



KIRK A. SYKES
HEAD OF SCHOOL



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Quote of the Week:

"Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him/her know that you trust him/her." Booker T. Washington

Dear SEED MD Family,

Let us salute another successful week of school together. Last night's back-to-school night was a major win for this annual school ritual. Thanks to all the staff for allowing our parents to explore their classrooms and provide a peek into the class requirements and expectations. Please remember to follow up with parents and students to share your syllabi if you have not and inquire if there are other questions. A hearty shout-out to staff members: **Michelle Bobb, Kyndale Lyles, Veronica Rios, JoAnn Robinson, and Charlita Thompson** who organized the event and provided the support to make things run smoothly.

We hope that you were enriched by today's professional learning. As you

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know, we have been working with intention this year to live our theme of *Better Together: Connection, Collaboration, and Collegiality*. My aim in my state of the school address was to provide you with a peek into the present state of academics, student life, and student support at SEED MD. See my entire presentation [here](#). As I mentioned we would like to provide ongoing touchpoints to promote equity and inclusion in the school. Today's session was another iteration of how we can leverage our knowledge of equity and inclusion best practices.

Across the school, we are tracking as expected and seeing positive shifts in many departments. In Academics, we are standardizing strong starts and increasing checks for understanding in each lesson. Our Student Life Team launched a robust calendar of afterschool clubs and events and found new and improved ways for counselors to facilitate character ed

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and SEL lessons. The Student Support Team is trending well ahead of its target for reducing discipline events in the day and evening as compared to last year.

We want to emphasize that there should be a path forward for high-performing staff members interested in building their capacity and/or are excited to transition to different roles.

SEED MD will continue to assess internally and across the network of SEED schools for talent. Please join me in welcoming two of our current team members to new leadership roles. Shaneen Powell will assume the role of the Interim Director of Student Life. Mrs. Powell brings a host of experience in direct service and management to the Student Life Program. We also welcome Tashawna Miller, to her new role as Interim Director of Academics. Ms. Miller has done transformative work overseeing her team of special educators and is eager to build on the work that is already taking place in the Academic department.

We will be announcing the process for the permanent assignment of these roles in communications to come.

There have been some team members who have stepped up big this week, and we would like to send shout-outs to them for modeling the way. Thank you to **Bill Boykin, Ian Roberts, and Askia Schneider** for maintaining our dorms, buildings, and grounds and for setting things up at a moment's notice. Please continue to submit your shout-outs by completing this [form](#).

In closing, there were no reported cases of COVID-19 this week. Additionally, next week is Spirit Week; please see the [flyer](#) for the spirit days and logistics for the pep rally, game, and homecoming dance. Please review so that we can support our students. Here's the [Calendarwiz](#) for the week.

Have a great weekend!

Kirk A. Sykes,
Head of School