

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned science educators in Ouachita Parish have seen a positive impact on our students as a result of the Ouachita Parish School Board's Science Curriculum Policy adopted November 29, 2006. Our students have a variety of cultural backgrounds and as a result have many questions when it comes to subjects such as cloning, human-caused global warming, and biological evolution. Our science policy gives us the opportunity to discuss those views, held by our students, in light of scientific fact and to bring up scientific questions that challenge current scientific "theories". When the curriculum addresses one of these topics the students invariably get more involved in the lesson which leads to better discussion and in turn to a higher level of achievement as students are relating the material to themselves personally. Our students become more intrinsically motivated, which is the goal of popular differentiated instruction. If science teachers are not allowed to answer the students' questions then we will stifle their curiosity and negate the very nature of inquiry science, which is to question a problem and then set out to find the answers. We are able to scientifically answer questions and show how widely held "theories" have discrepancies in them. We are able to do this without any tension or fear thanks to our parish science policy.

Respectfully, *W. Robert Webber, Supt.*

Ouachita Parish Science Educators

- Larry Perry* DANNY PENNINGTON ASST PRINCIPAL GOOD HOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Brenda Grover* Brenda Grover Teacher Richwood High School
- Beverly White* Beverly White Science Teacher R H S
- Debbie Lee* Debbie Lee Biology I, II teacher OPHS
- A. Ryan Jordan* A. Ryan Jordan Biology I teacher OPHS
- E. Ataway* E. Ataway Biology II
- K. Womble* K. Womble Biology I + II teacher OPHS
- M. Hopkins* M. Hopkins Science Teacher at OPHS
- D. Lindow* D. Lindow Science Teacher OJHS
- A. Green* A. Green Science Teacher OJHS
- J. White* J. White Science Teacher OJHS
- Danna Temple* Danna Temple Science Teacher 6/4ms
- Michelle Gill* Michelle Gill Science Teacher 6/4ms
- Sarah Jill Maxwell* Sarah Jill Maxwell 6, 7, 8 Grade Science } Good Hope Middle School
- Billy Biggs* Billy Biggs 8th Sam Row }

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QUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD'S SCIENCE CURRICULUM POLICY

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|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Todd A. Holt | Todd A. Coble | Teacher | Quachita Parish High School |
| Randy Cottrill | Randy Cottrill | science Dept. Head | Quachita Parish High School |
| Tammy Hodges | Tammy Hodges | Teacher | Riser Middle |
| Doug Cole | Greg Cole | science Dept. | Riser Middle |
| D. Davis | DJ DAVIS | Science Dept. | Riser Middle |
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