

May 8th, 2025

Dear Herman J. Russell West End Academy Community,

It is with heartfelt appreciation and gratitude that I share that I will be transitioning out of my role as Principal at the end of this school year. Serving the students, families, staff, and partners of Herman J. Russell West End Academy has been one of the greatest honors of my career.

This decision was not made lightly. Serving the scholars, staff, families, and partners of Russell has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. Together, we have strengthened instruction, elevated student voice, celebrated growth, and built a culture rooted in excellence, resilience, and love. I will always cherish the relationships we've built and the progress we've made, especially as we've worked together to ensure that every child receives the support and opportunities they deserve.

To our parents and families: thank you for entrusting me with your children, for partnering with our team, and for being fierce advocates for your scholars.

To our community and business partners: thank you for your unwavering support, generous contributions, and belief in the mission of our school. Your involvement has made a lasting impact.

And to the staff of H.J. Russell: you are the heart of this building. Your dedication, compassion, and strength are unmatched, and I will continue to root for you in every step forward.

Though my journey is taking a new path, Russell will always be home to me. This is not a goodbye, it's a *see you later*.

