



302 Dare Road
Yorktown, Virginia 23692
(757) 898-0300
Fax (757) 890-0771/2352

yorkcountyschools.org

January 20, 2012

Dear York County Parents:

At the School Board's January 18 work session, staff presented information about division personnel and programs that would be severely affected by impending budget cuts. New proposals presented on January 18 are **in addition to \$4.3 million** in cuts that I presented previously to the Board as part of efforts to close a \$9 million budget gap.

I presented reductions that I anticipate bringing to the Board for consideration if we do not receive an additional \$4.5 million from the county or if the Governor's budget proposals are not revised by the General Assembly. We do not support making these cuts, but they may be needed without the additional resources or changes by the General Assembly. Possible cuts presented include:

- Cuts to school-based staff, including 28 elementary classroom teachers and 26 para-educators;
- Cuts to the budget of the Waller Mill Elementary Fine Arts Magnet, including the reduction of a position from full-time to half-time;
- Cuts to the budget of the Yorktown Elementary Math, Science & Technology Magnet, including the reduction of one teaching position;
- Elimination of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme at Yorktown Middle School;
- Elimination of the Middle School Arts Magnet Program at Queens Lake Middle School;
- Cuts to the budget of the School of the Arts, including the reduction of a half-time position;
- Cuts to the budget of the York River Academy, including the elimination of 1.5 positions; and,
- Athletic fees of \$100 per sport for both middle and high schools or the elimination of middle school sports.

The above proposals would generate approximately \$1.3 million of the \$4.5 million deficit that will result if the York County Board of Supervisors does not include additional school funding in their operating budget or the General Assembly does not revise the Governor's budget proposal. Additional proposals, including possible cuts in operations, School Board Office, administration and secondary teachers, will be presented at work sessions scheduled for Jan. 23 (4:30 p.m. at York Hall) and Jan. 31 (6 p.m. at York Hall). Both meetings will be televised on YCSD TV-47. We also will host parent information sessions at Tabb High on Feb. 1 and Bruton High on Feb. 6. Both sessions will begin at 6 p.m.

As we work to identify cuts to close a \$9 million budget gap, I would like to ask all York County parents and community members to stay informed regarding the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Board of Supervisors and to participate in the process as you see fit. Information will be regularly posted on the division website, yorkcountyschools.org in the FY13 Operating Budget section listed under "Top News".

Cuts of this magnitude will have a significant effect on the public education provided to York County's children and will be felt for many years to come. Thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts to maintain excellence in YCSD.

Sincerely,

Eric Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent