

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

Galewood Early Elementary School Opening in August 2018



In February, the Board of Education approved reconfiguring Galewood School. Galewood Early Elementary School is set to open at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. As a result, the existing programs presently operating there, Relevant Academy and some ERESA programs, will no longer be in the building at the end of their lease agreement with Charlotte Public Schools on June 30, 2018. The entire building will house Charlotte Public Schools' students when school begins on August 20, 2018. The Early Elementary School will focus on Developmental Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Early Special Education students with the potential to also host the Great Start Readiness Program.

Transition efforts are already underway with our teachers and administrators. We have developed a calendar of events from now until a ribbon cutting open house, and have been planning for the first day of school and beyond. Embedded in the calendar over the next several months are meetings with staff to cover details that need to be addressed to make the opening of the school the very best it can be for the students and families. Staff have already indicated they are mindful of the environment, culture, social, emotional and developmental aspects for this age level of students and plan to develop a new building vision and mission to that end.

A job posting for a new principal for the school has been released and is already generating interest with candidates submitting applications. Screening and hiring a new building principal/leader will be critically important. We would like the individual hired as soon as

possible so they can be actively involved collaborating with staff and participating in the many aspects involved in the planning process.

Building and grounds changes are already underway at Galewood to have the facility fully operational for our youngest students when school starts. We are investing in new playground equipment, security features, parking lot and traffic flow improvements for school buses and parent pick up and drop off traffic, classroom improvements and technology enhancements, to name a few. The intent is to have everything finished by early August so teachers can move into their classrooms and feel settled and comfortable when school starts.

Enrollment efforts have started for next year's Developmental Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. Parkview is hosting enrollment nights on March 19 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM and on April 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Washington is hosting enrollment nights on March 21 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM and on April 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Parents can also visit www.charlottenet.org or call 517-541-5742 for enrollment information. The District Registrar's office is located at the Charlotte Aquatic Center. Required paperwork can be completed and returned now to the Registrar. I strongly encourage new parents to start and complete the enrollment process early as it will help to reduce stress and anxiety as the school year draws closer. It will also allow families to take full advantage of upcoming events, now and throughout the summer.

We all are looking forward to this new and exciting opportunity to reconfigure Galewood for our youngest students! Galewood has a long standing history filled with tradition in our community and school district. Opening Galewood as an Early Elementary School, is perfectly fitting as it approaches its 70th year in Charlotte.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!