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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Carlee Simon, Ph.D.

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Dear Alachua County Family:

As you look ahead to the day your child enters kindergarten, you're probably wondering how it got here so fast. Believe me, as the mother of three boys, I know the feeling!

When each of my children started school, I experienced a range of emotions. I felt a little sad that my 'babies' were growing up, nervous about letting go, and excited about the new experiences that were in store for them.

Through my experiences with my own children, I realized that if I approached a new chapter in their lives with a positive attitude, they were also more likely to have a positive attitude.

That's not surprising, because after all, a parent/guardian is a child's first and best teacher. You have the strongest influence on your child's success in and out of school.

I encourage you to make the most of that influence by being actively involved with your child's education. Talk to them every day about what's happening in school, and keep the lines of communication open with your child's teachers.

Even outside of school, look for ways to 'feed' your child's brain. Even the most basic activities, like working around your home, playing games, or being outside can be learning opportunities.

Of course, one of the best things you can do is read with your child every day. Yes, it will help with school, but more importantly, it's a great way to bond with your child. Some of the fondest memories I have are of my children curled up on the couch with my late husband as he read them a book, complete with different voices for the characters! I guarantee those are moments that you and your children will treasure for a very long time.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school and teachers for more information about how you can get involved. In the meantime, all of us with Alachua County Public Schools look forward to seeing your child in the fall!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlee Simon, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlee Simon, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Alachua County Public Schools