

# **SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Surry County Schools' Passport to Beginning Teaching**

The month of August is always a special time for educators preparing to return to the classroom, but it is especially significant for beginning teachers (BTs) who are entering the classroom to teach for the very first time. Surry County Schools (SCS) is committed to providing an exemplary beginning teacher induction program to ensure all BTs and teachers new to Surry County Schools get the school year started on the right foot. Thus, the district held New Teacher Orientation for 27 beginning teachers and teachers new to Surry County Schools in preparation for the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

The state of North Carolina requires school districts to provide BTs with an induction program prior to the start of the school year, however, as is the culture of excellence in Surry County Schools, new teachers received far more than the minimum state requirements. Beginning teachers in Surry County Schools spent three days on August 14, 15 and 16 becoming acclimated to the culture of SCS, and received research-based instructional strategies to help them build their teacher toolkits.

Beginning teachers and teachers new to Surry County were given copies of *The First Days of School: How to Be a Better Teacher, 5th edition*, by Harry K. Wong, and *Better Learning Through Structured Teaching: A Framework for the Gradual Release of Responsibility, 2nd Edition*, by Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey, among other gifts. Dr. Tracey Lewis, Director of Communications/Teacher Recruitment and Retention shared, "In addition to New Teacher Orientation, mentors will be assigned to all new teachers as part of their onboarding process. Mentors are highly-effective veteran teachers assigned to provide support and assistance with the transition to the classroom. Moreover, BTs will attend monthly meetings for support and to learn additional instructional strategies to facilitate student learning." Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves, told new teachers, "We are glad you made the choice to teach in Surry County Schools and we are invested in and committed to your success. You have an awesome opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students and we are here to help and support you along the way."

The theme of New Teacher Orientation, Passport to Beginning Teaching, included sessions introducing the SCS common instructional framework, lesson planning, building and fostering positive relationships, classroom management, professionalism, mental health awareness, everything Google and Haiku, and many more. Sessions were also presented by business and organizational partners, such as Horace Mann, State Employees' Credit Union, North Carolina Association of Educators, Professional Educators of North Carolina and the Surry County Schools Educational Foundation. One of the many highlights of New Teacher Orientation was a fashion show modeling professional dress with Surry County Schools' administrators and Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Hanna Holder, serving as models.

Surry County Schools' first day for students is Monday, August 27, 2018.

