

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Education has three prongs, academic knowledge, social knowledge, and emotional knowledge. Charlotte Upper Elementary has made strides to continue to strengthen our academic offerings through [What I Need](#) time and [Student Learning Objectives](#). However, if the other two prongs of education are ignored the best academic programs will always fall flat. That is why we are proud to announce a wide ranging array of social and emotional programs beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

You've probably already read about the changes to our [Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports](#) (PBIS) system. PBIS helps students understand the social norms of the Upper Elementary. When there are common norms for how to treat each other and what behaviors are acceptable, we create a culture where everyone understands how to be successful. This helps students feel more confident and safe at school.

Programs and systems are wonderful things, but they still rely on people to implement. We are proud to announce that we have added a Student Support Specialist position. This position will coordinate social and emotional programs and provide support to students. Aiding this position we will also be running a Playgroup intervention four times a week for some students during What I Need time. In addition to the Specialist and Playgroup the Upper Elementary will provide a Health class for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade. This class will use the Michigan Model for Health and cover such important topics as: Nutrition and Physical Activity, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs, Social/Emotional Health, Safety, and, in **6th Grade ONLY**, Reproductive Health. One final area we are proud to have a person help with is our transition from sixth grade to seventh grade grade class titled Student Support. The class will help provide students with the tools necessary to be successful in sixth grade, and beyond.

Finally, you schedule what is important, and social/emotional education is an important component to learning. The Upper Elementary will begin Oriole Time. This once a week dedicated time will use lessons from Second Step, a social/emotional curriculum. The lessons will be taught by our teachers and will focus on topics like empathy, listening with attention, managing anxiety, solving problems, dealing with gossip, dealing with peer pressure, growth mindset, bullying and harassment, staying calm, and resilience to name just a few of the 44 lessons and over 100 activities available among fourth-sixth grade curriculum.

While we are proud of the movement we have made for the coming school year, our services still have areas to expand and grow within our resources. Most of our services still focus on the delivering information to large groups which we know works for roughly 80% of our population. However, some students, roughly 20%, need more small group and individualized attention. Our work moving forward will be to build the programs and systems necessary to give these students the supports they need to be successful. Every student is capable of great things. Our goal is to provide the programs and supports to allow each student's greatness to come out and shine for all to see.

Sincerely



Mark McGarry
Principal

GO ORIOLES: ORIOLE PRIDE!