

April 30, 2021



Dear Marshall Primary School Parents,

What a wonderful time to be at Marshall Primary School! We have so many positive changes to be excited about and so many successes to celebrate. We would like to take this time to celebrate these areas of progress that our school and School Improvement Council have made in the goals and objectives of our School Renewal Plan.

This year has been a unique year as we navigate Covid-19 protocols and ensure the continued safety of our students and staff. We have been very fortunate this year to be able to provide face-to-face instruction since August 2020. Some safety measures we put in place this year included routine cleaning procedures, desk shields, and reduced class size when possible. This year we also offered virtual learning for families that wished to continue to socially distance.

This year we were able to continue providing professional development for staff in the areas of reading, writing, and math from state-level specialists in these fields. In addition, four teachers who were not previously trained in Orton-Gillingham, were able to participate in virtual training this Spring. With this training, we now have all classroom teachers trained in this multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics.

In looking at our assessment data, our kindergarten through second grade students have shown substantial academic improvement from fall to spring test administrations on our reading and math i-Ready assessments, as well as the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessments. This year we have continued our common weekly planning periods for certified teachers with school administrators and instructional coaches in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), to focus on curriculum updates and common assessments. Our pre-kindergarten students have also shown tremendous growth on both their DIAL-4 (Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning) screening and PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) assessment. The hard work displayed by our teachers, staff, and students this year has truly paid off, and we could not be more proud!

In addition to our academic success, we continue to promote and support our students' social and emotional development. We have focused on the acronym PRIDE this year - **P**erseverance, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**iscipline, and **E**mpathy, and developed our school-wide behavior expectations around these 5 areas. We also used these principles to choose our Hall of Fame students each month. This year our School Improvement Council (SIC) subcommittee focused on increasing social and emotional development through several new initiatives. We

were awarded a School Gardening Grant through The College of Charleston's Farm to School Initiative. We hope our new garden will foster student growth in the areas of social and emotional learning and life skills. We are in the process of adding new elements to our playground that will encourage student play, peer interactions, and positive conflict management skills. Our district also purchased a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum that we began using with 1st grade students in our After-School Tutoring Program to help increase students' self-awareness, self-regulation, and self-esteem. During the spring, we partnered with Family Connections to offer six parenting classes to help K4 and K5 parents increase their child's social and emotional development. Lastly, we intentionally focused on social and emotional learning once a month in our grade level PLC meetings, giving 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 had several take-home STEAM and Literacy projects that students and parents could participate in. We also held a drive-thru Marshallville Night that highlighted both STEAM and Literacy activities, and featured an outdoor Book Fair. To combat summer reading loss, we are excited to hold a Free Book Giveaway for our students prior to the end of the year so that every child has new books to take home and read with their family during the summer months.

We are excited about the 2021-2022 school year at Marshall Primary School. We will strengthen our PLC meetings to implement more common grade-level standards-based assessments and analyze the assessment data to strengthen our instructional practices. Additionally, 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