



April 4, 2022

Marshall Primary School Families,

As we have navigated through the Covid-19 pandemic and educational protocols for health and safety, we have proven to ourselves one thing, we are resilient! Our teachers have continued to provide quality instruction with fidelity and have worked tirelessly to identify educational gaps in our students and provide research-based interventions. As a district, all educators are learning how to be effective Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Additionally, our school is implementing a new reading and writing curriculum, Into Reading, school-wide. These efforts and areas of progress at Marshall Primary School have positively impacted our school this school year.

This year we provided professional development for staff in the areas of reading, writing, and math from publisher curriculum specialists. Additionally, it is worthy to note that ALL of our classroom teachers are comprehensively trained in Orton-Gillingham, a multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics.

In looking at our diagnostic assessment data, our kindergarten through second grade students have shown academic improvement in reading and math. As a part of the PLC process, our certified teachers, school administrators, and instructional coaches meet weekly to identify essential standards, review assessment results, and create action plans for students not mastering skills. Our pre-kindergarten students have also shown academic growth, according to the state-mandated PALS assessment. The hard work by our teachers, staff, and students this year has proven effective and we are so proud!

In addition to our academic success, we continue to promote and support our students' social and emotional development. We have continued to focus on the acronym PRIDE this year - **P**erseverance, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**iscipline, and **E**mpathy, by emphasizing our school-wide behavior expectations around these 5 character traits. We also used these principles to choose our Hall of Fame students each month. This year our School Improvement Council (SIC) subcommittee continued to focus on increasing social and emotional development through several initiatives. Our new garden fosters student engagement and excitement. We are continuing to add areas to our playground that will encourage student play, peer interactions, and positive conflict management skills. Additionally, we are using a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum to help increase students' self-awareness, self-regulation, and self-esteem. Additionally, we intentionally focused on social and emotional learning once a month in our PLC meetings by providing teachers SEL activities and resources for their classrooms.

Parent involvement is an area we always seek to strengthen at Marshall Primary School. This year we have sent home free books and materials to promote learning at home. We also had a Literacy Fall Festival and are planning a Spring Block Party for our families and community. Each year our school hosts a Free Book Giveaway so that all students receive new books to read during the summer months. This year, we plan to also give all students a Free Math Fun Kit to play math games during the summer months.

We are excited about the 2022-2023 school year at Marshall Primary School. We will continue to strengthen our PLC meetings and implement common assessments based on essential standards. Additionally, we will continue to analyze the assessment data to strengthen our instructional practices. Finally, we will continue to build strong social and emotional skills within each of our learners on a daily basis.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to have high levels of learning for all students and prepare students so that they are college and career ready.

Sincerely,

Shelly Blalock, Principal & Allison Bryant, SIC Chair

