



South Edgecombe Middle School

Edgecombe County Public Schools

Billy Strother, Principal Mary Bridgers, Assistant Principal

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Dear Dragon family,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the very proud principal of South Edgecombe Middle School. I look forward to getting to know each of you as **WE** build upon the rich traditions of South and continue to make progress while addressing areas of improvement. As a school, we have a great opportunity ahead of us because you are a community that is invested, supportive and takes great pride in our school. Authentic community engagement will be a primary focus as we move forward. Our doors will always be open, and we look forward to collaborating with you to ensure your child's success.

As a father of two, including a daughter in middle school, I understand the importance of establishing a nurturing educational environment during these formative years. My top priority as your principal will be to hire teachers who care about children and are passionate about developing the whole child. While academic progress is a primary focus, it is only one piece of the puzzle. At South Edgecombe, we will promote academic, social, and emotional development by providing a balance of academic rigor and appropriate structures within a family environment. South will feel like home for all of our students, and the Dragon staff will maintain a culture of hope and opportunity.

In addition to being diligent and selective in the hiring process, we will have an intentional focus on three areas that are common to all successful organizations:

1. A common vision, mission, and core values: Our "*Why*"
2. A focus on relationships built on trust, respect and open communication: Our "*Who*"
3. A set of structures that clarify expectations and procedures while promoting consistency and accountability: Our "*What*"

As we embark on our new journey together, I would like to meet with all South Edgecombe families prior to the start of the 2017-2018 academic year. These community meetings will serve as an opportunity to get to know each other while providing you with a chance to share your perspective on the vision and culture of South Edgecombe Middle School, as it is and as it should be. The dates for these meetings will be forthcoming. I am eager to hear your thoughts, individually and collectively, as we plot our course of moving South from good to great!

Respectfully,

Billy Strother
Principal

***Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
GO DRAGONS!***