlights of Marietta City Schools 2006-2007 CRCT test data. Newsworthy items, initiatives and areas of focus listed below- Please visit our website for more information - **www.marietta-city.org**.

- **All district Schools Meet AYP Standards**

Every school in the district including every subgroup, and the school system overall made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2006-07. Special note- Only 52 (29%) of the 181 school systems in Georgia can boast this achievement. Marietta High School also met AYP standards and as a result has come off the Needs Improvement list this year.

- **Choice Academies and Elementary School Choice**

All eight elementary schools are now Choice Academies, each offering a specialized curriculum or theme to provide an educational choice to parents and students. The themes are based on high expectations, parental involvement, and the interest to pursue a challenging learning experience. "School choice is best defined as empowering parents to select the educational environment they feel is best suited for their child. School choice is parental choice" -Dr. Emily Lembeck. Open enrollment for the Choice Academies began this October and will run through January 18th, 2008. Transportation outside current attendance zones must be provided by parents. Different school themes listed below-

A.L.Burruss- *Language and Communications Academy*
Hickory Hills - *Arts Academy*
MCAA - *Math, Science and Technology Magnet*
Sawyer Road - *International Primary Years Academy*

Dunleith - *Literacy Academy*
Lockheed - *Leadership Academy*
Park Street - *Community Academy*
West Side - *Talented and Gifted Learning Academy*

- **Renovation/Expansion to West Side Elementary is Near Completion and Under Budget**

The new addition to West Side is complete with state of the art Classrooms, Computer Lab and an Art room. The renovations will be complete this December '07 with an additional Computer Lab, Science Lab and a newly renovated Performance Theater and Classrooms.

- **Expansion of the Magnet Program to 7th grade at Marietta Middle School**

The Math, Science and Technology magnet program will also extend to 8th grade the following year.

- **Middle Years IB Program (MYP) at Marietta Middle School**

MYP has rolled up this year for 7th and 8th graders. All students are required to learn a second language and can choose from French, German or Spanish. Chorus and Drama classes are also added along with integrating technology into the curriculum. MYP provides a challenging curriculum that will help better prepare students to take full advantage of Advanced Placement (AP) classes and the IB Program at Marietta High School.

- **School Uniforms at Marietta Middle School, Park Street and Lockheed Elementary Schools**

School Uniforms were implemented at three additional schools –Marietta Middle School, Park Street Elementary and Lockheed Elementary School. With the success of uniforms at MCAA, West Side and Marietta Sixth Grade Academy, more schools have opted for a uniform policy. Schools must have 70% Parental Support before implementing such a policy.

- **Technology Improvements – Performance Tracker and SmartBoards**

The second year of implementation of performance tracker, which maintains a living profile for each student and measures performance against standards on a quarterly basis with pre and post tests, is underway. SmartBoards have been added in many classrooms throughout the system. Integrating this technology in the classroom enhances the learning environment and will increase student performance.

- **Hickory Hills Elementary** will soon be renovated to house the **Arts Program** beginning Fall 2008. For more information, please see their Website- www.marietta-city.k12.ga.us/hickoryhills/
- **Marietta High School** was recently (May '07) named to the Newsweek top 5% of America's High Schools for a second year in a row.
- Of the school systems in Georgia with 20 or more 2007 SAT takers, 15 had total scores above the national average of 1511. **Marietta High** came in at number 13 with a score of 1522 -an increase of 12 points over the previous year.
- **Marietta High School** has increased their ACT scores and now exceed the state and national average.
- Marietta City students score higher than the national average in the first Fall administration of the ITBS.
- **A.L. Burruss and West Side** are 2007 PLATINUM award recipients from the Georgia Statewide Accountability System in the Greatest Gains category. In order to achieve this award, schools must be in the 98th percentile (top 2%) for greatest gains (across the state) in CRCT performance, make AYP status for 3 consecutive years, and have a minimum of 35% (students) exceed in all subjects.
- **Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (MCAA)** is the 2007 GOLD award recipient from the Georgia Statewide Accountability System in the Highest Achievement category, moving up from the bronze award in 2006 and is now in the top 15 high performing schools in the state.