



Edwards Middle School

Building success beyond the classroom

July 14, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian of an R.C. Edwards Middle School student:

It is hard to believe that July is almost over and the 2017-2018 school year is just around the corner with the first day back for students on Thursday, August 17. RCE has been very busy this summer as the Custodial Team has been preparing the school for the return of students and teachers and our PE/Football Practice Field has been undergoing an upgrade to make it better for student use. For those of you coming to RCE for the first time, I am very excited about getting to know you and your student. For those returning to RCE we are looking forward to continuing to work together with you to prepare your student for the 21st Century workforce.

Fall athletic team practices will be starting soon at RCE. Due to SCHSL rules only 7th and 8th grade students can participate in sports at the middle school and high school levels. The first Football practice at RCE will be Monday, August 7, from 3:00-5:00PM. Volleyball tryouts will begin on August 7 3:30-5:30PM in the RCE Gym. There are also several Fall sports opportunities available at Daniel High School for RCE students. Any student interested in cross-country, girls golf, girls tennis, or swimming should contact DHS (397-2900) for more information. All students interested in participating in a Fall sport at any level must have a physical dated after April 1, 2017. For any questions regarding RCE sponsored Team Sports, please contact the Main Office at 397-4200.

Please remember that Registration for all 7th and 8th grade students will be held on Tuesday, August 8, from 1-6PM. Rookie Camp for all 6th graders will be held on Wednesday, August 9, from 8AM-1PM at RCE. Rising 6th grade parents are encouraged to stay for a presentation on basic information about RCE (pick-up, drop-off, etc.) that will begin at 9AM in the café to help make your transition to being on our campus as smooth as your student's. At Rookie Camp, 6th graders will follow an abbreviated schedule that includes lunch, have an opportunity to purchase a \$5 RCE t-shirt, and will be ready for pick-up by 1PM in the 6th Grade Car Line (front of school). Rookie Camp will serve as Registration for 6th grade students. Any student not able to attend 7th/8th grade Registration or Rookie Camp, Make-up Registration will be held on Monday, August 14, from 12:00PM-3:00PM.

We are very excited this year about our new updated online registration process that will help streamline registering for school this year. All parent/guardians are asked to complete online registration prior to our Registration dates to update your information in our database system. No more lines for updating information at Registration! You can access this portal online at <https://update.pickens.k12.sc.us> and using the information provided on your students Final Report Card (your student's school number) to log in. This information was also emailed out by SDPC on July 10, around Noon. The password for this process will be your student's date of birth in the following format: mm/dd/yyyy (example: 12/05/2011). If you have any questions about this process, please call the Main Office at (397-4200). You will be directed to speak to the School Nurse if you have any medical updates or information that needs to be shared with Nurse Merck.

Jeff Duncan, Principal

Another improvement this year is that you will have the opportunity to pay online with a credit card prior to Registration to help keep you from waiting in a cash only line at Registration. You can access this feature at the following web address: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home>. Please be advised there is a transaction fee for this convenience charged by the credit card processing company.

During 7th/8th grade Registration and Rookie Camp, please enter the school through the Main Office entrance and proceed through several stations that will be set up for you and your student to visit. Teachers will be on hand this year working in the Café or working in their rooms so that you can introduce yourself and see where your new classroom is located. All rising-7th Grade students are reminded that the Tdap vaccine is required for enrollment. Students who have not had the Tdap vaccine will not be allowed to register. For questions, regarding the Tdap vaccine, please call our School Nurse, Nurse Merck, at 397-4207.

On behalf of the Faculty and Staff of R.C. Edwards Middle School I would like to express to you our sincere excitement about the upcoming school year. We have high expectations for your student and are looking forward to the many successes that we will share throughout the upcoming school year. Similarly to the expectations that we share for your student, we also have high expectations for ourselves as we work to maximize the potential of each student on our campus in order to prepare them for life after RCE. I would like to encourage you to use the many methods that our district has provided to check your student's progress throughout the school year. Please stay in touch with your student's teachers regarding concerns that you may have and feel free to contact the Guidance Office or the Administration if we can be of assistance. Thank you for entrusting us with your most precious belongings, your children.

Striving for excellence together,

Jeff Duncan
Principal