

**July 6, 2010**

***School Board Names New Principal for Clements Middle School***

The Newton County School System is pleased to announce that Ms. Joy S. Scavella has been selected as the new principal of Clements Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year. Scavella was approved during a special called meeting on Tuesday, July 6.

Clements is reverting back to a middle school housing grades six through eighth grades; last year the school operated as a theme school.

“I’m looking forward to working in Newton County,” said Scavella. “My family currently resides in Atlanta so it will be nice to be closer to everyone. My husband is already there and serving as a principal in Atlanta Public Schools.”

“Ms. Scavella impressed both the interview committee and me as to her depth of knowledge regarding instruction and school improvement,” said NCSS Superintendent Gary Mathews. “I believe she will be a collaborative leader but firm on our obligation to teach successfully all children.”



Ms. Scavella has been employed by the Peach County School System in Fort Valley, Georgia since 2003. Most recently she served as the principal of Fort Valley Middle School from 2008 to 2010. From 2003 to 2008, Ms. Scavella was an assistant principal at Hunt Elementary School. She began her career in education as a teacher at T.J. Elder Middle School in Washington County Schools and taught fourth grade from 2002 to 2003 at Burdell-Hunt Elementary School in Bibb County Schools.

“Leaving Peach County is definitely bittersweet,” said Scavella. “I’ve been there the last seven years and I thank them for affording me all of the opportunities they have provided. I’m also very thankful for this new opportunity to continue to promote teaching and learning in Newton County”

According to Scavella, professional development is a key component of student success.

“My goal is to promote a community of professional learning at Clements Middle School,” she explained. “I want to promote teaching and learning for student success.”

During her last year as principal of Fort Valley Middle School, CRCT Reading scores increased by 10 per cent while CRCT math scores for students with disabilities increased by 14 per cent. She

also implemented a Future Problem Solvers program that resulted in Ft. Valley Middle School's students winning first place in state competition and fourth place in the international competition, where Ft. Valley students competed against students from other countries.

"My goal is to make sure that we continue to provide rigorous instruction so our students can be successful," said Scavella."

She also noted that community involvement is also crucial to student success and she plans on being very active in the Newton County community.

"I plan on getting involved and participating in community activities," she said. "I want to establish my roots there—establish relationships that will be an asset to my school. It's very important that we connect with the community and build relationships with parents."

Ms. Scavella earned her both her Bachelor of Arts degree in Middle Grades Education and her Specialist degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Georgia College and State University in 1997 and 2000 respectively. She is currently working on her Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Ms. Scavella is a member of the Optimist Club, the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL), and ASCD, a membership organization that provides professional development for educators to teach, lead and learn.

For more information, please contact the Newton County School System Department of Public Relations at 770-784-2908.

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