



MEDIA RELEASE

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Charter Institute at Erskine welcomes schools for the 2018-2019 school year

COLUMBIA – It was all smiles through the car rider line Monday morning at Midlands STEM Institute as principal Marie Milam and staff welcomed back their students for the new school year.

The excitement for the K-9 school in Winnsboro was particularly special because it began day one in its new location.

“This day is extremely memorable for us as we open these new doors for our students,” Milam said. “We believe that this new location will allow our students to learn and explore like never before!”

Parent Daniel Bonds has seen tremendous progress in his two sons since enrolling them in Midlands STEM and is excited to see what the future holds.

“Since enrolling our boys at Midlands STEM four years ago, we have seen so much growth from their experiences in the classroom,” Bonds said. “This new location will only allow the school to further expand their minds. We really appreciate that there is another educational opportunity for them in Fairfield County.”

In the virtual world, classes began Monday for schools like Odyssey Online Learning, which is under new leadership for the 2018-2019 year. Executive Director Rodney Robinson brings over 28 years of education experience to Odyssey and has already seen the positive changes for the school that serves students in grades 9-12.

“We actually had to order additional licenses from our online vendor due to the increase in enrollment this year,” Robinson said. “I spent the entire week last week travelling the state for orientations and I can tell you our new and returning students are excited to get started with us. Our theme this year is ‘Endless Possibilities.’ We will strive to make our students’ learning experiences relevant, creative and fun!”

Dr. Brian Newsome kicked off year three as principal at Gray Collegiate Academy with a welcome back assembly for students. The Academy serves students in grades 9-12 and offers up to two years of college credit. Newsome referred to his “three R’s” he expects of the school which are respect, responsibility and rigor.

“We want your experience here at Gray Collegiate Academy to be successful,” Newsome said. “Be proud of where you are. This is a great school because you are here. It will be a great year because you are here.”

180-year-old Erskine College established the Charter Institute at Erskine in mid-2017, to improve education in public charter schools across the state of South Carolina. The Institute currently serves as the Sponsor for 13 schools with an additional seven schools currently scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. For more information, please visit www.erskinecharters.org.

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