



Mr. G. Robert Binnicker, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 99 – Williamston, SC 29697  
Telephone: 864-847-7344 / 864-235-8768  
Fax: 864.847.3543  
asd1.schoolwires.com

August 12, 2019

Dear Parents and Students:

It is with great anticipation and excitement that I welcome you to another incredible school year in Anderson School District One! The start of a new school year is always an exciting time, not only for students, but for families and our staff as well. It is my pleasure to welcome the students, families and staff of Anderson One! We are ready to continue the important work of our district mission – *Anderson School District One is committed to a tradition of excellence by providing world-class knowledge, skills and life characteristics based on the individual needs of each student*

Very soon, more than 10,000 pre-school through grade 12 students will be entering the doors of our 14 schools. They will be greeted warmly by teachers, support staff and administrators who are prepared and excited for their return. The beginning of a school year always brings new hope, fresh starts, new challenges and wonderful learning experiences.

This school year, we welcome our new students, parents, nearly 100 new staff members and several new administrators to Anderson One. Mr. Jon Shoffstall is the new principal at Wren Middle School. He was previously an assistant principal in the Ohio area. Mrs. Stacy Shaw will move from Literacy Coach at Cedar Grove Elementary to assistant principal at Palmetto Elementary. Mr. Kevin Williams comes to us from assistant principal at Pickens Middle to splitting administrative time between Concrete Primary and Powdersville Middle. Each of these administrators is experienced and has a serious passion and dedication for our students and our communities. We are very pleased to have them join our team.

We are very excited to see our building program moving forward after the community's overwhelming support of our bond referendum. Work is well underway to replace our two oldest middle schools, Palmetto and Wren, with construction continuing for the next 32 months. Secure vestibules will be completed before students return at Hunt Meadows Elementary, Powdersville Elementary, Spearman Elementary, and West Pelzer Elementary. Other safety and security enhancements at all schools will be made throughout the year. Building additions will begin in the next year for Cedar Grove Elementary, Spearman Elementary, Powdersville Elementary, Powdersville Middle, and Powdersville High.

As the new year begins, there is much excitement for teaching and learning. Anderson School District One has a "tradition of excellence" and our successes are clearly evident in the achievements and accomplishments of our students. Our graduation rate is above 90%, and the dropout rate remains very low. Last year, students excelled in all areas: academics, athletics, fine arts, extracurricular activities,

- A Tradition of Excellence -

and community service. We are focused on teaching the skills our graduates will need to be successful in a technology rich, globally competitive workplace. We want all students to have many rich and diverse learning experiences that will ensure their educational preparation for addressing the challenges of the future. There is no doubt that Anderson One schools are successful because of our excellent parents, students, communities, dedicated staff with high expectations, and a commitment to meeting the needs of all students. Though we are a high achieving district, we will never be content. This year, as in the past, we must concentrate on the processes that spur continuing growth: evaluating our progress, determining what we can do to improve, and identifying means to provide even greater opportunities for our students.

As we welcome the new school year, we will continue our focus on:

- Providing safe schools for our students and employees;
- Ensuring outstanding academic and extracurricular opportunities for students;
- Equipping our classrooms and students with up-to-date technology;
- Addressing our on-going school facility needs; and
- Offering quality customer service and strengthening our partnerships with parents, businesses, and the community.

For our students and staff, it is a very exciting time to learn and teach in Anderson One. On behalf of our District and Board of Trustees, please accept my thanks for your support of our schools and our students, and, on a personal note, for the opportunity to work and serve as your Superintendent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Robert Binnicker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

G. Robert Binnicker  
Superintendent