



Williston Middle School

Principal: Christopher Madden

Assistant Principals: Kimberly Clark, Jill Larson, Alisha Sheesley

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Dear Williston Families,

We want your child to be successful in school and that means supporting and encouraging their whole development. While excelling in academic classes is important, students also need skills to take on learning challenges, make good decisions, handle strong emotions, and get along well with others.

This school year, New Hanover County Schools has begun using **Second Step® Middle School**, a research-based social-emotional learning program. The goal of this program is to improve students' social-emotional skills, such as emotion management, impulse control, problem solving, and empathy. Second Step skills and concepts are designed to help students both in and out of school. These include:

Community Rebuilding: This unit was designed to support schools as they reopen after extended school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic to help foster a positive school community.

Mindsets and Goals: Students learn how to develop a growth mindset and apply research-based goal setting strategies to their social and academic lives.

Thoughts, Emotions, and Decisions: Students learn how to recognize strong emotions and unhelpful thoughts and apply strategies to manage their emotions and reduce stress.

Managing Relationships and Social Conflict: Students learn strategies for developing and maintaining healthy relationships, perspective-taking, and dealing with conflict.

While on Plan B, Williston Middle School is implementing these lessons school-wide on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:00 p.m. via Zoom in your child's homeroom class. Students who have chosen to remain in Virtual Academy are also completing these lessons via Zoom on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:00 a.m. If you have any questions about Second Step® Middle School, please don't hesitate to contact Kristin Nori (910-815-6906 ext. 76617) for more information. Thank you for your support as we work to build a safe and supportive school community.

Sincerely,

Christopher Madden
Principal
Williston Middle School