

1. My Schedule

We have completed another successful school year and everyone is looking forward to a little downtime. Of course, there is still much going on during the summer with professional development and preparations for the new school year, but my hope is that everyone will have an opportunity to have some time away from the work to relax and enjoy family and other areas of focus and importance in their life. We will utilize the 4-day work week schedule for June and July and will encourage employees to take advantage of their Fridays off. Self-care and balance are necessary in order to operate at the Premier level.

In recent weeks I spoke at the Project Search Graduation, attended the United Way CEO Breakfast, interviewed finalists for the position of Chief Technology Officer, met with the Midlands Superintendents group for the last time this school year, attended the Adult Education and Special Education graduation ceremonies, attended the ceremony where R2i2 students received the electric bus they won in a recent contest, and attended and spoke at the high school graduation ceremonies. I also made a trip to St. Helena Island with the Premier 100, and provided welcome remarks at the AVID Pathways training event. I also attended the College Board Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting in New York and the district end-of-year administrative inservice.

In coming weeks, I will attend SCASA's I3 Conference, participate as a panelist on a Webinar with the Hunt Institute on Race & Education and will attend the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council Anniversary Luncheon & Awards Program where I will receive the Hyman Rubin, Sr. Distinguished Service Award that I was awarded in 2020 but the ceremony was postponed due to COVID. I will also take some vacation with family. Tentatively I plan to take vacation June 27, 29 & 30 as well as the week of July 4 – 7. As always I am available via email and phone and Dr. Franklin is also available in my absence.

2. Communications & Strategic Partnerships Update

[Click here to read the update on the 22-23 General Fund Budget shared with employees and parents.](#)

3. Operations Update

- Safety/Security - At the June 14th Safety Committee meeting of the whole, staff will be prepared to discuss the results of the safety survey, feedback regarding the metal detector pilot, and cost for metal detectors and staffing with different recommendations for how to deploy them. Additionally, we will provide information on some other suggestions to modify the clear bag policy to include requiring clear book bags at our schools.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14, 2022 – R2i2

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:30 p.m. – Public Session

June 28, 2022 – R2i2

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:30 p.m. – Public Session

July 12, 2022 – R2i2

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:30 p.m. – Public Session

August 5, 2022 – R2i2

Board Summer Retreat

August 9, 2022 – R2i2

Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:30 p.m. – Public Session

August 27-28, 2022 – Greenville, SC

SCSBA School Law Conference

- Summer Meal Program Update - This summer Bridge Creek, Dent, Jackson Creek and Killian Elementary will be Summer Feeding sites for all students 18 and under Monday - Thursday for a free breakfast and lunch. Meals will also be provided to those students participating in SOAR and other programs this summer at our facilities.
- As a reminder, election primary day is on June 14. Many of our schools will be polling places on Election Day.

4. Academics Update

Elementary and Secondary Grading Expectations

During the winter of 2021, we began examining the K-12 grading practices across the district. The purpose of this examination was to analyze the current grading practices at the elementary and secondary levels to ensure that standardized grading practices and expectations were equitable for all students.

Diverse grading task forces were created at each level. We met over the course of two school years to discuss, analyze, and reflect on essential grading practices. Additionally, teachers, staff, students, administrators, and partners were given opportunities to provide input and feedback throughout the process.

This school year we reconvened the grading task forces and shared the grading recommendations with various partners (i.e., FAC, PAC, Cabinet, Principals). After sharing the recommendations and making the necessary changes, we are ready to implement the Richland School District Two grading expectations.

5. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Update

June is LGBTQ+ Awareness Month. Please see the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ page on the DEI webpage for a glossary, an explanation of the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity and for a brief history of the civil rights struggles of the LGBTQ+ community. Also referred to as Pride Month across the world, the recognition is a time for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their friends, families and allies to celebrate each person's freedom to be themselves. As an inclusive educational community, we acknowledge our Richland Two LGBTQ+ family members and support every student's opportunity to maximize their gifts and talents as they pursue their pathways to purpose.

Military Community Liaison

This is one of the busiest PCS (Permanent Change of Station) seasons and Mrs. Carter is busy answering questions and inquiries from our military families who are moving into our district. As a Purple Star District, the work goes beyond information directly related to our schools and programs. Mrs. Carter serves as a resource for information about the Richland Two community. This past weekend she received a call from a service member who needed to find a place to print his Leave and Earnings Statement so that he could secure housing. Mrs. Carter was able to walk him through a process to get access to the information he needed.

Here are some examples of questions she routinely fields for our military connected families:

- Recommendations for daycare centers and programs for 3 and 4 year old students
- Recommendations for pet groomers and veterinarians
- Recommendations for tutors for students
- How to find a good realtor
- Recommendations for churches and houses of worship
- Where to find camps and summer activities
- Where to get a COVID test or vaccine
- Recommendations for good family restaurants
- Where to find a good storage facility

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller
