

WCSD Featured Story



*News Stories from Across Williamsburg County School District
Provided by the Williamsburg County School District Office of Public Relations*

***Interview of Patricia Burch
Principal of
Hemingway Elementary School***



Q: What's one thing that you want parents to know about you as the Principal?

A: As the principal at HES, I would like for all parents/guardians to know that I am an advocate for every child's education. I will work tirelessly to ensure that all students receive a quality education. At HES, our goal is to meet the needs of the whole child.

Q: What does a typical school day look like for you as a principal?

A: A typical day as a principal consists of interacting with students and staff, meeting and collaborating with parents and community members, observing teaching and student engagement, participating in professional learning communities, communicating by phone and email, making decisions, and completing reports in a timely manner.

Q: How has the nationwide teacher shortage impacted your school, do you have a fully staffed school?

A: There are several vacancies at HES that have been filled with long-term substitutes due to the shortage of certified teacher applicants. We continue to seek certified teachers and are working closely with partnering organizations to fill these vacancies.

Q: How would you describe your relationship with your students?

A: The Tiny Tigers at HES know that my door is always open and that I am willing to listen and assist them with their needs and concerns. I am an advocate for all students and the students know that I have high expectations for teaching and learning. Throughout the school year, I strive to build relationships with all students.

Q: If random students were interviewed from your school what do you think they will say about you as their principal?

A: As the school administrator, it is important that students recognize the presence and support of the building principal. The students at HES know that the principal inspects what is expected and that my door is always open. Students realize that they can openly discuss concerns and make suggestions.

Q: As an administrator what are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?

A: As an educator and administrator, my strengths include being an effective communicator, identifying viable solutions to problems, analyzing data, being open-minded, an active listener, and the ability to prioritize, delegate, empower, adapt, and lead by example.

News Stories from Across Williamsburg County School District

Q: What's new at your school for this upcoming school year?

A: This will be the first year in which we will be implementing the Advanced Academic Program for third through fifth grade students.

Q: What should parents expect when their children attend your school this year?

A: I would like for the parents and guardians of students at HES to know that every child will be provided a quality education in a safe and nurturing learning environment. We know that open communication between home and school is an essential component to the success of our educational institution. Parents are instrumental and have an important role in educating the children of this community. We welcome active participation and support during the 2022-2023 school year from our students, staff, parents, community members, and stakeholders.

During the 2022-2023 school year, we will continue to strive to meet the needs of every child. At HES, our school theme for the upcoming school year is "Growing the Future!" Growing the Future takes a holistic approach in developing the whole child. HES is committed to meeting the social, emotional, physical, behavioral and academic needs of each learner. At HES, we also realize that in order for our students to achieve their potential, having a growth mindset and providing systems of support benefits students, staff, parents and stakeholders.

Working collectively and collaboratively, we will continue to learn and grow by working as a T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More). By working together, we will continue to prepare our students in becoming college, career and citizenship ready. At Hemingway Elementary School, Every Student Matters: Every Moment Counts!

