



BALDWIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Building Excellence

Dr. Alan T. Lee, Superintendent

January 16, 2013

Principals & Teachers
Baldwin County Public Schools

Greetings:

Baldwin County launched the Digital Renaissance, an initiative to bring about changes in the ways that students study and learn. The Renaissance incorporates the use of computers such that all students in our high schools, one middle school and one elementary school have their personal laptops. But the Renaissance is not about the computer, it is about the presence of the computer to empower students to learn in ways that they perhaps have never had an opportunity to do in school.

Learning takes place every day for every child, but it is not always through direct instruction. Often, the most meaningful learning for children, for adults, is through exploration, communication with others, reflection on what is experienced, and synthesis of new understandings and skills. This sort of authentic learning will occur when classrooms are student-centered and focused on interactive, collaborative learning. Students learn best when they seek answers to deep, meaningful questions and have a chance to share their new perspectives.

Many of us who were trained as teachers never received guidance in creating such a classroom, and may not even know what that looks like. Some of the teachers we have who really can do this are our eMINTS teachers. And, if we are going to take the Digital Renaissance to its full value, we need many more teachers trained to replicate such a classroom and be leaders for their colleagues.

Baldwin County Schools is going to take the next step by launching the “Digital Renaissance Leadership Academy” this winter. This Academy will provide intense and valuable professional development to over 300 teachers representing every school in the county. Once trained, teachers will have command of the software programs Istation, icurio, and Discovery Education and will become Digital Renaissance instructional leaders at their schools. Participants will be involved in the creation of exemplary learning units, their classrooms will become a learning model for others, and they will be recognized for being a member of an elite vanguard of change.

I am inviting every teacher in the county to apply for membership. The application is attached. Once the applications are submitted to the principals, they will provide their input for the final selection of the participants in this first year of the Academy.

Respectfully,

Alan T. Lee, Ph.D.
Superintendent