

Greetings to all of you! I humbly accept this new role as the principal of Marlboro County High School. I cannot help but to feel immensely honored and thrilled to return to the place that shaped me into the man I have become today. My mission is to continually motivate, inspire, and propel each member of our school family into a place of longstanding excellence while building life-long partnerships with parents and the community. Marlboro County High School is bursting with endless possibilities and will greatly exceed expectations. No obstacle is too big for our MCHS family to overcome. I am honored to be a part of the impact that will produce learners who will not accept mediocrity as satisfactory. We will prepare students to progress successfully in their future endeavors. To this aim, my primary goal is to create positive spaces that allow our youth to grow and demonstrate college and career readiness.

As I join the MCHS family, I personally reflect on the times I walked these very halls. I was challenged to do more as a student, so I became a musician. My growth in music is likened to my growth as a leader. When I marched the MCHS marching band, the sound of my own trombone was the most important aspect playing music. Later, I grew to value the sound of the entire section over my own instrument. Yet, when I became drum major at South Carolina State University, I realized the greatness of any organization is in the ability of all members to work together for a common goal. As a result, I learned that success is obtained when all members of the band contribute their best skill to the same “sheet of music.” I had to trust my team to feel the passion within and allow it to come out during our marches. That is my role here. I have full confidence that we will all aspire to inspire one another as we grow each MCHS student.

Moreover, I want, need, welcome, and desire your input as we strive to meet the constant and ever-changing challenges before us. As I reflect upon my leadership role as a drum major, I cannot help but utilize many of the same skills throughout our campus... We will be dignified! We will be positive! We will exhibit great judgment! I will not take my leadership here lightly as I plan to be a REAL model; creating a shared vision for students, staff and community members all while gathering input and knowledge from as many stakeholders as possible, in order to push our great “school ensemble” forward. A great leader puts the needs of others before their own. This is my promise.

You may ask, “What’s next?” I will answer that by challenging you to emerge from our current situation a different person than you began. Be flexible, open-minded, and supportive both instructionally and emotionally. The action items outlined, in my plan, are indicative of my commitment to “seek first to understand.” As we begin our new journey, in the days ahead, let us stake our claim as being one of the very best high schools in South Carolina. Together, no challenge is too great! We will rise unafraid, declaring that the students of MCHS receive the best educational experience possible with the necessary 21st century skills needed to compete globally. As the adage goes, “one band, one sound.” I am honored to serve you all, as these very hallways are where it all started for me. As a MCHS student, I was encouraged to be an artist and create music, now I am honored to come home as principal to create opportunities for all students.

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best.” The best is yet to come!