



# CREEKVIEW High School

*From The Principal's Desk*

Dr. Mark Merges, Principal



HOLIDAY SPECIAL \* Special Edition

I had no intention of sending out another newsletter before the first of the year. However, when so many positive things keep rolling into our school, it is difficult not to share them with the Grizzly Nation. During a time of year when we ALL should take a step back and be thankful for our loved ones and appreciative of all the things we have in our community, I wanted to do the same for Creekview High School.

To thank everyone individually is just not possible. However, to thank and congratulate many of the faculty, staff and support groups that provides a first-class, positive learning opportunity for your child is a must - so, I am going to give it a shot.

First and foremost, thank you to an amazing student body and staff! We have had both our highs and lows this first semester but at the end of the day (or the end of the calendar year, in this case), our Creekview community has shown that IT IS Creekview Strong and that we truly do have Creekview Pride. Our students continue to amaze us each and every day with their attitude, effort and willingness to be active participants in our building.

On the flipside of that, our faculty and staff are second to none. The effort and caring that is on display at CHS is beyond belief. Our teachers are constantly on the move and looking for new ways to teach, motivate and inspire our leaders of tomorrow. There is no task too small and no challenge that is too great. The amount of work before, during and after hours should never go unappreciated and I am truly thankful and blessed to work with such an amazing group of dedicated professionals.

To our administrators and staff...they truly are the BEST! To have them provide constant guidance and direction for both our staff and students is a pleasure to watch. I fully realize that not every decision that we make is always popular. However, when those decisions affect so many and help shape a positive, forward-thinking direction for Creekview High School, there is no better group. They truly are one of the key ingredients to our success.

Some of the faces behind the Grizzly scenes include our Student Services, media center staff, medical/training staff, school police and administrative assistants. Each group is a big part of the heartbeat of the Grizzlies. If your child needs some form of information or support, the counselors and staff that we have in place at Creekview are second to none. The friendly smiles often mask the sheer knowledge, know-how and drive to push our students to their peak levels. They have the answers and direction that is so often needed by our teenagers when it comes to where they are now and where they are moving to in the future. The training and medical staff along with our media center folks are beyond amazing. If your child is in need of help with an injury, a safety concern, or project that needs attention, these folks are the first on the scene. We are fortunate to have major players in all these areas.

Our administrative assistants are our frontline of knowledge and spirit when it comes to the daily operation of CHS. Whenever a phone rings, an e-mail is sent, a parent/visitor is in the building or a package is delivered, they give the much-needed direction to the person that has the question. In addition, they keep our staff updated and our administrative team on track with all the material and information that flies into and through the building on a daily basis.

Our cafeteria staff continues to work hard to provide our children with healthy options in the morning and at lunch while our custodians take on the never-ending task of keeping our building clean and manageable even though there are countless events, crowds and demands on our four walls.

Regardless of what everyone does to make the Grizzlies function, I am thankful and appreciate of a building full of people that have a couple of common goals in mind. They all want a great learning environment that is safe for everyone and pushes our kids to reach and strive for the next rung on the ladder of learning and maturing; Simply put, to become a Great Grizzly!



While I am thinking about the success of Creekview, there have been several items that have been nice presents under the Creekview tree this holiday season. Creekview was recently tabbed as one of only 112 schools statewide (elementary, middle and high schools) to be recognized by Governor Nathan Deal as a school with the "Greatest Gains" rating for a three-year average of academic progress and success in the College and Career Ready Performance (CCRPI) - a ranking of at least the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile. This is an awesome honor for our students and faculty and is a true testament to their hard work, dedication and effort in many areas!

If you happened to be around the building just a few days ago, you might have noticed all the cars after hours. Our amazing science, math, engineering, law and justice and technology departments as well as our rocketry team put on a STEM night at the school for our elementary feeder schools. The night centered around the fascinating world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) - to inspire young minds to take part in these areas - both in and out of school. It was a terrific, hands-on experience for everyone involved.

In the world of athletics, our teams continue to play and compete at the highest levels. While our winter teams are in full swing, I want to take a moment to recognize four of our football players that signed Division I football scholarships on December 19. Andy Davis (The Citadel), Paxton Nayman (Army West Point), Cade Radam (Kennesaw State) and Nick Pendley (Mississippi State) will all continue their careers on the collegiate stage next fall. Congratulations to this group of fine young men that will represent the Grizzlies on Saturdays next fall.

Finally, it was a Creekview kind of night at last week's Cherokee County school board meeting. The Grizzlies were recognized for their region championships and/or state placing in the areas of JROTC Raiders, cross country, football and competition cheerleading...The CCSD auditorium was full of Grizzlies, parents, fans and supporters. It was a great night for each of our athletes that were in attendance and we certainly put our best paw forward!

With all of this said, Creekview High School and the Grizzly Nation has an awful lot to be proud of and thankful for in 2018-2019. Our entire Creekview High School family wishes each of you a great holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year! Go Grizzlies!!!

Kindest Regards,  
Dr. Mark Merges

