



Providence IB Elementary School

10 Chalkstone Street NW
Huntsville, AL 35806

Phone: 256-428-7125 Fax: 256-428-7139



Mr. Paul Bonner, Principal

*Mrs. Darlene Mitchell, Assistant Principal
Ms. Marcia Sutton, TOSA*

6/02/17

Dear Providence Families,

Thank you for another great year at Providence Elementary. Our focus for 2016-17 was improving our IB practices while working to improve our academic performance. We were formally welcomed into the International Baccalaureate Organization in September and immediately began working to develop our outdoor classroom, build on previous success with our Mandarin program, and more effectively set up instructional practices that emphasize student responsibility toward their learning. Our work in these areas is ongoing.

Our goal is to make Providence a diverse and compelling learning environment. The development of our outdoor learning lab, our new 5th grade Green Power science program, ongoing field trips, Student Government, and our highly successful Math Team all represent efforts in this regard. We have made progress and have much work to do. The work of Diana Harrison, our Reading Specialist, with third grade demonstrated we can make reading progress with our students if it is focused. Next year we intend to work hard with our early elementary students to implement a reading foundations program that will complement our IB curriculum. We ask that you as parents help by reading to your children this summer. Yes, even our third, fourth, and fifth grade students benefit from reading with parents. Both personal experience and research show that reading with your children works! We have very bright students here at Providence yet our reading results are not what they should be. We are committed to turning this around and you as parents can help a great deal. Our Mandarin Program is one of the tools intended to improve our reading as learning a new language helps the brain get a better grasp of language usage, both with the native and second language.

Providence IB has a great opportunity that springs from community support and dynamic diversity. As a school we have the potential to shine academically and as a school culture. We look forward to continuing this journey in 2017-18. A big thank you to those of you who are moving on and to everyone else who will continue the work with us. Please have a wonderful summer that includes adventures and great memories. We can't wait to get back to work in August.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Bonner
Principal