



10.26.21

Horse Creek Academy parents, students and staff,

As the school leader of Horse Creek Academy, I wanted to be the first to share some exciting news with you all. In order to remain focused on both consistent improvement, as well as the long term success of our school, the HCA Board of Directors voted last night to transfer to the Limestone Charter Association (LCA), effective for the 2022-23 school year. LCA is the newest public charter school authorizer/district in the state, and is led by Superintendent Angel Malone.

A native of Columbia, S.C., Superintendent Malone is a seasoned educator with over 20 years of experience as both a teacher and principal. Her most recent position was the Director of Career and Technical Education at the SC Department of Education. Prior to that position, she served as the founding principal of the Orangeburg, S.C. based *High School for Health Professions*, a public charter school. Superintendent Malone is also a recipient of the *Order of the Silver Crescent Award*, the highest honor given by the Governor to a South Carolinian for community activism.

Over the past several months I have personally had the opportunity, along with members of the HCA Board of Directors, to get to know Superintendent Malone. I can personally attest to both her authenticity, as well as her focus on student success. During her recent visit, Superintendent Malone walked the halls of HCA and quickly recognized our school's culture of "We Are The Village." Superintendent Malone was impressed to learn that our school had more than doubled its enrollment since 2018, not including 400+ students on a waiting list, as well as last year's 17-million-dollar bond, which allowed HCA to expand to include a middle school, high school, and a career center.

Superintendent Malone was also impressed with HCA's results from the latest student engagement surveys, which stated that 91 percent of our teachers are satisfied with school-home relations, with 88 percent of our students being satisfied with their learning environment, and most importantly 92 percent of students felt safe at school. All of these accomplishments could not have been possible without the innovative methods of Restorative Justice with an emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning, which are both a key focus at HCA. Also, all of these accomplishments over the past (almost) two years have been achieved during a global pandemic, which produced unprecedented challenges for both HCA families and employees. I am proud of the dedication and hard work of everyone within our school community.

Even with these accomplishments, it is vital for HCA to continue growing and improving, which is why our team of talented and hard working educators set a goal for this school year to increase the percentage of students scoring average or higher on the NWEA/MAP testing from 64 to 74 percent in reading and from 55 to 65 percent in math. With your help, the 2021-22 will be our best school year to date.

We at HCA believe the recipe for any successful school starts with a strong school leadership, a supportive school district and board, followed closely by talented educators, and involved parents. The HCA Board of Directors believe our new partnership with LCA will allow us to continue setting new school records, while broadening our impact across Aiken County for years to come. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support of HCA.

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