

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP



Justin H. Matthews, Executive Director

Mr. Justin Matthews has served as a public school educator in the states of Florida and North Carolina for the past nineteen years. He has held the positions of CEO/Executive Director, Region Director, Founding K-12 Principal, Chief of Operations, Head of High School, and Assistant Principal, while also serving as an elementary and high school teacher in his career. In addition to currently leading one of the largest and most successful K-12 charter schools and state organizations in North Carolina, Mr. Matthews regularly works with multiple schools and state entities in Florida and North Carolina as a consultant and with *AdvancED* as a Lead External Review Evaluator. He was the 2010 National Innovation Principal of the year, and the runner up in the 2013 Governor's State competition for the top 25 School Leaders in Florida. Schools under his leadership have won numerous national awards in the areas of academics, parent choice, school culture, and operations. Over the course of his career Mr. Matthews has been responsible for the successful construction of: over two million square feet of charter school facilities, including numerous gymnasiums, sports fields, cafeterias, playgrounds and other similar developments, and has coordinated over two hundred million dollars in financing for charter schools. Most recently, he completed a record setting thirty-three million dollar bond financing for construction at Mountain Island Charter School.



Glenn Byrum, Middle and High School Principal

Glenn Byrum has served as a public educator in North Carolina since 2004, serving as Middle/High School Principal, World Languages Curriculum Specialist, and Spanish Teacher. Mr. Byrum has worked in both charter school and traditional public school settings. Mr. Byrum served as a founding principal of Mountain Island Charter School in fall 2010 and directly supported the expansion of the middle and high school programs. Prior to working at MICS, he implemented the addition of Arabic instruction to CMS through a collaborative process including stakeholders at the federal, state and K-20 levels. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, a Master of Arts in Spanish, and a Graduate Certificate in Curriculum and Supervision, each from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.



Karen Riner, Lower School Principal

Karen Riner has over 35 years of experience as a general education teacher, special education instructor, and teacher of the gifted, a professional school counselor, assistant principal, and principal. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology/Elementary Education from S.U. N.Y at Potsdam, an M. Ed. in Counselor Education from the University of Virginia, an Educational Specialist Degree from Virginia Tech in Educational Leadership, and has completed all coursework toward a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Virginia Tech. She was selected as a turnaround principal to take over one of the lowest achieving schools in Virginia. Ms. Riner was the recipient of the Virginia Board of Education Award of Excellence for significant gains in achievement, and was selected as a Success Story by Pearson Education related to her work with ESL students.