



# *Choctawhatchee High School*

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To the Big Green Nation,

As you have probably heard, beginning next week, there will be a new Big Green Chief leading Choctawhatchee High School as principal. My decision to pursue the position of Assistant Superintendent wasn't an easy one but as many of you know, I have always ascribed to the thought that one should make every effort to make as big a difference as he or she can. When the job posted, I truly felt led to pursue. Those of you that know me best, know what I mean. Sometimes, the things you need to do are hard. I will miss the top notch faculty and staff. I will miss the "beehive" of the hallways. Mostly, I will miss the interaction with the students and being able to wander into the hallway and know I can find someone and something great and interesting to talk about and learn. They are truly the reason Choctaw is so great. Yes, I will miss the day to day but at the same time, I look forward to the exciting challenge ahead.

With that said, this is a very exciting time in the life of our school! I am eager to see what is in store for this unique place that is rife with tradition, love, learning, and of course, Big Green Spirit! Whoever is blessed to be selected to take command of this distinctive school will find a place with high expectations for every facet of "Tribe Life." This has long been the case for everyone entering our hallowed halls: students, parents, teachers, staff members, coaches, alumni, guests, and yes, principals. For over 67 years, Choctawhatchee has held a standard of excellence and expectation like no other. And I have been blessed to be a part of it. I can't wait to share with the new principal how truly special my time here has been. I can't wait to share about the "Relentless Pursuit of Better" that permeates every activity, every lesson, every process, indeed, every PERSON associated with Choctawhatchee High School. There is great comfort in that accountability because of the people that continue to believe strongly in Choctawhatchee High School and that make up the many layers of support.

Choctaw Nation can count on the Okaloosa County School District to find just the right person for the job. And the new principal can count on Choctaw Nation to continue to reach out and provide the support that has become so critical and of which I have relied on so heavily.

So Choctaw Family, let's all get excited to welcome the next principal, who will be named at the School Board Meeting of April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. I would like to see a sea of green there demonstrating the support we all pledge and leaving no doubt just how valued the next Chief will be.

As my time as principal nears its end, I would like to offer my gratitude.

Thank you to our local business partners. Without your involvement, we couldn't do the things we do. Your partnership is valued greatly. It is wonderful to know that an entire community can get behind a great school!

Thank you to the parents for being supportive not only of me and my goals for the school, but also of the staff, and of your students. Schools cannot function without the positive involvement of parents. Thank you for buying in and taking ownership. You have been, and will continue to be, true partners. I am counting on you to make the new principal feel welcomed and supported.

Thank you to the alumni for being involved, excited, and omnipresent. As the only alumnus principal, I have felt the love from you all and I must say, it propped me up. Please keep it up for the next principal!

Thank you to the teachers and staff for being such professionals. The families of our community often don't even realize the amazing things you do, whether it be in the classroom or behind the scenes, all for their students and their futures. My hat is off to you. You make it happen.

And thank you to many classes of Choctawhatchee students that I have had the pleasure of teaching, coaching, and "principalling." You have taught me. You have challenged me. You have inspired me. Thank you for making a difference in my life.

Again, thank you to all of the Choctawhatchee Family for everything you have done for me and made me into. I am honored to have been here for so long and I am honored to assist the new principal in any way I can. But until that time comes in a few short days, I am still here...just as "Big Green" as ever.

Once an Indian, Always an Indian.

See you in the stands,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doc Hale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Doc Hale