



Dear Hurricane Families,

I hope this letter finds you ready to get smarter and excited about the opportunities the 2017-2018 school year will bring! Before we move forward, I would like to highlight some of our accomplishments from last school year that are the foundation upon which we will continue to build our work this year.

- ⌘ Preliminary SOL Testing & Graduation rates identify that we will earn the designation of **Fully Accredited High School** for meeting the benchmarks for state assessments and graduation rate
- ⌘ VDOE Backpack Initiative Grant funding allows our school to put devices in the hands of each student to bridge the technology and homework gap
- ⌘ 2017 NNPS STAND Award Winner for our work in developing the next leaders in our community
- ⌘ VDOE Cyber Security Grant funding will advance our work in preparing students for 21st Century jobs
- ⌘ Earned Governor McAuliffe's NSA Cyber Challenge Award
- ⌘ \$1.5-Million-dollar increase in scholarships
- ⌘ 3 time Bayport Student Run Credit Union Branch of the year
- ⌘ Laura Bush Foundation grant funds will assist in further diversifying our library collection
- ⌘ Kim Horton named 95th District Amazing Math Teacher
- ⌘ Engaged over 500 students through our 6 SPARK Summer programs
- ⌘ Decreased discipline and saved thousands of instructional hours through using in school alternatives

This list is a small sample of the outstanding work our Hurricane family completed and we are not done yet!

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the support of and collaboration with our school community. So we will continue to keep our focus on community and collaboration. Each family in our community has their own particular interest, their child. Our common interest is the success of students at Heritage High School. It is important that our community continues to be committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure the academic growth of each student. Our staff will continue to work relentlessly to provide engaging and rigorous academics every day, but to be successful we need our community. We need your help! Participating in the PTSA, mentoring, and tutoring are only a few ways that you can take an active role in your student's high school career. Open and frequent communication with teachers/counselors, attending parent conferences, and assisting with school activities are additional ways that you ensure that your voice is heard.

The priorities for Heritage High School include: increasing student achievement through improving teacher quality and effectiveness in the classroom, increasing parental involvement that promotes clear support of our goals, and continuing to grow our community partnerships. But none of these priorities is more important than our students. This is where we will not waiver or falter. Students are our passion and it is our intent to make decisions that are in the best interest of our children.

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call, email, or stop by. It is through open and honest communication that I can best serve our students. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to lead Heritage High School and I am looking forward to another great year of learning!

Warmest Regards,

Shameka N. Gerald
Proud Principal
Heritage High School