



Bridges Prep News & Notes: May 26, 2017

From Dr. I's desk ...

END OF SCHOOL! Tuesday, May 30, is our last day of classes for all grades! Report cards will be sent home. Our teachers will return Wednesday to finish out their year and then it's Summer Break (for everyone but the administration and a few other key individuals...).



Award ceremonies are set:

- 2nd/3rd grades, Tuesday, from 9 - 9:45
- 4th-6th grades, Tuesday 10 -10:45
- 7th-9th grades, Tuesday 2:25 - 3:10 p.m.

Photo: Congrats to our Field Day winners, our Second Graders in Ms. DeLoach's class!

Sports Update for next year – Bridges Prep will offer the following sports for 2017-2018:

- ✓ Cross Country (Girls & Boys)
- ✓ Volleyball (Girls)
- ✓ Basketball (Girls & Boys)
- ✓ Soccer (Boys)
- ✓ Softball (Girls)

For these sports, students will play at Bridges and **not** their zoned schools. For football and baseball, students could play at their zoned school as Bridges doesn't offer those sports at this time.

Office changes: We are moving our Operations and Business personnel to Celadon next year. We are making the transition over the summer. Folks who normally come to the main campus for business, personnel, facilities, or HR issues will go to Celadon. In addition, for coverage purposes, this summer **all** our support staff will work at Celadon. Families who want to register or withdraw their children will need to go to Celadon. Caroline Lovell, Jessica Mullen and Wendy Sampson will work at Celadon.

Although we have set summer office hours, our staff will be happy to schedule individual appointments outside summer office hours:

- May 30 - June 2 - regular school hours 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Main Campus
- June 5 – 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Main Campus
- June 26 - July 29 - summer hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at **Celadon**.
- July 3 - July 7: No office hours (school closed; staff vacation week).
- July 31 - regular office hours resume at **all** campuses (note, our Chief Operations Officer, Director of Operations and Data/AR Clerk will all remain at Celadon).

Year-End Recap: We have had an *amazing* year here at Bridges Prep. I want to thank everyone for helping make it a smooth transition for me and my wife. I hope you have been satisfied with my leadership as Head of School – I know I have been thrilled at what we've accomplished in one school year, and what we have ahead of us in coming years!

To recap a few highlights of this school year:

- The S.C. Public Charter School District named us a 'School of Distinction' for academic achievement and is one of the Top 3 in South Carolina for academic gains and achievement.
- Dozens of students visited cities in China as part of our new international study program, and we have additional trips planned in the next school year, including China and Greece.
- Our students academically outperformed their peers in Beaufort County's public schools and were ahead of the state in most cases.
- The PTO's Shrimp and Grits Block Party was a fantastic success, raising money they've earmarked to help the media center in our new school.
- Enrollment continued to grow and we anticipate 650 or more students next year in grades K-10!
- Our staff again proved to how amazing they are, helping students learn, helping run our school and dealing with the challenges of having students in three different campus locations.

All in all, it was a tremendous 2016-2017 school year! Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Board Notes: On behalf of our entire Board of Directors, I want to thank all of you for contributing to the success of Bridges Prep this year! From our accolades as a School of Distinction to being ranked as one of the Top Three state charter schools in all of South Carolina, your help has made a difference:

- ✓ Students ... did their best work, day in and day out.
- ✓ Families helped support their children in their schoolwork, got their kids to school on time, and supported us in so many ways.
- ✓ Staff put in the extra effort to make Bridges Prep truly exceptional.
- ✓ Volunteers helped us in the classroom and with our after-school activities.
- ✓ Our PTO raised money to support us and threw a great Shrimp and Grits Block Party!
- ✓ We acquired acreage in Port Royal just off Robert Smalls Parkway for our K-12 campus, and our plans are making strong progress toward final permitting. Once we have every agency's OK, we'll schedule a groundbreaking and get our beautiful school under construction!
- ✓ To anyone in a category I forgot to mention, please know that we count on everyone rowing in the same direction to achieve what we have so far – exceptional academics, strong athletic participation, wonderful family involvement.

Thank you all! We expect even greater achievements in the next school year!