**Dunklin R-5 School District Officially Hires Dr. Clint Freeman**

**as the Next Superintendent**

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Clint Freeman was offered a contract last week lead the Blackcats starting July 1, 2020. During the August meeting of the Dunklin R-5 School Board, Dr. Freeman received unanimous approval to be promoted and recently he accepted the position for $150,000 annually.

Board President Dawn Warner says, “We were looking for someone to build upon the momentum we have gained over the last couple of years and take us to the next level. Dr. Freeman is the right person for the job and we are excited about our future.”

Dr. Freeman was hired as the deputy superintendent at the start of the 2019-2020 school year after Superintendent Stan Stratton announced his retirement. Freeman is currently in charge of curriculum instruction and assessment, maintenance and facilities, and the construction projects. Previously, he was the assistant superintendent of school operations at the De Soto School District and a middle school principal at the Northwest School District. His wife, Cathy Freeman, is the principal of Hillsboro High School.

Dr. Freeman says Dunklin has a rich history, and it will be a privilege to help write the next chapter. He says, “There is a positive energy in our schools, we have an awesome staff, and students that make our whole community proud.” I will challenge staff members to be their very best and encourage parents to help our students reach their full potential. Strong schools make for strong communities. Our future neighbors are sitting in class right now, practicing after school and looking to us for guidance. I may be the educational leader, but we are all teachers.

Stan Stratton is serving his 13th year as superintendent of the Dunklin R-5 School District and this 19th year as an employee. The Dunklin R-5 School District has 1,500 students in k-12 and Taylor Early Childhood Center. The other attendance centers are Pevely Elementary School, Senn-Thomas Middle School and Herculaneum High School.