

Greetings and welcome to the school website for Northwood Elementary School! This new school year, 2015-2016, begins with a continued focus on excellence and an educational program promoting student achievement. I am honored and humbled to begin my third year as the principal of Northwood. Every new school year gives us all a chance at a new beginning, to start fresh, full of hope and dreams. We all can continue the successful habits and routines, and can change those that hindered our success.

As always, I am looking forward to leading Northwood, continuing the success. Whether your child is continuing at Northwood or just starting out, I welcome him/her to a year of challenges, adventures, experiences, and learning. This year I plan to work with the Northwood staff and support them as they plan rigorous reading and math programs to ensure your child receives the highest quality education.

We value your opinions and suggestions to make Northwood a better school. I welcome you to come to the school and meet with me. I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions. In addition, we have vibrant, Power Parents that are eager to bring great opportunities for our children. I encourage you to join.

We are also beginning a Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students). The goals of a WATCH D.O.G.S program are 1) To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important. 2) To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying. Contact Erin Adams AdamsE@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us to become a member of WATCH D.O.G.S.

You may have noticed we have moved some of the playground equipment. We did this because our enrollment increased by nearly 200 students last year and we needed a larger place for p.e. classes.

Each month look for a red Cougar Chatter newsletter. We hope to provide you with current and upcoming information. Each week your child's teacher will send home a weekly newsletter.

Together I know we can make this a great year. We have a terrific teaching staff at Northwood, but they need your support too. Please continue to read all of the communications sent home by the office and your child's teacher. Also, do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns or if you'd like to volunteer your time.

Dr. Donna

P.S.

Here is a little information all about me.

I am from Alabama but please don't say, "Roll Tide" around me. I'd much rather hear the most important chant of "**War Eagle!**" This year will begin my 28th year in education. Before Northwood, I served as an elementary principal of Owens Cross Roads for 14 years. During that time the school was named a National Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School. I have worked at elementary, middle and a K-12 school. I have served as a mentor principal for several years. Before becoming an administrator I spent most of my teaching career in fourth and fifth grades but I did work as a kindergarten teacher for one year.

I graduated from Jacksonville State University with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education and early childhood certification. Later, I earned a Masters in elementary education and certification in administration. My doctorate was achieved at Nova Southeastern University in School Administration.



I have one beautiful, inquisitive, and out spoken thirteen year old daughter, Nancijane. She is named after my mom, Nancy Jane. Together Nancijane and I are the human to the queen of our home, a white German Shepard, named Sugar. Please don't tell her she is a dog because she doesn't know.

Nancijane, Sugar and I are enjoying living in the Sunshine State!