

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

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

### **Welcome Back!**

School started on Monday, August 20, 2018 for all CPS students, families and staff. We started the school year with new teachers and other staff members in all areas within our school district. In the coming weeks you will see introductions of our new staff members. They are eager to be part of our culture and work for the benefit and growth of our students.

Monday also marked the re-opening of Galewood Early Elementary School. The re-opening did not come without some bumps, bruises and lessons learned by us. We have heard the feedback from parents about not being able to see their children all the way to the classroom on the first day of school. The principal and staff did their very best with the plans they put in place but clearly, it created some hard feelings and was emotional for all involved. We are all making adjustments for the coming days. Next year the process and excitement of the first day of school will unfold much differently. We sincerely apologize for this year's opening day process as it was done with the best of intentions surrounding safety. In the end, we have learned a valuable lesson and that is what school is all about.

Traffic flow has also been a challenge these first few days, and honestly it always is at the start of a new school year. Everyone has a different set of circumstances and it creates some congestion at times. The 20-30 minutes at the start and the end of the school day at each building are always busy times. I ask all drivers to exercise patience, have safety in mind at all times and add a few extra minutes until a fluid flow is happening at all buildings. This includes bus transportation as student / family pick-ups and drop-offs are being added almost daily which has a ripple effect to routes and the timing of them. After a couple of weeks, a routine flow will begin to happen for everyone. Please be safe out there!

We are planning a back to school bash on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> in the High School parking lot where the band practices, at 5:30 PM. Many school organizations and community businesses will be involved in the bash. Please watch our website and other social media sites for more information. This bash is something new for us and is another opportunity to show Charlotte community engagement and Oriole Pride. Please circle the date on your calendar and plan to attend. If the weather does not allow for it to be held outside, we will shift into the High School lobby and dome.

Fall sports competitions are starting very soon. I strongly encourage families to purchase a family pass for the athletic events. It will save you a lot of money over the course of the school year. Purchase it early and put it to good use. Passes are available in the High School athletic office.

There will be a lot of bond proposal information in the coming weeks leading to the November 6<sup>th</sup> election. The CPS website is active with bond and school information. Please refer to it frequently as it is constantly changing and being updated.

Welcome back everyone! We look forward to a great 2018-19 school year.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!!