

Dear Parents and Sardis Community Members,

On Monday, March 31, 2008 at 5:00 pm, Ms. Saxon and I will present the intent to convert Sardis Elementary School to Sardis Schoolwide Enrichment Academy beginning August, 2009. This is in the research stage only. The Sardis Leadership Team and the Sardis SEM (Schoolwide Enrichment Team) Charter Committee, which includes representatives from all stakeholders, have met and are fully aware of and supportive of this intent. Informational community, staff and parent meetings are forthcoming. If the charter is approved, the present community will continue to be served. The intention is to move forward as long as there is support of the parents, staff and community.

If the Sardis stakeholders approve of the conversion after research has been completed, the Charter Petition will be sent back to the Hall County Board of Education for approval. Once it has been approved, it will be sent to the State Board of Education by November 1, 2008. A short summary follows:

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) (Renzulli, 1977; Renzulli & Reis, 1985, 1997) is a widely implemented enrichment program using talent development experiences. The SEM provides enriched learning experiences and higher learning standards for all children through three goals: developing talents in all children, providing a broad range of advanced-level enrichment experiences for all students, and follow-up advanced learning for children based on interests. It is based on Renzulli's Enrichment Triad Model which includes three sequential steps or types. Type I enrichment is designed to expose students to general exploratory activities that are authentic and project-based. The purpose of Type II enrichment is to promote and teach thinking and processing skills through small group instruction. Type III enrichment allows students to pursue a self-directed problem. Students become producers of knowledge not just consumers.

Thank you for your continued support!

Jan Hughes, Principal