Evergreen Community Charter School

Where Learning is an Adventure

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

A Message from Dr. Stacy Shepard | September 2026

Dear Evergreen Families,

September is the month when the excitement of a new school year begins to settle into rhythm. Routines are taking shape, relationships are growing, and our scholars are beginning to see what is possible for them this year.

As parents and caregivers, **you are an essential part of that possibility.** The encouragement you offer before school, the questions you ask at the end of the day, and the way you help your child keep going when something feels hard all shape how they experience school.

This month, I want us to hold onto something simple: our children do not need perfection from the adults who love and support them. They need presence, consistency, hope, and people who believe in who they are becoming. **When school and family walk together, our scholars feel the difference.**

Thank you for continuing to trust us and partner with us. That partnership shows up in many ways - in getting scholars to school each day, in staying connected to what is happening at Evergreen, and in reminding our children that they are known, capable, and deeply cared for.

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC GROWTH | C to B + Exceeding Growth

Before we move into the rest of September, I want to celebrate an important milestone for Evergreen. Our school **moved from a C to a B on the NC School Report Card and earned a designation of Exceeding Growth**. This is a major accomplishment and one that reflects the collective effort of our scholars, educators, staff, families, and community.

This B is more than a letter grade. It is a reminder of what can happen when we keep strong academics and the whole child at the center of every decision. We can challenge scholars academically while also caring for who they are, how they learn, and what they need to thrive. We should be proud of this progress, celebrate it fully, and use it as momentum for what comes next. We are growing - and we are not finished.

ATTENDANCE & ARRIVING ON TIME | Every Day Matters

One of the most important ways we can support that consistency is through **daily attendance and on-time arrival.** When scholars arrive on time, they begin the day alongside their classmates, settle into routines, participate in opening instruction, and start from a place of confidence instead of trying to catch up.

We understand that illness, appointments, and unexpected circumstances happen. When they do, please communicate with the school. On all other days, I ask for your partnership in helping scholars arrive on time, ready to learn, and prepared for the day. **Being here matters. Being on time matters.** Every day our scholars are present is another opportunity to learn, connect, and grow.

SEPTEMBER AT EVERGREEN | Community, Connection & Service

Being present also means having the chance to take part in the life of our school, and September gives us so many ways to do that. From serving our neighbors to celebrating books and gathering among flowers, this month is full of opportunities to connect, give back, and enjoy our Evergreen community together. **Community is something we build together.**

HUNGER ACTION FOOD DRIVE | SEPTEMBER 14-29

Evergreen will participate in the Hunger Action Food Drive from September 14-29. This is a meaningful opportunity for our scholars and families to put compassion into action and support neighbors in our greater community. Every contribution is a reminder that even small acts of generosity can make a real difference.

EVERGREEN BOOK FAIR | SEPTEMBER 21-30

Our Book Fair is coming! We are excited for scholars to discover new stories, new interests, and new reasons to love reading. We hope families will join in the fun and help us celebrate the joy that books can bring.

U-PICK FLOWER FUNDRAISER | SEPTEMBER 17

Pick flowers, support Evergreen! Evergreen parents and owners of **Little Farm NC** are opening their garden to families for a special U-Pick flower session that directly supports Evergreen. It is a beautiful way to spend time together while giving back to our school.

Interested families should **register in advance here**. A heartfelt thank-you to our Evergreen families at Little Farm NC for creating this special opportunity for our community.

CONNECTION, WELLNESS & BELONGING | Caring for the Whole Child

September is also **Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month**, and this is an important reminder that caring for scholars means caring for the whole child. Our children are growing up in a world that can sometimes feel heavy, and one of the most powerful things we can give them is the assurance that they never have to carry difficult things alone.

At home, we can make room for honest, age-appropriate conversations: ask how your child is doing - and sometimes ask again. Listen before trying to fix. Notice changes. Remind them that asking for help is a sign of strength and that trusted adults are ready to support them. At Evergreen, we want every scholar to hear this clearly: **You matter. Your voice matters. Your life matters.**

If you or someone you love is experiencing a mental health crisis or needs immediate emotional support, the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** is available by calling or texting 988.

That sense of belonging also grows through the activities scholars choose to be part of. **Sports and clubs are getting underway, beginning with Flag Football!** I am excited to see scholars building friendships, learning teamwork, developing confidence, and discovering new interests beyond the classroom.

These opportunities matter because every scholar deserves a place where they can say, *"I belong here. I can contribute here. I can grow here."* Please continue watching Evergreen communications for schedules, club offerings, and additional ways for scholars to get involved.

STRONGER TOGETHER | Family + School Partnership

One of the greatest strengths a school can have is a community of adults who understand that we are on the same team. Families know their children in ways we never can, and educators see them in learning spaces in ways families may not. **When we share what we know and work together, scholars benefit.**

Please continue to reach out, ask questions, share celebrations, and communicate concerns. Partnership does not mean we will always see every situation exactly the same way; it means we remain committed to listening, communicating respectfully, and keeping our scholars at the center.

Your presence in this community matters. Every time you attend an event, read a school message, volunteer, encourage your scholar, support strong attendance, or simply remind your child that school matters, you help strengthen Evergreen.

> *“When school and family walk together, our scholars feel the difference.”*

September will bring busy mornings, homework nights, practices, meetings, celebrations, and days when everyone is simply tired. In the middle of all of it, our scholars are watching how we show up, how we work through challenges, and how we care for one another.

Let us keep showing them that growth takes time, mistakes are part of learning, kindness is strength, and asking for help is courageous. Let us keep choosing connection over assumption and partnership over isolation.

Thank you for trusting Evergreen with your children and for continuing to help us build a school community where scholars are seen, supported, challenged, and loved well. I am grateful to be doing this work alongside you.

Here’s to a meaningful September - one filled with presence, connection, growth, and community.

With gratitude,

Dr. Stacy Shepard

Executive Director/Superintendent

Evergreen Community Charter School

EVERGREEN TOGETHER

Growing scholars.

Strengthening community.

Caring for one another.