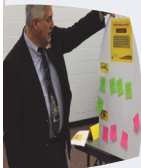




▶ WHAT'S THAT UP IN THE SKY? ..... 1



▶ MEET THE STAFF ... 2



▶ TRAINING ..... 2

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# RT3411

## BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS BY ENHANCING AND SUPPORTING TODAY'S TEACHERS

*Henry County Schools is one district, partnered with 25 districts around Georgia, participating in the federally funded Race to the Top program. You will find information you need in the RT3411 to help you navigate and broaden your understanding of the program.*

## Ready. Set. GOAL!

**M**ost people, upon self-reflection, realize that we are goal-driven individuals. We set a target and strive to reach that target whether it is a short-term sprint or a long-term jaunt. We like to see the end or prize ahead and work towards that. In our piloting of the Race to the Top program, we are doing much the same.

Our goal as a district to assist, along with 25 other districts, the state's efforts in changing the dynamics of teaching and accountability, stems from the desire to see an increase in student achievement as well as professional growth and development.

As we move along this journey together, it is important to always look up and look

ahead to make sure we are truly growing and evolving our education system not just for ourselves but primarily for the students who depend on us.

This journey will be challenging, yet the reward at the end is one we can all claim that we had a part in making happen. We will be the trendsetters for the state. We will set the bar for others. And in the end, education for all will be better as a result.

For more information on Race to the Top:

Local—[www.henry.k12.ga.us/RT3](http://www.henry.k12.ga.us/RT3)

State—<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/RT3.aspx>

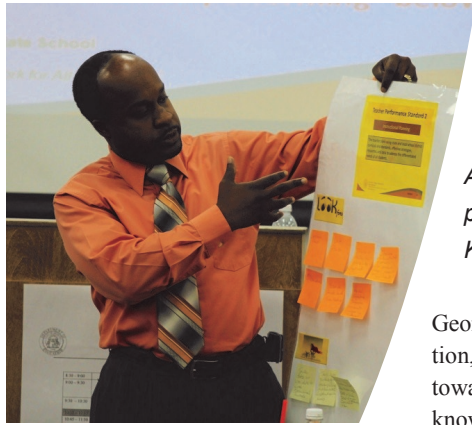


## SCHOOLING FOR SCHOOLS

Hampton and Locust Grove Elementary Schools, plus Dutchtown, Eagle's Landing, and Woodland High Schools are the five pilot schools for Henry County Schools' Race to the Top program. While chosen by the state, the pilot schools in our district represent 10% of the district.

These five schools will play integral roles in shaping the framework for the program that will be used state-wide. Personnel from these schools have attended training and will be involved in further development in the Spring Semester.





# No Train(ing), No Gain(ing)

Administrators and teachers take part in two day training provided by Georgia Department of Education on Teacher Keys.

Georgia Department of Education, led the sessions geared towards strengthening the knowledge of the ten performance strands for Teacher Keys. She also stressed the duties of effective teachers and the importance of looking for these duties and traits through documentation and observations.

“This training is just step one,” shared Taylor. “Step two involves the training of the

teachers at the pilot schools and pilot implementation in January.”

Taylor also noted that there will be many resources shared from the state throughout the implementation that will help the schools make this transition.

The level of participation and input from the attendees stood out to Taylor as did the active participation of the superintendent Dr. Hildreth.

“The Henry County School System really impresses me.”

**“The knowledge of Class Keys has benefited the training participants and will help them even more as things progress for Teacher Keys.”**

TAWNI TAYLOR, Trainer & Ed. Specialist, Georgia DOE

**R**ace to the Top recently held three Teacher Keys training sessions in November to prepare for the initial roll-out to pilot schools in January. The participants included administrators and teachers from the five pilot schools, plus Central Office administrators and volunteer administrators from other schools.

Tawni Taylor, trainer and educational specialist from the

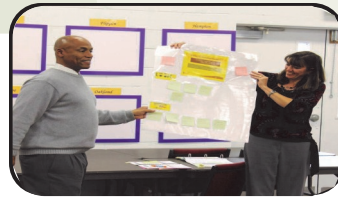
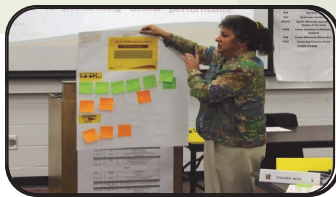
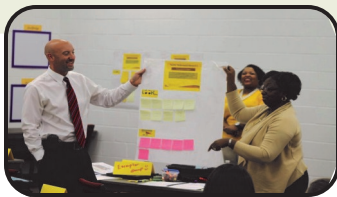
GREAT  
MINDS  
THINK  
ALIKE



What's on your mind?

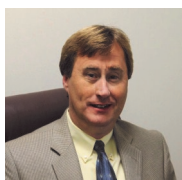
There's a good probability that what you are thinking of or have a question about is the same thing someone else is pondering too. But don't let that stop you from asking!

We want to know what you want to know. Send us your questions and we'll select some questions to feature in our 'Great Minds Think Alike' section. Send questions to: RT3info@henry.k12.ga.us Place GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE in the subject line.



Contact Information:  
Central Office—HR Dept.  
(770) 957-7189

## MEET YOUR RT3 TEAM



**Dan Ray,**  
Director

Dan comes to the school system from Bibb County Schools after having served as the Assistant Superintendent of HR and Professional Learning. Dan has 30 years of experience in education as teacher and principal too, having worked in the Clayton County Schools and Eagle's Landing Christian Academy.

He and his wife Sunni have been married and lived in Henry County for 27 years and have two children and one grandchild.

“RT3's focus is all about academic achievement and student success,” shared Ray.



**J.D. Hardin,**  
Communications  
Specialist

J.D. has been involved in education his whole life. Both of his parents worked for school systems as a teacher and school board member. This is his third year working in Georgia public schools, coming to Henry County from Houston County.

His experience in communications covers various industries from government to entertainment, and small business to non-profits.

He and his wife Jolie have one son, age 2.

“It is an honor to be a part of a school system with such a great reputation as Henry County,” said Hardin.



**Maida Rodriguez,**  
Administrative Assistant

Maida is in her 29th year in public education in the state of Georgia. She comes to Henry County from the Finance and Business Office of the Georgia Department of Education.

She and her husband of 29 years, Angel, are the proud parents of four successful, grown daughters and two grandchildren.

Maida shared, “I am very happy to serve the students, staff, and faculty of Henry County Schools and the Henry County community.”