



DISCOVERY HIGH SCHOOL

1335 Old Norcross Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30046

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Navigate - Collaborate - Innovate

J. ALVIN WILBANKS
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Business Manager/Assistant Principal
Assistant Principals
Josh Allen
Chris Hall
Dr. Yolanda Hardman
Sadia Khan
Dennis Miles
Traye Moore
OJ Soto
Deborah White

April 17, 2018

Dear Discovery High School Parents, Students and Community,

I am writing to share with you that last Friday I announced to the staff that I will need to retire at the end of this year to help provide care for my ailing mother and in-laws who live out of state. My last day as Principal of Discovery High School will be May 31, 2018.

I greatly appreciate the opportunities that Mr. Wilbanks and the Gwinnett County Board of Education have afforded me since coming to the district almost 18 years ago, including the opportunity to serve as Principal of Discovery High School. Discovery is now one of the top ranked Academy schools in the district. In fact, just last week, Discovery was one of only three GCPS high schools selected to participate in a special grant-funded program to build on the work already being done at Discovery to become a "model academy school" for the district, state and nation. This is a huge honor and well deserved recognition for the excellence in teaching and learning that has been achieved at Discovery during the very short time it has been open. Discovery High School also was recognized just this week by the Georgia Department of Education as an Advanced Placement Honors School in, not just one but, three categories: 1) AP Access and Support Schools ("schools with at least 30 percent of AP exams taken by students who identified themselves as African-American and/or Hispanic and 30 percent of all AP exams earning scores of 3 or higher"); 2) AP STEM Schools ("schools with students testing in at least two AP math courses and two AP science courses; and 3) AP Humanities Schools ("schools with students testing in . . . at least one ELA course, two social sciences courses, one fine arts course and one world language course). Additionally, on the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), an international assessment administered at most GCPS high schools to measure "15-year old students' abilities to think critically, solve problems and communicate effectively in the content areas of reading, mathematics and science," Discovery High School's mean performance for students in all three areas was at or above that achieved by students in the United States. These accomplishments clearly indicate that Discovery High School has laid a firm foundation on which years of educational excellence are sure to be built.



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I wish I was able to continue participating in the great work being done at Discovery and that I was retiring many years from now and under different circumstances; however, I am fully confident that my successor will possess the high level of experience, knowledge, and skills for which GCPS leaders are known and given the notable progress already achieved, Discovery High School will become a model academy high school for all to emulate.

Thank you for all you will do as parents and students and as a community to support us through this transition, beginning with accessing the "Important Letter from the District" on this website to complete the enclosed survey to provide your input on the selection of the next principal. Additionally, thank you for giving our new principal the excellent support you provided me and our students, school, teachers, and community during my time as your principal. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve you, your amazing children, and the incredibly dedicated and talented teachers and staff of Discovery High School.

My sincerest gratitude,

Dr. H. E. Gene Taylor

Principal