



# Sherwood Elementary School

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*Aretha McDonald , Principal*

*Stan Ridley, Assistant Principal*

*"Take The Time To Inspire And To Be Inspired"*

July 1, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed Principal of Sherwood Elementary School. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a school with such a rich tradition of excellence in education! I look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing with our amazing students, teachers, parents, and community members. Along with the teachers and staff, I will work hard to continue the legacy of success established at Sherwood Elementary by building strong relationships with faculty, parents, students and community members. My official start date is July 1, 2021.

On a professional note, I have been dedicated to the field of education for twenty-nine years. I have served in various roles throughout my career. My experiences range from kindergarten through ninth grade, all of which have transpired in the Phenix City School District. Most recently, I served for six years as Principal of Meadowlane Elementary School. I am thrilled to bring my skills as an instructional leader to Sherwood Elementary School. This year is going to be amazing as we continue to provide engaging academic experiences for our students that are rigorous, relevant, real-world connections. As an instructional leader I believe in a shared vision, high expectations, and a desire to see every student reach their highest potential while at the same time building an environment that actively involves families in the education process, bridging school and the community, and data driven instruction to promote student growth.

On a personal note, I have been married for twenty-one years and I have lived in the Phenix City area for thirty years. My husband (Kerry) is also an educator and currently serves as principal of South Girard. We both have a strong desire and love for shaping, molding and impacting the lives of children. Although we do not have any biological children we enjoy being Godparents to our five year old nephew (Kylan) who keeps us busy every weekend. Going from not having a little person in our lives five years ago was a drastic change, but we embraced the change wholeheartedly with love as well as excitement. Everyday is filled with unspeakable joy! I know change can be unsettling and I want to assure you that amidst this change in leadership, I am committed to SES in the long term and committed to continuing the great work that is being done for students.

I am truly blessed to be the instructional leader of such an awesome school community. Please take a moment to complete the Getting to Know You Survey as part of the Principal Entry Plan

*The First 100 Days- "Listening, Learning, and Leading"*

Please click on the link. [Sherwood Elementary Parent Survey](#)

Sincerely,

*Aretha McDonald*

Aretha McDonald , Principal  
Sherwood Elementary School