

## **Volunteers, Parent and Community Groups Make our Schools Strong**

I am reminded daily what an amazing community we have around Dover City Schools. We have great support from citizens throughout the district, and our students and teachers benefit greatly from that little extra that comes from organizations like the Parent Teacher Groups (PTGs), as well as booster groups, at each school.

This includes volunteer time in and around our classrooms, work in concession stands at sporting events and extra funds to do things we might not have the budget to accomplish.

As just one example, the three elementary school PTG groups have raised over \$232,000 for improvements in and around the building the past five years. Most of this money has been focused on the construction of new playground equipment and upgrades to the current playgrounds, new fencing around the playground, and other building enhancements.

The existence of several committees around the district – often in conjunction with the PTGs – also provides experiences for our students that could not be given to them without the additional support.

If you hear of a book fair, holiday party, staff appreciation event or even a talent show or extracurricular activity at your neighborhood school, it likely was made possible by the work of volunteers who give their time and energy to make our schools better places!

When our teachers have conferences and special events, our parents are always there for them. We have great organizers who pool together money to purchase gifts for teachers from the entire class. Volunteers help with picture days, and we wouldn't have school dances without the help of volunteers who organize and staff the events.

Even beyond our PTGs and other groups, our schools are made better by the work of parents of student-athletes, as we see our hallways spruced up with locker decorations made for our athletes. In addition to general fundraising, many of these same parents open their homes and/or provide meals prior to games and events.

Parents and others who are willing to give their time to help our schools go above and beyond the call make Dover Schools a special place. Thank you to all of you who have given time, money, and effort to support our students. Your work has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated!