I want to welcome you to the Randolph County School System. During the 2023-2024 school year, "learning and teaching" will be the primary point of emphasis in our school system. As a result, the individual instructional needs of our students at all levels of academic performance will continue to be a priority during the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, efforts to increase students' access to instruction at school as well as away from campus through the acquisition of digital resources will continue to be made.

While the opening of the 2023-2024 school year is exciting, I also want to take a moment to thank the members of our Board of Education and our County Commissioners for their great work on the school system's local budget for the 2023-2024 school year. To be more specific, all of our school system's local budget requests for the 2023-2024 school year were approved due to the hard work of these elected officials. This budget result led to an increase in the school system's "current expense" funding by \$1,428,000. In addition, this work led to \$950,000 in "special capital outlay" funding to support the school system's "9-Year Facility Upgrade/Repair Plan." This "special capital outlay" funding was provided for the school system for the first time during the 2014-2015 school year. It supplements the "regular capital outlay" funding received each year based on the school system's student enrollment. Without a doubt, the members of our Board of Education and the County Commissioners continue to play a major role in the success of our school system through their teamwork.

In closing, please know that our staff members will do everything possible to help the children of this county continually improve over the next 10 months, as well as their future years with us, in terms of academic performance and overall development as individuals. I look forward to working with our students, parents, staff members, and members of the school system's community as all of us work to shape the future of our country through the provision of a positive educational experience for the kids of Randolph County. It is a great time to be a member of the Randolph County School System.