



**Stephanie Hall**  
Assistant Principal

# ***Jasper Elementary***

158 Stegall Drive  
Jasper, Georgia 30143  
(706) 253-1730

**Dr. David R. Wilds**  
Principal



**Lisa Hardman**  
Academic Coach

Dear Tiger Nation Families,

## **Welcome Back!**

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility. And, our much-appreciated PTO is gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

## **New Staff**

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome Shannon Finley, our new art teacher. Mrs. Finley brings a strong passion for introducing children to the interactive world of art. We are fortunate to have art and music full time this year! Welcome Mrs. Finley.

We also have a new special education co-teacher. Mrs. Donna Franklin transferred from Harmony Elementary. She will be working with grades 3-5 to help analyze students' academic strengths and weakness to help host teachers provide intensive interventions and differentiation strategies in reading and math. Welcome Mrs. Franklin!

Lastly, we have a new assistant principal, Mr. Tim Baisden. He is coming from the high school. He is great with technology and STEM! He is working hard already to update our computer lab CAMP class to include coding and other STEM activities! Mr. Baisden is going to be a great asset to our school.

## **Facilities Update**

Last year's district-wide safety and security review generated a recommendation that additional surveillance cameras be added to our schools to better monitor the campus. Installation of interior and exterior cameras was completed this summer enhancing our ability to record who is on our campus at all times.

We have also enclosed the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade playground with a chain-linked fence. This will keep our students safer from the back parking lot traffic. This year, we hope to add a new swing set for the students to relax and enjoy the outdoors during their 30 minute break.



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Finally, a construction project was completed that finished enclosing the media center computer lab. This will allow Mrs. Posey to teach media lessons and have classes for story time while the computer lab is being used by CAMP classes. We are so appreciative of the new accommodations.

## **Student Placement**

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2017-2018 school year.

Careful consideration was given to input from staff and families as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL of our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. Jasper Elementary is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.

Thank you to all who are helping prepare for the new school year. Your commitment to insuring that Jasper Elementary remains a celebrated and successful school is awe-inspiring. I eagerly look forward to greeting students and families again. It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. Please stop by and say hello. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. David R. Wilds  
Principal  
Jasper Elementary School