

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

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

### **Charlotte Public Schools – Galewood School**

Charlotte Public Schools owns and operates Galewood School on Lovett Street. For over fifty years the school was an elementary school serving students and families in the downtown area of Charlotte. It closed in June of 2010 as the district experienced declining enrollment numbers at the elementary level. The public may not know that even though the District closed Galewood as an elementary school, there still are many educational programs offered at the building.

First, Relevant Academy leases the upper section of the building. It operates as a charter school option for secondary level students. Relevant Academy has been in the building for almost four years now. They are separate from our district but still serve students from Charlotte and adjoining communities that are better served in a non-traditional school setting. Relevant Academy has a board, administration, teachers and an on-line curriculum format for their students. The academy receives its charter through Eaton Regional Educational Service Agency (ERESA).

Second, the ERESA also leases classrooms in the lower section of the building for their Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) and new this year, a young Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program that will focus on the needs of students with autism and moderate/severe disabilities. The Great Start Readiness Program serves 4 year old students and their families. The Great Start Readiness Program is the initial experience many students have with attending school. GSRP is a federally supported program that helps children start school off well by having a great learning foundation. The Early Childhood Special Education classroom is also in the lower section of the building and will service young students ages 2 ½ through 5 years of age with the supports they need to be successful in the early stages of their growth.

Charlotte Public Schools also operates an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program at Galewood school. Our ECSE program serves children with special needs ages 4 and sometimes even age 5 prior to them starting at an elementary school. The classroom is staffed by a CPS teacher and paraprofessional, depending on student numbers, as appropriate. The students that attend the ECSE program, experience attending school and learn how to function effectively in the classroom for their optimum growth and success prior to attending an elementary school in a few years.

Finally, our Special Education Services office is located in the main office of the building. Ms. Laura Lezotte, our Special Education Director, and Ms. Tina Schultz, the Administrative Assistant for Special Education Services, work closely with the families and students of the programs at the school. The Special Education Services office also serves all of the other CPS students and families in our district K-12.

I hope this information helps our community understand that even though the building closed as an elementary school a few years ago, it is still a valuable and viable contributing school in our community for our students and families.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!