



Greetings Mountain Island Lake Academy Families,

### **Welcome Back!**

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and are ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is already planning and preparing for your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team is registering new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility. We are gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. We are indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring students and promoting high-level learning.

### **New Staff**

Each year brings positive change. We are excited to welcome several new staff members into the building and look forward to their immediate impact. As wonderful as it is to have new staff, we are equally as excited to announce the appointment of Mr. Rolando Parkins as the new principal at Thomasboro Academy. It is a great loss of the MILA family, but an opportunity to fulfill his life goal of being a principal. Please help us send well wishes to Mr. Parkins as he embarks on this new journey.

### **Facilities Update**

If you drove past the school or utilized our outdoor playing spaces this summer, you may have noticed numerous maintenance and construction projects. First, we are building a new gymnasium that is set to open in the 2023-2024 school year. That is correct! We will have construction all year. As a result, we are asking you to help us reinforce the importance of safety and following instructions of staff at all times. There will be a new parking area, carpool queue, and traffic flow.

### **Transportation**

Included in this mailer is information for all students. Even when a child is a car rider, every student is assigned both an AM and PM bus. During the first ten days of school, teachers will collect information daily regarding PM transportation for all students. Please provide a note to be given to your child's teacher should your child(ren) have a different mode of transportation on any given day.

### **Child Nutrition**

As we return to more normal operation school practices, please note that only breakfast will be provided free to students. Please adhere to the reminders below:

- Federal government waivers that allowed School Nutrition to feed all students at no charge for the last two years expired on June 30, 2022.

Phone: 980.343.6948 Fax: 980-343-6954 [www.cms.k12.nc.us](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us) CMS-TV

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- Students in non-CEP schools will have to have an approved free or reduced meal application on file or pay for their lunch beginning on the first day of service. All CMS students will continue to receive breakfast at no charge.
- The application for free and reduced-price lunch benefits is available NOW. Families are encouraged to complete the application online. Locate the application by going to the CMS website, clicking on the MEALS icon and APPLY for Free/Reduced Lunch.

### **Student Placement**

A great deal of time, effort and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2022-2023 school year.

Careful consideration was given to input from staff and families as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL of our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. Mountain Island Lake Academy is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.

Thank you to all who are helping prepare for the new school year. Your commitment to ensuring that Mountain Island Lake Academy remains a celebrated and successful school is awe-inspiring. I eagerly look forward to greeting students and families again. It remains an honor and privilege to serve as your principal. Please stop by and say hello. Together, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all children.

### **Open House**

We will welcome students and families into the building for Open House on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> during the times listed below. Please adhere to the listed schedule as our teachers will be assisting other grade levels outside of their scheduled time. Also, we are excited this year to have vendors for you to visit during Open House. We look forward to seeing you on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

- Grades K-2 4:00 pm-5:30 pm
- Grades 3-5 5:00 pm-6:30 pm
- Grades 6-8 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Warmest Regards,

Erica Gipson  
Principal  
Mountain Island Lake Academy

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