



Mr. Shawn Kimble, Superintendent

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Bob Ennis, Chairman
Mr. Wade Hendren, Vice-Chair

Mrs. Eva Drain
Dr. Roy Harkness
Mr. Robert Harris

Mrs. Melinda Hutcherson
Ms. Linda Jennings
Mr. Austin Thompson, Jr.

January 14, 2020

Dear Supporter,

Lauderdale County school leaders recognize the critical importance of students learning to read by the end of the 3rd grade. Students who learn to read at an early age are able to spend the rest of their lives reading to learn. Research shows that students who cannot read on grade level by 3rd grade are four times less likely to graduate by age 19 than their peers. The effects of not preparing children to read can be devastating to their future and to this community.

Over the last several years, our schools have seen significant increases in reading performance for our students and have received recognition for our efforts across the state and even nationally. We are excited about this progress, but we cannot rest! Teachers and students work extremely hard every day to increase reading proficiency. This is difficult, but important work that students and teachers simply cannot do alone.

We are asking the local community to assist our efforts by embracing the importance of reading at home with children 20 minutes each day. This initiative is called "Read 20!". Most children whose parents read with them learn to read well and are typically proficient readers by 3rd grade. Children benefit greatly by being exposed to literature and having an adult read to or with them each day during these important developmental years. It's that simple!

In an effort to increase awareness for the "Read 20!" initiative, our school district is hosting the 5th Annual 5K walk/run, "Lace up for Literacy". There will be events and booths sponsored by local schools, civic groups, businesses, and industry in a coordinated effort to promote early literacy. Our goal is to raise more than \$20,000 to support literacy work across the school district. Proceeds from this event will be distributed to schools for the purchase of books and instructional materials to benefit teachers and students. Please join us again this year in educating our community about the importance of this initiative and "Lace up for Literacy" on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn Kimble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawn Kimble
Superintendent