

WCSD Featured Story



News Stories from Across Williamsburg County School District

Provided by the Williamsburg County School District Office of Public Relations

*Interview of Mrs. Berlinda Mack
Principal of
Kenneth Gardner Elementary School*



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

A: Parents should expect open lines of communication from administrators and teachers via weekly Thursday folders, bi-monthly newsletters, school website, school marquee, alert messages, and regular telephone contacts from administrators and teachers. Parents should also expect staff members that are passionate about teaching to support academic growth and social skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

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

A: The teacher shortage has strongly impacted KGES, however through a collaborative effort, we have worked hard to recruit knowledgeable, passionate, dedicated and committed teachers to fill the vacancies. We anticipate that KGES will be fully staffed with great teachers and staff.

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

A: I have established positive relationships with my students over the years. My students know that I care about them, that I will listen to them, that I believe in them, that I will advocate for their safety and instructional needs, and that I want them to be their best. I enjoy getting to know them outside of school, by attending their sporting and community events.

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

A: At KGES, you will definitely see new faces. You will see a redesigned atmosphere that is driven by dedication and commitment to the school's mission and goals, an environment that has been restructured to ensure success for all students and staff through tiered intervention, purposeful support and positive attitudes (students and staff).



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Q: As an administrator what are your strengths?

A: A few of my strengths include being student-focused and results driven. I am a team player, a collaborator and I believe in the importance of integrity, honesty, leading by example, and establishing positive relationships built on trust. I am a firm believer in communicating with my staff, parents, students, and community stakeholders. My open-door policy ensures that I am available to all that I serve. A weakness may include taking on too many things at one time.

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

A: A random student would say that I care about them, that I'm fun. They may say that I'm tough, I want order, I don't tolerate bullying and disrespect, and lastly they will probably say that I am the best principal.

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

A: I want the parents/guardians to know that as principal, my goal is to ensure that ALL students continue to receive a quality education every day in an environment that is safe and nurturing. I am committed to working in partnership with our families, community, and staff to support our students in reaching their academic and social goals. Lastly, I want our parents to know that we will need the support of the parents/guardians and the community to help reinforce to their children the importance of coming to school every day, ensuring that they arrive to school on time, establishing goals for expected behavior and efforts towards their schoolwork, respect for staff, and a commitment for success.

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

A: My day begins with monitoring and supervising student arrivals (bus and car duty), monitoring breakfast in the cafeteria, monitoring the hallways to ensure students are reporting directly to class, morning announcements, visiting all classrooms throughout the day, conducting classroom observations, attending grade level planning meetings, monitoring lunch and recess, assisting with discipline issues as needed, and most importantly having conversations with students throughout the day. My day typically ends with meeting with parents, teachers or the administrative team as needed, returning telephone messages, and responding to email messages.

