

## Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year!



**From** MeckEd <info@mecked.org>

**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>

**Date** 2021-09-10 09:59

# MeckEd.

## A Message from our

# President

Dear Friends,

I've never been so happy to be stuck in afternoon traffic on the first day of school behind a school bus that was dropping off what looked like first and second graders at an apartment complex on Eastway Blvd. All were wearing masks and shouldering backpacks that looked to be bigger and heavier than most of them! Moms were waiting to ask about their day, what they learned, and if they liked their teachers. I could not see them smiling, but I could see the joy in their eyes, and feel the excitement from their mannerisms.

It is a scene that, in one form or another, I've witnessed every September for as long as I can remember. Except last year. I was surprised by how much I missed these seemly insignificant but truly meaningful moments. It made me smile and choke up at the same time. I even heard myself say to no one in particular, that it's all going to work out. We must believe that. Together, we are going to make it work out, no matter what.

On behalf of the staff and the children and families we serve, thank you for believing, as we do, that every kid matters, and deserves a fair shot at a good life. Let's make the 2021-2022 school year one to remember for all the right reasons!!

Onward!!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

**Ross Danis, Ed.D.**  
**President/CEO**



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**Afterschool opportunities are critically important for students. Charlotte Next is working to increase access to these opportunities for vulnerable middle school students. Learn more about [Charlotte Next](#) by visiting our website today!**

**Career Pathways is currently enrolling 10th-12th grade students from Garinger, Harding, Julius Chambers, and West Charlotte High Schools. [Learn more today](#) and contact Omar Parkes - [oparkes@mecked.org](mailto:oparkes@mecked.org) - if your student qualifies!**



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