



Welcome to the new school year at Heyward Gibbes Middle School! I am excited to remain with the Eagle Family as Principal for the 2024-2025 school year. I am incredibly enthusiastic and optimistic about what this school year will bring for our students, parents, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders. This year will provide opportunities for all of our students to excel in academics, athletics, and the arts. As we begin this school year, we pledge to our students and parents that this will be a year of engaging, meaningful, and rigorous work in our safe and secure learning environment.

We accomplished so much together last year. I look forward to sharing the cumulative data about the 2023-2024 school year, and articulating a clear vision for our next steps in becoming the premier middle school in Richland County School District One.

This year our theme remains, “**Excellent is the Expectation**”. As we prepare for the school year, be assured that the staff is committed to continuing the good work that has previously been done by refining our best practices, transforming student learning outcomes, and empowering all students to reach their potential and dreams. Our administrative priorities for the year are:

- Continuing to improve instruction through implementation of Visible Learning, AVID, and our Math Moonshot with fidelity
- Supporting the development of the 6th Grade Academy and the use of innovative instructional and social-emotional frameworks for 6th graders
- Refining our disciplinary practices through the effective use of MTSS and implementing a Tier II behavior modification program, small groups, and mentorship to reduce suspensions and students’ time out of class
- Focusing on attendance and celebrating student, faculty, and staff success in a timely manner

Please join us at our Back to School Bask on Saturday, August 3, 2024, from 10:00am – 12:00noon in the HGMS gym to meet teachers, pick up schedules, and receive free school supplies. I look forward to a very positive and productive year together! Important reminders are on the next page. I remain available by email at gregory.pickett@richlandone.org or phone at 803-343-2942.

Professionally yours,

Dr. Gregory T. Pickett
Principal
Heyward Gibbes Middle School