

# Clarke County Public Schools

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Dr. Cathy Seal  
Assistant Superintendent

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Director of Operations

Dr. Ed Shewbridge  
Director of Technology

*"Encourage Inspire Empower"*

December 19, 2024

It is my pleasure to officially introduce myself as the new superintendent of Clarke County Public Schools. During my time as an educator, I have been a middle school teacher, high school mathematics teacher, college professor, school counselor, assistant principal, director of instruction and personnel, and principal. I keep my past service in mind as I make decisions because I want to always show empathy, understanding, and relevance.

It is both an honor and privilege to serve the students, faculty, and community of Clarke County. I am thankful to have graduated from a small, rural high school. I was fortunate to have skilled teachers that prepared their students for college and all other post-secondary ventures.

I want to thank each of you for your dedication to our students, community, and school division. I firmly believe that a school's biggest asset is its people. As such, I pledge my support and guidance to all members of our staff as we move forward. When we all work together and support one another, students benefit.

This division is a remarkable learning institution that focuses on each individual student to ensure bright outcomes for all who attend. The faculty and staff are dedicated to the children of this community. In our schools, the students' needs are first priority. Kids first! By knowing each student as an individual, we will work diligently to see that all students learn at high levels. Students should expect a learning environment that is safe, conducive to learning, and is rooted in high standards aligned with curriculum designed to create life-long learners and productive citizens. The faculty of Clarke County will not let a student achieve less than the very best.

The school faculty will continue to work collaboratively with parents and the community to deliver each child a first-rate education. Through continual school improvement efforts, we will work relentlessly to keep Clarke County Public Schools a shining star in the region, the State of Virginia, and beyond. We are fortunate to have our devoted staff, talented students, and supportive community. I have been impressed with stellar programs and the friendly, supportive community within a short time of arriving in the area.

My top priorities during my initial weeks will be the following:

- Recruiting and retaining qualified staff;
- Fostering strong relationships in which everyone has a voice and feels supported (I want everyone to work together and feel comfortable approaching one another with ideas.);
- Being a consistent, visible, and known presence who models the way in the community; and
- Fostering and modeling effective and timely communication.

I look forward to a productive and exciting school year. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. Further, I look forward to seeing each of you soon and feel privileged to serve such a wonderful school division and community. Best wishes!

Dr. Rick N. Bolling, Ed.D.