

Whereas, approximately two years ago, R. Frank Nims Middle School was rated the only failing school in Leon County and had failed to meet federal benchmarks five years running;

Whereas, in March 2007, City Commissioner Andrew D. Gillum, KC McWilliams of Comcast Cable Communications, Donald DeLoach of the City of Tallahassee Information Systems Services, and Leon County School Superintendent Jackie Pons met to discuss how broadband High-Speed Internet access could be provided to students in Leon County in the form of a collaborative partnership pilot program;

Whereas, it was determined that Nims Middle School would be ideal to launch an initiative given the unique challenges the school faced at that time as an “F” ranked school, failing FCAT scores, under enrollment, waning community support, dwindling financial resources and the threat of doors closing;

Whereas, the initial 3-year pilot program proposed to provide every incoming sixth grader at Nims a new three-year warranty desktop computer, Comcast also offered free High-Speed Internet access for up to 3 years for each student’s participation in the pilot program;

Whereas, through partnerships with Comcast, Taltech Alliance, Go Beyond Foundation, FAMU, FSU, the Chamber of Commerce, Dell Computers, the Department of Revenue and other community supporters and volunteers, the Digital Harmony Project was formed;

Whereas, Comcast generously agreed to provide free installation and High-Speed Internet to the parent/guardian, regardless of past history;

Whereas, Comcast offered this “fresh new start” so that each 6th grader could take advantage of the Digital Harmony Project and during the two years of implementation Comcast provided 142 families with free High-Speed Internet access;

Whereas, Comcast’s current over-all financial investment with the program is over \$150,000;

Whereas, it was learned that due to other local school closings or capped enrollment as well as the improved culture of Nims Middle School, Nims could expect twice as many incoming students as in the previous past two years, nevertheless Comcast reaffirmed their commitment for the 3rd year of the pilot program;

Whereas, KC McWilliams and Comcast representatives Stefanie Bowden and Briana House served diligently with Digital Harmony Team meetings, Nims Parent Open House meetings and computer roll-out events to insure enrollment of families for free Comcast Internet services;

Now, therefore, I, Mayor John Marks, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tallahassee, do hereby acknowledge

**KC McWilliams
Vice President & General Manager**

And Comcast for providing free access to technology in the homes of R. Frank Nims Middle School students. Comcast’s willingness to expand High-Speed Internet access to this underserved population of our community was a major element in Nims advancing from an “F” to a “C” level, with the ultimate goal for Nims to be state ranked as an “A” school.