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Dear Galewood Families,

I want to officially welcome all of you to the 2018-2019 school year! The faculty and staff of Galewood Early Elementary are busy preparing the school and classrooms for an exciting year of learning and growth. We are looking forward to hearing about your summer adventures, getting caught up with returning families, and meeting our newest Orioles. Everything is progressing smoothly in anticipation of our Ribbon Cutting and Open House on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as a fantastic school opening on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional information will be sent to you as we move closer to those events.

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I join both the teaching and administrative teams at Galewood, and within Charlotte Public Schools. I have had the extreme pleasure of getting to know many individuals within the building and throughout the community over the course of the past few weeks and I must say, I am impressed! The vibrancy, dedication and steadfast commitment to high quality instruction has been apparent from the onset confirming that CPS is truly dedicated to children and their learning.

The early childhood years are critical times of development for students and families, and I look forward to working with each of you in order to ensure our students aspire to greatness. I am a lifelong educator and am fully committed to students, families, as well as the love of learning. As such, I wanted to take a few moments to share with you a few building-wide and personal priorities that will serve as backbones to the work being conducted within the building this next school year:

- **Top Notch Teaching/Ancillary Staff**: As lifelong learners, it is essential that educators continue to grow personally and professionally so that their students will thrive and prosper. You have my commitment that I will provide the Galewood staff with all that they need in order to be an expert at their craft. Whether a classroom resource, additional training, coaching/modeling of evidence-based instruction, or just being their biggest cheer leader, I will work tirelessly to ensure their utmost success.
- **Sound Curriculum**: Charlotte Public Schools has a long standing of academic rigor and excellence achieved via a sound curriculum driven by the Common Core State Standards. Through continuous review and development of the curriculum, our students have achieved higher degrees of engagement and achievement, as well as the academic rigor needed to be college bound, all the while ensuring that they find joy and love within their learning. I look forward to further enriching our curriculum in order to not only meet the unique needs of our students, but to inspire them as well.

- **Intervention Supports**: Providing streamlined supports to students based upon their unique needs, talents and entry points to the curriculum are essential as we provide high quality instruction. Traditionally, such supports are provided to the lowest performing students. My vision, however, is to expand that concept to all students in order to ensure that all, the lowest performing as well as the highest, are at their optimum. Through our continued work in conferring with students, establishing personalized learning goals, and tailoring instructional resources and activities to their specific needs, our children will receive pinpoint instruction at levels most suitable to them.

None of these priorities would be a true success without the support from me as an instructional partner. I am proud of my abilities as an educator and school leader with twenty-four years of combined experience. As we collectively move forward, the following leadership attributes will guide my work:

- **Leading via Example**: If I were asked about having a mantra, this would be the one! I live my life with conviction and take pride in leading by example. I will never ask you to do anything for our students, our families or other community members that I would not first do myself. Modeling high standards for all regarding character, performance and expectations, as well as transparency, are other personally intrinsic principles that I hold dear.
- **Knowledge and Understanding of the Unique Needs of Students, Teachers and Parents**: Living via the premise of seeking first to understand, I look forward to the many interactions yet to come, and developing positive relationships as a result. It has been said that relationships are key, and I could not agree more. If any success is to come, solid connections are a must. Using my knowledge of children and their learning, coupled with strong instructional knowledge and honed leadership skills, I look forward to providing guidance to all constituents within Galewood based upon their individual talents and needs.
- **Approachable**: Being approachable is yet another essential ingredient in any relationship. Having an open door policy, I take pride in being available to students, their families and staff. We have many challenges as we raise and educate young people. Your thoughts, opinions, comments and concerns matter to me—greatly! Stop by any time, catch me in the hallway, grab a swing next to me on the playground. Unless a dire emergency, you have my assurance that you will have my ear. Let's talk!

In closing, I wish to reaffirm my enthusiasm for joining the Charlotte Public Schools' team. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of you, and know that the year ahead is going to be beyond amazing. But don't take it from me. Drop by, visit our learning community and see for yourselves Galewood at its finest!

Warmly,

Steve Chartier  
Galewood Early Elementary Principal