

Willie Jones

Your new game plan? *Enjoying Retirement*

Our new game plan? *Missing you every day*

DeSoto Parish School System

Born in 1955 to the late Abe and Helen Jones on T. Huel Jones Farm, Willie Jones was baptized at the age of 5 years at True Vine Baptist Church by the late Versie Clark. He attended Johnson Elementary School and graduated in 1973 from DeSoto High School where Lloyd D. Jackson was principal.

Willie developed a strong work ethic at an early age when he began working on the farm and with dairy cows at age 6 for fifty cent a week. Summers and Falls were spent picking peas, tomatoes, peaches and cucumbers on the Jones Farms and picking cotton on the Kyle Porter farm.

Jones obtained his undergraduate degree from Grambling State University in May 1977 and continued his education by attending Grambling State University, Centenary College, LSU and Northwestern State University to complete his Masters of Education - plus 30.

His teaching career began in 1978 as a Title I Reading Teacher and was mentored by Lloyd Jackson and Steward Collins. After four years in the classroom, Jones was appointed Assistant Principal at Logansport Rosenwald Elementary School. Throughout the years following, he became assistant principal at Johnson Elementary and later returned to Logansport Rosenwald Elementary as principal, eventually becoming the first principal of the newly-built Logansport High School.

Under the leadership of Supt. Chal Rascoe, Jones was promoted to Director / Supervisor of Federal Programs & Transportation. These duties were supposed to include Federal Programs, but he was asked to oversee the Transportation Department for only one year.

With the return of Walter Lee, this position was renamed and the rest is history. For more than twenty years these duties included all Federal Programs, the department of transportation and a parish hearing officer. Of all these jobs, the department of transportation was

Jones' passion and where most of his time was spent.

Following one year's strong wind storm which disrupted communication with drivers, a plan was set in motion to take the transportation department to another level with the objective of getting all students to and from school safely and ready to learn. All major projects were financed by the school board and the DeSoto Parish Transportation Dept. became one of the best in the state.

Jones served on the Louisiana Department of Education committee which helped write and develop the Louisiana School Bus Drivers Training Course which is now a course required by the State of Louisiana to become a school bus driver. All buses in DeSoto Parish are now equipped with two way radios, video cameras and air conditioners, along with a tracking system to monitor speed. In 2012, Dr. Cade Brumley was appointed Supt. and re-assigned Jones as the Director of Operations which includes Food Services, Technology and



Transportation.

Jones' favorite scripture is Proverbs 3: 5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." On most Sundays, Jones can be found at True Vine Baptist Church teaching an adult class and singing in the choir. He's also serves as President and Chairman of the Deacon Board.

Jones is married to Beverly Brumfield Jones who teaches at Logansport High School, and has four daughters, Gabrevann, MaRace, Willnetta and Tinikki, and his pet dog, "Bentley."

After 37 years with the DeSoto Parish School System, Jones says he looks forward to watching the big yellow buses pass by, and hopes to do a bit of yard work along with some fishing, hunting and traveling. ☞

Jones humbly says... *"To God, I give all the Glory."*