Dear Superintendents, Principals and Teachers,

Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” By working together, I believe education is the vehicle we can use to change the world by beginning here in West Virginia. Education is the foundation of opportunity for West Virginia’s children and America’s children.

To make changes, we need your help. Experience tells us that education works best when parents and teachers, schools and communities work together. Improving public education is all of our responsibility. The potential for great schools lives in each community. But we must have a concerted and unified effort to address problems. Schools cannot do it alone.

We already know that when parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children stay in school longer and the schools they go to improve, too.

In an effort to help parents help their children and to give students a way to take responsibility for their own learning, the West Virginia Department of Education has launched Learn21. This online learning website offers students and parents educational resources that can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The site includes hundreds of grade specific offerings for preschool through 12th grade in social studies, science and math. New resources are added monthly with the help of educators from across the state. The site is to be expanded further to include language arts and reading tools, fine arts, health, and career and technical education.

Learn21 provides parents and educators with research-backed resources that meet West Virginia’s more rigorous standards and objectives to aid them and their children in mastering core content as outlined in our 21st century learning improvement plan called, “Global21: Students deserve it. The world demands it.” This online resource can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at school, after school, at home, on snow days; it’s learning anytime, anywhere.

Learn21 allows us to extend learning beyond the school day in a fun yet informative manner by allowing students to learn while they play. I hope you will embrace this resource and encourage its use in your counties, schools and classrooms.

Sincerely,

Jorea M. Marple, Ed.D.

State Superintendent of Schools