



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

May 21, 2025

Ligon Magnet Middle School Families,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the next principal of Ligon Magnet Middle School, effective June 18, 2025, though I would be remiss if I did not begin by also expressing my sincere gratitude to Mr. Scott Lyons for his exceptional efforts throughout his tenure as interim principal, and to Mr. Gary Duvall for his five-plus years of dedicated leadership. It is truly an honor to be next in line to receive the metaphorical baton pass of the Ligon principalship. I look forward to contributing to our school's longstanding tradition of excellence and am confident that, together, we will embark upon its best chapter yet.

My career in education began over a decade ago as a special education teacher at Conway Middle School in Northampton County, so I am thrilled to be returning to those middle school roots. After relocating to Wake County in 2016, I taught at Green Hope High School and later Hortons Creek Elementary School. In addition to teaching at all three levels, I served as department chair and coached wrestling, football, basketball, and baseball. I transitioned to school administration in 2021 as an assistant principal at Green Level High School and, since 2023, have served as the school's Assistant Principal of Instruction. While in that role, I have focused primarily on instructional coaching, professional learning, school improvement, and supporting the intervention and special education departments. Over the course of the last year, I also completed an internship with the WCPSS Central Area Superintendent's Office, which has equipped me with an understanding of many of our downtown Raleigh schools, their rich histories, and the importance of magnet programming. It was also through that experience that I became drawn to Ligon, in particular. I obtained my bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and my Master of School Administration and Doctor of Education degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Beyond my educational and professional background, my approach to school leadership builds upon my identity as a husband and father. My wife and I are the proud parents of an energetic four-year-old boy and, as a family, we enjoy spending time with our pets (one dog and one cat), outdoors, or attending a wide variety of sporting events.

As I transition to Ligon in the coming weeks, one of my top priorities will be connecting with you and the broader school community. Details regarding various opportunities to connect and share your insights throughout the summer months will be shared soon via the school website and social media.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or wish to introduce yourself, please feel free to contact me via email at dwilliams7@wcpss.net.

Yours in partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Williams", with a large, stylized initial "D" on the left.

Darren J. Williams, Ed.D.