



North Newton Elementary School

221 W 26th Street

Newton, NC 28658

(828) 464-2631

Shane Whitener, Principal

Dear Parents and Guardian,

I am so excited to be starting my 4th year with you at North Newton Elementary School. I have been in the Newton-Conover School District for 17 years at all levels. I started my career at Newton-Conover High School as a math teacher as well as a basketball and track coach. After 7 years at the high school, I went to Newton-Conover Middle School where I spent the next 5 years as the assistant principal. I then spent a little under a year at Shuford Elementary School as the principal before becoming ill and moving to the central office as the Math Curriculum Specialist. I was in this position a little over a year before coming to North Newton. I have two beautiful kids, Gabriella and Quincy, who are 3rd graders at Shuford.

Last year we began our efforts as a global school here at North Newton. This means that we transformed the look of our building to give it a more global feel with the hanging of flags from different countries as well as painting global murals around the building. It also means that we began to incorporate global themes into our instruction. The following provides an overview of these themes:

Kindergarten –1st Qtr.-North America, 2nd Qtr.-Europe and Antarctica, 3rd Qtr.-Africa and Asia, 4th Qtr.-Australia and South America

1st Grade – Africa

2nd Grade – Australia

3rd Grade – North America

4th Grade – South America

5th Grade – Asia

We also started a Dual Immersion program last year with a cohort of our Kindergarten students. This program allows us to provide these students with half of their instruction in English and the other half in Spanish. These students rotate between the two teachers on an A day/B day model. We hired Ms.

Botero from Colombia for the Spanish class. It was amazing to see the growth of these students this past year in both languages. We have added a 1st grade Spanish class this year so those students could continue the program. Therefore, we have another Kindergarten cohort along with the 1st grade cohort currently.

We are extremely proud of the high level education we are able to provide your students each and every day. Our teachers work hard to ensure they are up-to-date with current research approaches to teaching and learning and incorporate these into their classes. As a staff, we are currently going through Instructional Core training. This training looks at what good teaching looks like and provides a pathway for teachers to follow to ensure that all of their students' academic needs are being met.

We want to work with you as a team so your child receives the best education possible. We want to make sure that not only are their academic needs being met, but their emotional and social needs are being met as well. Please let us know if there is something we can do differently or assist you with to make sure this happens.

Sincerely,

Shane Whitener
Principal
North Newton Elementary School