

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You may have heard rumblings from your children about how school is getting harder and they're right. School is changing, and it's changing for all the right reasons. We want to make sure your children are prepared for the world that awaits them.

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that today's students will have 10 to 14 jobs by the age of 38. Thirty or 40 years ago, we knew the kinds of jobs our students would have. Now, 80 percent of the jobs today's students will have don't even exist yet. That's why it's important to learn the same skills that children across the world are learning.

Employers, like Verizon, Intel and Cisco, tell us they want workers who are able to think strategically, use technology wisely, work collaboratively and communicate effectively. Employees are expected to have these skills their first day on the job. In today's weak economy, the resumes of those who don't speak the language of the 21st century are quickly passed over.

We have spent the last few years working to improve our education system in West Virginia. We call 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning -- **Global21: Students deserve it. The world demands it.**

Traditional subjects, including math, science, English, social studies and foreign languages, remain at the core of our program. However, a focus on these subjects alone is no longer sufficient in today's global economy if we want our children to succeed in school, work and life. We must make school more relevant and appropriate for today's young people.

Incorporating Project Based Learning, which shifts away from the traditional teacher-centered lessons to learning activities that are student-centered, will help fine-tune performance skills, including communication and technology literacy.

You will be an important part as we explore new ways to challenge your children's thinking. Global21 can help children develop valuable skills. If you have any questions concerning Global21, I encourage you to contact your local school.

Boone County Schools