

# **Dr. Gerard Spencer Edwards**

## **Head of School at Spartanburg Preparatory School**

Dr. Gerard Edwards became the Head of School of Spartanburg Preparatory School in June 2016. Spartanburg Preparatory School serves grades Kindergarten through Eighth grade and has an annual enrollment of over 400 students.

Before accepting the leadership role at Spartanburg Preparatory School, Dr. Edwards served as the principal at Alfred Rush Academy in Florence School District One. He was instrumental in revising the mission, vision, and improvement of Alfred Rush Academy. Dr. Edwards has orchestrated the revamping of school policies and student expectations. His efforts have reduced the recidivism that plagued assigned to FSD1 alternative schools.

Passionate about kids and education, Dr. Edwards brings to his work a unique combination of education and experience. Dr. Gerard Spencer Edwards began his career at Fairforest Middle School, in Spartanburg School District Six, where he taught seventh-grade mathematics. He has taught high school mathematics and coached a variety of sports on the middle and high school level. In 1999, Dr. Edwards became assistant principal at Darlington High School. In 2001, he was named principal at Johnson Middle School, in Florence County School District Four. Dr. Edwards became principal of Wilson High School in the summer of 2005. During his seven-year tenure at Wilson High School, Dr. Edwards implemented several successful initiatives, which led to increasing student achievement and school success.

Among his accomplishments, Dr. Edwards was awarded the prestigious Inez M. Tenenbaum Award for his outstanding contributions to the professional learning community in 2004. In 2007, Dr. Edwards was named a charter member of the SCDE Education Leaders Fellows Program. In 2014, Dr. Edwards completed the SCDE Education Policy Fellow Program. The Education Policy Fellow Program is a 10-month intensive professional development program for established and emerging leaders in education and related fields to help equip them in working toward sound education policy and practice in South Carolina. Most recently, Dr. Gerard Edwards was selected to take part in the Grassroots Leadership Development Institute. The Grassroots Leadership Development Institute is a special initiative of The Spartanburg County Foundation. This seven-month leadership training program is designed to equip participants with the knowledge, skill-set, and resources to be effective in leading change at the grassroots level.

Dr. Edwards received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Wofford College in 1994. He earned his master's degree in educational administration and supervision from Winthrop University in 1999 and a doctorate in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 2005. His dissertation was entitled *A Study to Determine the Effects of a Family-school-community Plan on Sixth-Grade Families and Students in a Rural Middle School*. He has also served as an adjunct professor of education at Concordia University.

Dr. Edwards is married to Dr. Zenobia Edwards. They have one son, Collin Spencer Edwards, who attends Clemson University

Dr. Edwards enjoys working on his computer at home or in the office. He enjoys learning about computer and internet technology. Dr. Edwards also LOVES athletics. He enjoys such sports as football, basketball, baseball, and soccer.

Dr. Edwards genuinely loves children and teachers. His loyalty to his students and teachers guides every decision that he makes as an administrator.