

February 17, 2009

Dear Charlestowne Academy Parents:

Kathy Penick
Principal

Dr. Nancy J. McGinley
Superintendent of Schools

Louis Martin
Associate Superintendent

Dr. Douglas Gepford
Chief Academic Officer

Charlestowne Academy

5841 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406

As you know—many of you were thankfully part of the process—on January 26, the Charleston County Board of Trustees voted to close Charlestowne Academy as part of a district-wide *School Redesign* plan. I want to be clear on what this means for your child beginning *next* school year, depending on his/her grade level.

Students currently in grades K-8 will attend their neighborhood or “home” schools, and can also **apply** now to select countywide or partial magnet schools. **Students currently in grades 9-11** have the option of staying together as a “high school” and moving to a new campus, to be determined, until they graduate. Your child will have quality options next year, and it is very important that you act now to prepare. We will work with you to ensure a smooth transition to new schools, and to explain other options that you might be interested in—for example, other countywide magnets that provide transportation, such as **Charleston Progressive Academy** (grades 2 – 6), **School of the Arts** (grades 6 – 12), and the **Military Magnet Academy** (grades 6 -12). There are also **new partial magnet schools** that are available if you live in the school’s constituent district. These are:

North Charleston:

Chicora Elementary School - School of Communications (843) 745-7099
Zucker Middle School of Science (843) 763-1500

Downtown:

Memminger Elementary School - Global Studies: A University Partnership
(843)724-7778

Mitchell Elementary School - School of Math and Science (843) 724-7261

Johns Island:

Haut Gap Middle School – School of Advanced Studies (843) 559-6418

Mt. Pleasant:

Laing Middle School – School of Science and Technology (843) 849-2809

More information on these schools is available on the “school choice” page at www.ccsdschools.com, or by calling the Communications office at 937-6303. **Applications are due shortly, so please call these schools directly and apply now if interested.**

We will work through this transition together to ensure that your child is in a good school next year, on track for success. Please let us know *which* school (neighborhood or magnet) you plan to attend in 2009-2010—we have included a form in this mailing, and would like to have it returned by March 6, 2009.

I look forward to our continued partnership. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us for assistance at (843-746-1349).

Sincerely,

Kathy Penick
Principal