



Welcome to the new school year at Heyward Gibbes Middle School! I am excited to remain with the Eagle Family as Principal for the 2024-2025 school year. I am incredibly enthusiastic and optimistic about what this school year will bring for our students, parents, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders. This year will provide opportunities for all of our students to excel in academics, athletics, and the arts. As we begin this school year, we pledge to our students and parents that this will be a year of engaging, meaningful, and rigorous work in our safe and secure learning environment.

We accomplished so much together last year. I look forward to sharing the cumulative data about the 2023-2024 school year, and articulating a clear vision for our next steps in becoming the premier middle school in Richland County School District One.

This year our theme remains, “**Excellent is the Expectation**”. As we prepare for the school year, be assured that the staff is committed to continuing the good work that has previously been done by refining our best practices, transforming student learning outcomes, and empowering all students to reach their potential and dreams. Our administrative priorities for the year are:

- Continuing to improve instruction through implementation of Visible Learning, AVID, and our Math Moonshot with fidelity
- Supporting the development of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy and the use of innovative instructional and social-emotional frameworks for 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Refining our disciplinary practices through the effective use of MTSS and implementing a Tier II behavior modification program, small groups, and mentorship to reduce suspensions and students’ time out of class
- Focusing on attendance and celebrating student, faculty, and staff success in a timely manner

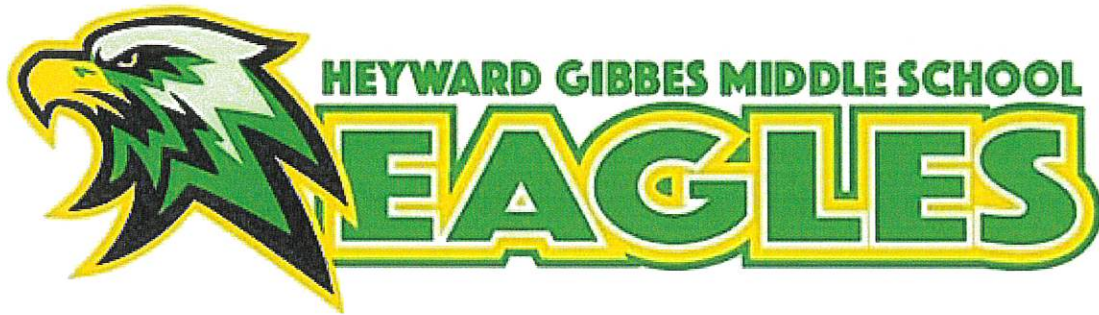
Please join us at our Back to School Bask on Saturday, August 3, 2024, from 10:00am – 12:00noon in the HGMS gym to meet teachers, pick up schedules, and receive free school supplies. I look forward to a very positive and productive year together! Important reminders are on the next page. I remain available by email at [gregory.pickett@richlandone.org](mailto:gregory.pickett@richlandone.org) or phone at 803-343-2942.

Professionally yours,

Dr. Gregory T. Pickett  
Principal  
Heyward Gibbes Middle School

## Key Reminders

- First Day of School is August 8, 2024
- Students may not arrive on campus earlier than 8:00am. Breakfast will be served from 8:15am – 8:45am in the cafeteria.
- All students will enter through the security checkpoint which includes use of the metal detectors, hand wands (as necessary) and random bag searches.
- First block will begin at 8:40am. After 8:45am, students will be considered tardy. The bell schedule is on the next page.
- Students are dismissed in the following order:
  - A. Walkers
  - B. Car Riders
  - C. Bus Riders (as buses arrive)
- Early dismissal ends at 3:15pm except in cases of emergency. After 3:15pm, students will need to wait until regular dismissal procedures.
- Car riders should only be dropped off and picked up in the front loop. Please do not pick up or drop off students in the bus loop or faculty/staff parking lots.
- Please ensure you have registered your child for the 2024-2025 school year. See the attached documents for more information.
- Cell phones are not allowed at HGMS during the school day. If faculty/staff see a student's cell phone, the student will face consequences in accordance with the RCSD1 Student Code of Conduct. **If your student brings a cell phone to school, please ensure they keep the phone in their book bag, out of sight of faculty/staff.**



## 2024 – 2025 School Supply List

No. 2 pencils with extra erasers

Colored pencils

Ballpoint pens (blue and black ink preferred)

Highlighters

Spiral-bound or composition notebooks

Loose-leaf notebook paper (wide ruled or college-ruled variety)

**Plastic** Ruler, Protractor, and Compass set

Book Bag

Binders

\*NOTE: Students may not bring metal rulers, metal protractors, or any items with a sharp metal point. These items will be confiscated during security check.

\*NOTE: Teachers may request specific supplies for certain classes. Teachers will notify parents, in writing, of those supply needs.



## 2024-2025 Bell Schedules

### *Regular Bell Schedule*

Period	Start	End
1 (8th Related Arts)	8:40AM	9:34AM
2 (8th Related Arts)	9:36AM	10:30AM
3 (7th Related Arts)	10:32AM	11:26AM
<b>Lunch/Brain Break</b>	11:28AM	12:28PM
4 (7th Related Arts)	12:30PM	1:24PM
5 (6th Related Arts)	1:26PM	2:20PM
6 (6th Related Arts)	2:22PM	3:16PM
<b>Enrichment Block/Advocacy/Clubs</b>	3:18PM	3:48PM

### *Early Release Bell Schedule*

Period	Start	End
1 or 4*	8:40AM	9:34AM
2 or 5*	9:36AM	10:30AM
3 or 6*	10:32AM	11:26AM
<b>Lunch (Grab and Go)</b>	11:28AM	12:30PM

\*Administration will notify school if we are attending periods 1/2/3 or 4/5/6 on early release days.

\*For delayed starts, we will start the normal schedule at whatever time the students arrive, and continue through the end of the day. For instance, if students arrive at 10:00am, we will begin in 2nd period and follow the normal schedule.