

## **In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent**

*This week's Oriole Corner has been written by guest columnist  
Mr. Steve Chartier, Galewood Early Elementary Principal*

### GALEWOOD PRIDE

Galewood Early Elementary staff members work collaboratively in the best interest of children to ensure a safe and orderly educational environment. A significant part of a student's academic success correlates directly to the behavior that they exhibit. Part of achieving an educational environment that is conducive to student learning consists of recognizing and identifying appropriate behavior and proactively building healthy relationships and a sense of community with and among our students. This includes working with individual students when needed, to take full responsibility for their behavior.

To strengthen this environment, we implement the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) “program,” which has been a main stay within Charlotte Public Schools for the past several years. Research-based, PBIS is designed to teach respect, responsibility and safety at school all the while building a stronger foundation and culture of caring. Through direct modeling and positive reinforcement of expected behaviors, Galewood students continue to excel in a stimulating environment where everyone is **safe**, **respectful** and **responsible**. Further, they are also members of learning communities that are less reactive, aversive, and exclusionary, and more engaging, responsive and productive.

Prior to the beginning of the school year, staff members worked diligently to identify and highlight core behavioral expectations from the classrooms and hallways to the bathrooms and play areas. These behaviors were memorialized via our “Behavior Expectations Matrix,” which is proudly displayed within all of our classrooms and throughout the building. Staff members put forth great effort to review the behavior expectations with our students, to discuss their importance, and to provide regular and frequent opportunities for practice. Should difficulties arise, they are quick to reference the Matrix and discuss other possible, proactive solutions.

We are excited to have launched the PBIS program at Galewood Early Elementary. Our goal is for all students to know how a Galewood student shows pride. Our conscious implementation of this initiative helps make that a reality.