

February 20, 2020

To District 10 Parents of Current and Rising Middle School Students:

We are delighted that all District 10 middle school students (grades 6-8) will have the opportunity to attend the brand new C.E. Williams Middle School, opening in August 2020. The new school promises to be a state-of-the-art facility, designed to create a learning environment conducive for the growth and development of all students.

**Middle School Learning
Community**

The purpose of this letter is to provide up-to-date information about the merger of West Ashley and C.E. Williams Middle Schools. Although a committed team of parents, teachers, and other stakeholders is working fervently on ways to engage parents, teachers, and students in the coming weeks, it's important to update you with the following information as planning for students continues:

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher, M.A., M.Ed.
Chief Academic Officer

Joseph Williams, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Middle School Learning Community

- All District 10 middle school students will have access to an advanced academic program along with electives, including, but not limited to, band, orchestra, drama, chorus, art, Spanish, as well as CTE (Career and Technology) courses. All Gifted and Talented services will be available to students who qualify.
- At this time, it appears only five portables with two classrooms each will be needed and that no core classes (English, math, science, or social studies) classes will be housed in portables. Electives and intervention courses are currently scheduled to be housed in the portables.
- 6th, 7th, and most 8th grade classes will be located inside C.E. Williams' main building.
- Some 8th graders will likely start their days with homeroom and class at West Ashley High School. Ample adult supervision will be onsite to ensure a safe, conducive learning environment.
- High school level courses will be made available to students ready for enrollment.
- All 8th grade students will eat lunch at C.E. Williams as well as take afternoon classes.
- Additional supports will be added to ensure inappropriate behavior is addressed quickly and effectively.
- CCSD staff is working to arrange covered sidewalk to portables.
- School start times will be staggered to alleviate traffic congestion. Details are forthcoming.

The parent/teacher planning team that has been working on the middle school merger for several months has generated a list of frequently asked questions (attached) that should be helpful to you. We also look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting to talk with parents and students about the exciting opportunities. The scheduled meetings are:

- Tuesday, February 25, 5:30 p.m. at West Ashley Middle School
- Tuesday, February 25, 5:30 p.m. at C.E. Williams Middle School
- Wednesday, February 26, 5:30 p.m. at Springfield Elementary/Montessori Community commons room for parents of Springfield, Montessori Community, Drayton Hall, and Ashley River Creative Arts Elementaries
- Thursday, February 27, 5:30 p.m. at Stono Park Elementary cafeteria for parents of Stono Park, Oakland, and St. Andrew's Math & Science Elementaries

If you have additional questions, please email them to ONEWestAshley@charleston.k12.sc.us. Additional information and questions will be updated on the CCSD website at www.ccsdschools.com/D10Updates. We are dedicated to providing the best educational and extracurricular opportunities for all District 10 students as *ONE WEST ASHLEY!*

Best regards,



Kevin Smith
Principal
C.E. Williams Middle



Maite Porter
Principal
West Ashley Middle



Dr. Joseph Williams
Executive Director
CCSD Middle Learning Community

Attachment