

Focus ON CCSD

News for, by and about Charleston County School District,
the state of South Carolina's premier school district where *Students are the Heart of Our Work.*

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PHYSICAL EXERCISE PROMOTES BEHAVIORAL IMPROVEMENT



Test scores improved after students participated in Advanced PE.

Exercise can improve brain function and thinking skills. It increases your heart rate, which boosts the flow of blood and oxygen to your brain. It can also stimulate the production of hormones that can enhance the growth of brain cells.

With that in mind, Physical Education teachers at Northwoods Middle School, Megan Reilly and Alex Matos, established a specialized class, called Advanced PE.

There are currently 21 sixth-grade students who participate. Each student is provided a uniform, a heart rate monitor, a specialized fitness watch, a water bottle, and a gym bag. They have a locker room and laundry facilities to ensure clean uniforms every day and a safe place to store their belongings without having to carry them back and forth.

Their watches are set to their height, weight, and gender. The students exercise their way through boot camp type stations, competing against each other and their own best times in the target heart rate zone and calories burned. Exercises include muscle-

building, strength and endurance, and cardiovascular activities.

The results of the Advanced PE Class are astounding.

Reilly compared the student's scores from the fall to the spring, and 15 of the 21 students improved their scores in both English and math. Some students improved their grades exponentially while others improved an average of two to three points. Almost all students were above average in growth.

As if the improved grades were not enough, students improved drastically in their behavior as well. One female student had 19 behavioral incidents in the first two quarters and none in the third quarter.

One student went from 31 behavioral incidents in the first and second quarter to just nine in the third quarter.

"Those incidents could be minor because we log everything," said Reilly. "But that's quite an improvement."



Advanced PE is like an exercise boot camp.

Even more remarkable was that student's improvement academically. This particular student improved 10 points in math.

"I am proud of myself," he said. "I am working hard to make better grades."

Wellness is a school-wide initiative, and Principal Dr. Colleen Knauer was a big advocate for the creation of the Advanced PE class.

"The students in the Advanced PE program have soared to the challenge so much so that other students are wanting to enroll in the class," said Knauer. "As for the students currently enrolled, their behavior and grades are tracked and monitored daily by the PE teacher. Additionally, many of them have seen improvements not only with behavior and academics but also with their health."

Two students learned about the class and asked to be enrolled, not because they needed that extra push to improve their behavior or academic scores, but because of personal goals they wanted to accomplish in the areas of weight loss and wellness.

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North Charleston High School Students Mentor Their Elementary Counterparts



High school students from North Charleston High School partnered with elementary students as mentors.



North Charleston Elementary students received extra reading and writing help through a pen pal partnership.

Rachel Etchason's third-grade students at North Charleston Elementary School (NCES) read on a wide range of levels. Some read above grade-level, while some struggle just a little. One student is from Honduras and doesn't speak or read English yet. He's been in Etchason's class for just three months. However, he's extremely proficient in his native language.

Extra reading help is bringing everyone up to speed thanks to the AP English students at North Charleston High School (NCHS). They've partnered with the elementary students as pen pals to help make reading and writing on and above grade-level more easily obtainable.

NCHS English teacher Mev McIntosh noticed through the years that reading and communication were large issues within the school community and wanted to improve that by reaching the younger students.

In addition to writing letters to each other, the high school students come in and conduct a lesson and then split off for one-on-one time where they read with their pen pal, go over goals, and discuss ways to improve. "My students discussed ways of giving back to their community while

at the same time focusing on instruction and curriculum," said McIntosh. "After brainstorming, they created this pen pal program complete with goals for the students. They are unofficial mentors encouraging goal setting and achievement."

"It's been an amazing opportunity for my students to see older kids from their neighborhood take time out of their busy schedules to come help them," said Etchason. "My students look up to these kids. They've got all eyes on them."

The student from Honduras was partnered with a Spanish speaking student and is thriving. He's also slowly learning his English words.

The partnership is in its infancy. Etchason hopes to see it not only continue, but expand to other classes within NCES.

"There's not enough light shed on these kids in North Charleston," said Etchason. "The kids have a lot of great things going on and a lot of great things happening in their schools. This pen pal program is just one of many things."

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"My students discussed ways of giving back to their community while at the same time focusing on instruction and curriculum. After brainstorming, they created this pen pal program complete with goals for the students. They are unofficial mentors encouraging goal setting and achievement."

MEV MCINTOSH
NORTH CHARLESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

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Three CCSD Schools Named Capturing Kids’ Hearts Showcase Schools



Capturing Kids Hearts at Memminger Elementary School



Capturing Kids Hearts at Jerry Zucker Middle School

Kids want to be in classrooms where teachers know how to connect with them and make them feel valued. Schools all across Charleston County School District make that connection with students, but three in particular were recognized for an exemplary job.

The Flippen Group named Memminger Elementary School, Jerry Zucker Middle School (JZMS) and R.B. Stall High School a Capturing Kids’ Hearts (CKH) Showcase School for the 2018-2019 school year. This honor highlights schools where students and staff are enjoying the change in their campus culture and academic performance of their students.

These schools are all repeat winners. JZMS is a second-year recipient; while Memminger is a third-year recipient; and this is the fourth year Stall has been recognized.

Capturing Kids’ Hearts offers an integrated solution that give educators tools and techniques to transform their classrooms. Since 1990, campuses across the country have experienced amazing outcomes with Capturing Kids’ Hearts tools and processes by creating socio-emotional safety conducive to learning.

“When you have a kid’s heart, you have their life,” said Laura Veal, teacher assistant at Memminger.

According to the Flippen Group philosophy, when kids and teachers are connected, there is a significant positive transformational effect on the five key indicators of school performance:

- Decreased Discipline Referrals
- Increased Student Achievement
- Increased Attendance Rates
- Increased Graduation Rates
- Increased Teacher Satisfaction

“We congratulate and thank you for all you do for the students and staff of Charleston County School District. Your tireless commitment to improving schools for generations to come is to be commended.”

FLIP FLIPPEN
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF FLIPPEN GROUP

“We are proud to get this national recognition from CKH for a second year,” said JZMS Principal Jacob Perlmutter. “Our faculty and staff has worked hard to create a great school climate at Zucker Middle School. Like other schools, we focus on connectivity and character traits and kindness but we also stay focused on positivity every day, one student, and one interaction at a time. We’ve learned that by creating a place that we enjoy working, we create a place where our students enjoy working too.”

Memminger IB World School Principal Abigail Woods said the implementation of Capturing Kids’ Hearts at Memminger has helped create a positive, productive learning environment.

“At Memminger, we have embraced this process in order to fully support our students’ growth both academically and socially,” said Woods.

R.B. Stall High School Principal Jeremy Carrick added that Capturing Kids’ Hearts has been the fundamental component in the development of a positive school culture.

“We are honored to be one of six schools across the nation that have received this distinction of a National Showcase School since its inception four years ago,” said Carrick. “In alignment with Capturing Kids’ Hearts, we strive to develop strong, healthy relationships between all stakeholders in order to see students reach their full potential.”

Through these National Showcase Schools awards, the Flippen Group celebrates all the campuses that go the extra mile each day to build an environment where students and staff feel safe and connected.

“We congratulate and thank you for all you do for the students and staff of Charleston County School District,” said Flip Flippen, founder and chairman of Flippen Group. “Your tireless commitment to improving schools for generations to come is to be commended.”



These campuses will be honored and celebrated throughout the coming year as Capturing Kids’ Hearts National Showcase Schools. In addition to public recognition, the campus has a banner to proudly display their achievement.

District Hosts Topping Off Ceremony for New C.E. Williams Middle School

A “topping off” ceremony was held Thursday, May 30, 2019, to celebrate the construction of the new C.E. Williams Middle School in West Ashley.

Students and officials from the school and Charleston County School District signed a beam that was raised and put in position. This commemorative gesture represents the last beam being placed atop a structure during its construction.

The new 137,227 square-foot, 900-student, two-story facility is located at 3090 Sanders Road.

The contractor for the \$53.3 million project is Contract Construction, and LS3P is the architect. Cumming is the construction management company. The school is scheduled to open in August 2020.

C.E. Williams was established in 1968 and named after Chalmers Elliott Williams who served as the Superintendent of St. Andrew’s Parish School District District 10 from 1943 to 1975.

Principal Kevin Smith, a native of Charleston, attended the middle school when he was a child.

“It was at CEW that I developed confidence in my artistic talent which led me to obtain a degree in visual arts and I returned to CCSD to teach,” said Smith. “As life does, the twists and turns have led me back to CEW. Having the opportunity to be a part of building a school that helped build me is an honor.”

Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait said the district is committed to creating and maintaining the best possible learning and work environments.

“Our Board of Trustees has been responsive to facilities needs and ensuring our students have state-of-the-art facilities to learn,” said Dr. Postlewait. “This is a milestone in the school’s long history and a well-deserved upgrade for the students and the community.”

Smith said he hopes that the new building becomes an integral part of the community as it prepares learners for high school, college, and careers.

“May this building provide them with a physical environment that will shelter, nurture and prepare them for great things to come and to be a place of which we can all be proud,” said Smith



C.E. Williams chorus students perform at the Topping Off Ceremony.

“This is a milestone in the school’s long history and a well-deserved upgrade for the students and the community.”

DR. GERRITA POSTLEWAIT
SUPERINTENDENT
CHARLESTON COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Physical Education Improving Test Scores and Behavior – Continued from page 1



Weightloss, behavior improvement and improved academic scores are all goals of those participating in Advanced PE.

One of those students lost 7 lbs. in two weeks and has now lost 11 lbs. total. She’s lifting weights, quickly turning fat into muscle. She can also run a mile in under 15 minutes.

“I feel so much better about myself,” she said. “The hardest part about the class is to keep going when I want to give up. I push myself to keep going because this helps me. I plan to keep on working over the summer, as well.”

An additional student has lost 17 lbs. so far.

“I really like the class and find everything to be real easy,” he said. “My favorite part is lifting weights.”

To further motivate these 21 students, teachers from their other classes often join them to get in their own workout. In addition, a morning PE class has been added for those students who need to start their day off with a little physical activity.

Coach Matos said that exercise works the same way in his own life.

“If I need to study or be more focused to do my daily routine, I exercise before I begin,” said Matos. “We’ve seen this work so well for these kids that we’ve added a morning workout during the first-period homeroom. The kids can get some of that energy out before they roll out their day.”

“A lot of their results are their choice,” said Reilly. “There may be days they don’t fully participate or are just having a bad day. From what we’ve learned that usually results in a behavioral incident or poor academic performance.”

The students are held accountable by keeping a behavior tracker on hand for their teachers to fill out so that the coaches know their rate of improvement.

Reilly said none of the students have a negative attitude about being in the class. In fact, they’re pushing themselves to do better.

“Typically a kid needs more than just someone who is going to call them out,” said Reilly. “They need someone to be proud of them.

CCSD Students Exhibit Works in Anson Street Burial Ground Community Art

When the remains of 36 individuals were unearthed at the Gaillard Center in 2013, so were a mountain of questions: Who were these people? How did they come to be buried here? And most importantly—what are their stories?

Two hundred and fifty years after they were buried, some of those questions have been answered through detailed research, and some of those findings were revealed at a recent reinterment ceremony.

Prior to the ceremony, nine Charleston County Schools were invited to participate in the recent Anson Street African Burial Ground (ASABG) Community Art Exhibition located in the Charleston Civic Design Center.

The self-guided tour of artwork was facilitated by five local artists and La'Sheia Oubre, who is the Education and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Gullah Society. She is also a retired Charleston County School District (CCSD) teacher.

“As a team, we were trying to determine how to bring this project to the community,” said Oubre. “The students’ artwork hung on the same walls as the professional artists and brought to life these people and their struggles and their impact on Charleston.”

Redux Contemporary Art Center worked alongside the Gullah Society to provide the workshops and engage the community in the ASABG’s efforts. Redux utilized local community artists to engage the community from children to elders.

Workshops were held at local schools and Redux; where students learned about archaeological and genetic research related to the Anson Street African Burials and created artwork using various visual media.

“The students were beginning to work on an African mask project when we were asked to do the large mural,” said Burke High School art teacher Erin Carter. “We decided to combine the masks into a large collage of all the information we were given on the Gullah Society Burial Ground project. We wanted to include the actual bones dug up from the site, so I asked if we could get some copies of the burial remains photos. At that point, things simply started to come together.”

The artwork of these students was inspired by the ancestral spaces uncovered on Anson Street along with the Gullah Geechee Culture. The work was intended to reflect Charleston’s ancestry as much as their own genealogy. The art exhibit will make its way across the Lowcountry, with the next stop at Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission’s McLeod Plantation Historic Site. The exhibit there will run September 2019 to January 2020. All schools are invited to experience the Community Art Installation.

Learning about ancestry

According to Joanna Gilmore, Director of Research and Interpretation with the Gullah Society, Brockington and Associates were contracted to excavate and remove the remains after they were initially discovered during construction work.

“The burials were placed in roughly four rows, dating 1750 to 1800,” said Gilmore. “It is important to recognize and remember the contributions of enslaved and free people of color so that we can enrich what we know about Charleston’s past and its impact on life today. Historical records relating to the lives of the enslaved are difficult to find, so archeological research combined with DNA analysis can help us create a better picture of who these people were.”

In May 2018, colleagues from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Theodore Schurr and Raquel Fleskes, collected bone samples from the 36 individuals that were found near Anson Street. Historical, archaeological, and ongoing DNA research indicated that these 36 women, men, and children were buried between 1750 and 1800. Some were born in Africa and others were born in South Carolina.

Dr. Schurr and Fleskes also collected 78 DNA samples from living individuals of African descent. In July and August 2018, College of Charleston student Adeyemi Oduwole analyzed this material at the University of Pennsylvania with support from the National Geographic Society. The results of the analysis of modern DNA variation provides an initial view of genetic diversity in Charleston that can be compared with what was obtained from the Anson Street burials and allows community members to learn about their genetic ancestry.

During one school visit where Oubre conducted a workshop to share information on the 36 individuals, one middle school student asked if the Gullah Society could name the ancestors.

“The answer was yes and an important step towards reclaiming the humanity of these deceased individuals,” said Oubre. “The research into each individual provided significant insight on the important characteristics of these humans. They were provided culturally relevant names that honor their existence centuries ago.”

Gilmore said the students were eager to participate.

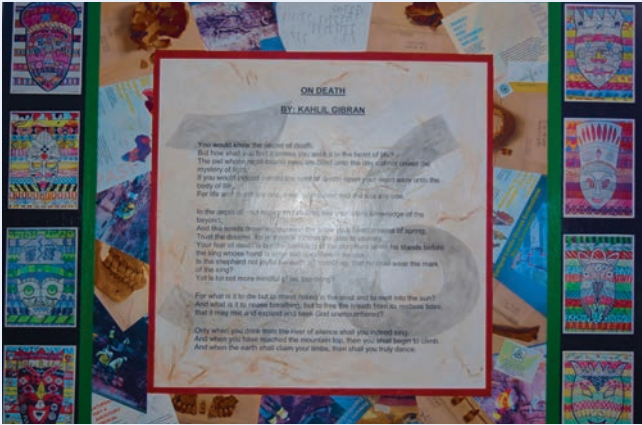
“Hopefully, they’re proud of their contribution to the project and how they helped us to remember these individuals here in Charleston,” said Gilmore. “The Gullah society was certainly overwhelmed by the amazing work produced by these students.”

“As a team, we were trying to determine how to bring this project to the community. The students’ artwork hung on the same walls as the professional artists and brought to life these people and their struggles and their impact on Charleston.”

LA’SHEIA OUBRE — EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE GULLAH SOCIETY



North Charleston High School



Burke High School



Simmons Pinckney Elementary School

BURNS STUDENT ACCEPTED INTO GIFTED AND TALENTED STRINGS PROGRAM



Patricia Johnson

Edmund A. Burns Elementary School fifth-grade student Patricia Johnson is the first student in the history of the school to be accepted into the Charleston County School District (CCSD) Gifted and Talented Strings Program as a violinist, making her eligible to advance to the CCSD Preparatory District Orchestra. This is her first year at Burns, but she is not new to the district’s strings program.

Johnson fell in love with the violin while at Malcom C. Hursey Elementary School last year under the instruction of strings teacher Samantha Clark.

“She was always excited to play by herself and show off new skills,” said Clark. “Patricia is always ready to learn and has a positive attitude. I was so happy to hear that she made it into district orchestra.”

The 11-year-old said she enjoys music and felt a natural connection to the violin.

“I enjoy strings because I get to learn new things while having fun,” said Johnson. “I really would like to become a professional musician. I want to play in orchestras around the world.”

Sharese Pearson-Bush, M.A, M.Ed., is Johnson’s current strings instructor. She transferred to CCSD to rebuild and establish strings instruction in low socio-economic areas. Her transfer to CCSD was an effort to challenge herself. Her mission is to recruit and retain minority students in orchestra.

“It’s important for several reasons,” said Pearson-Bush. “Music education builds community and family in the classroom. The students bond with their classmates and build discipline, literacy and social skills they may not get in other academic areas.”

In addition to the 22 students she instructs at Burns, she also teaches 50 orchestra students and numerous music appreciation students at Northwoods Middle School.

Classes at Burns are held just twice a week.

“I saw an extra spark in Patricia,” said Pearson-Bush. “She is an overachiever who takes her instrument home every night to practice posture and finger placement. She asks lots of questions and comes to me on my planning period for extra tutoring.”

For the Gifted and Talented audition, Johnson learned to play *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. She also had to complete sight reading on material she had never seen.

Pearson-Bush grew up in North Carolina where there are well-established orchestra and band programs in the local schools. She followed in her brother’s footsteps to join Strings and began playing the cello in fifth-grade. The orchestra teacher saw a spark in Pearson-Bush that motivated her to audition and perform in county, regional, and state orchestras. While in middle school, Pearson-Bush performed with professional symphonies and joined the school band playing a variety of instruments.

Pearson-Bush is also an Adjunct Professor of Applied Cello and Bass Instruction at Charleston Southern University. She sits side by side with one of her cello students in the Summerville Orchestra. She wants the same success for Johnson.

“I just keep telling her, ‘we can do this,’” said Pearson-Bush. “I wanted her to build pride not only in herself but in what she can do as part of an orchestra.”

Johnson is a stellar student who follows rules and procedures and goes the extra mile to help out her fellow students.

“She gives her all every day when she comes to my class,” said Pearson-Bush. “I hope she attends a middle school that offers orchestra.”

District Orchestra Coordinator Bridgette B. Brooks, M.S. said the opportunity Johnson earned would allow her the opportunity to play at a higher level and prepare her for auditions across the region.

“It opens up opportunities all around,” said Brooks. “These students can advance to other orchestras and earn scholarships. It provides students with that push they need to develop their playing skills further and see where they can take themselves.”

Johnson’s favorite song is Mary Had a Little Lamb which she is learning to perfect.

“You can do any song with a violin and you can make a career out of it,” said Johnson. “Maybe I’ll even write my own music one day.”

North Charleston High School Students Visit the Nation’s Capitol

North Charleston High School (NCHS) seniors were treated to the opportunity of a lifetime last month when they were taken on a school field trip to Washington, DC to visit the U.S. Capitol, African American Museum, Arlington Cemetery, along with other memorable sites.

The trip was a culmination of fundraising efforts, staff donations, and a contribution from the North Charleston High School Booster Club. What would have been an almost \$600 trip was whittled down to just \$125 per student. The cost included transportation provided by Kelly Tours, a three-night stay in Washington, all meals (including snacks), and tickets to all scheduled attractions. Chick-fil-A contributed by meeting the students at the first rest stop on the interstate to treat the students to a catered lunch on their way out of town.

Carolyn Southall is a business education teacher and the senior class sponsor. Part of her duties, she explained, is to make sure the graduating class has a unique experience that students would not ordinarily get in the classroom.

“The population at North Charleston High is such that if it were not for the school and the contributions from the community, the kids would not have many opportunities,” said Southall. “All they know is the world in which they live which is often challenging and sometimes problematic. Not all fit that mold; however, a lot do.”

For many of the students, it was their first time leaving the state. According to Southall, their faces lit up when she told them they were officially out of South Carolina when they crossed the border into North Carolina.

“This was not just a field trip,” said Southall. “It was an experience of a lifetime. I saw students come alive in a way I could have never imagined. All these kids know is their reality. What they learn in the classroom is great. However, the students need to experience new and exciting things outside of the school to help them better understand the world in which they live. We have to go above and beyond their scope of perception and show them what is out there.”

Southall said the students were more excited at first about being taken out of town than they were



North Charleston High School seniors visited Washington for their senior trip.

about the things they would be doing and seeing on the trip.

“Students experienced a level of independence and an extended level of trust; and we had no problems,” said Southall. “The students experienced a different type of interaction with the teacher/chaperones Chef Cindi Welsh, Mrs. Corey McBee, Coach Devan Smalls, and Mr. Adesanya Adebambo. They saw us as regular people enjoying ourselves while spending time with them in new and different learning environments. The tour guide and people around us were bragging on our students. The students acted appropriately and enjoyed themselves.”

Elijah King was one of the seniors who went on the trip. He described it as amazing.

“To be able to see Washington was nice but the African American Museum was the best,” said King. “I am African American, and I learned a lot about my history that I didn’t know.

Rome Breland hasn’t left the state of South Carolina in years.

According to Breland, “Not only was it memorable to travel somewhere but to learn about our country’s history, government structure and to tour the capital and the African Museum was incredible.”

Danaija Duncan joined her classmates in appreciating the African American Museum and its celebrations of the contributions that blacks made to America.

Meisha Coles previously lived in Delaware and has been to Washington before. She was not thrilled about returning but once around her friends, touring the famed African American Museum her mind was quickly changed.

“We learned a lot about black history in a way that wasn’t watered down or buttered up,” she said.

According to student Evelynn Latimore, learning can be fun.

“I was with my friends, making memories and bonding all while participating in educational opportunities,” said Latimore. She also stated, “I made acquaintances with people I wouldn’t normally befriend, and this was a great way to round out the last leg of the year.”

STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR STEAM CLUB CREATIONS THROUGH ANNUAL FESTIVAL



Students and teachers at Ashely River Creative Arts celebrated their fifth annual STEAM club festival on Friday, May 17, 2019.

STEAM is an approach in education that utilizes science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics that allows students to use their critical thinking skills to further their understanding of problem-solving and collaboration with others.

“STEAM mimics the real world more so than subjects in isolation,” said Jennifer Waldron, STEAM program coordinator, and teacher of the year. “It increases the complexity of thinking because you are using a cross-curricular approach.”

The STEAM club at Ashley River was formed about five years ago when Waldron noticed that leading a robotics club had some limitations on student creativity and was merely competitive. She created the STEAM club which is led by students but monitored by

Waldron and Matthew Carrington, a fourth-grade teacher.

The festival was held during the school day and allowed club members to showcase projects they worked on throughout the year.

Every year the theme for the festival varies due to the technologies available and student interests in creations. This year the theme was more focused on construction and creating games out of cardboard.

Some of these creations included a paint catapult, robot maze, stop-motion animation, programmed LEGO inventions, Makey Makey musical instruments, and more.

The festival allows these inventions to be presented but also influence other students to join, including minorities within the STEAM field.

“It was showcasing work, it was getting the population of our school aware and excited about STEAM, but it was also a recruiting tool

because I wanted students to view it as ‘wow this is fun I don’t have to be an amazing coder,’” said Waldron.

It also has a positive impact on students within the club.

“I think one of the things they get out of it is they understand what it’s like to be a teacher first of all,” said Carrington. “They definitely get communication skills. A lot of the students that we work with are not natural presenters, and we see that they come out of their shell during the year but especially at the event because they are passionate about what they are doing and want to show off to people.”

Due to the positive impact of the club, the school is implementing STEAM learning into everyday learning next year at the school and Waldron, and Carrington hopes this will eventually influence the community to do the same.



North Charleston High School Students Mentor Their Elementary Counterparts – Continued from page 1

Third-grader Lamarion Hardaway said he’s learning things he did not know before.

“It’s fun, and my pen pal likes the same things as me,” said Hardaway. “He really helps me.”

McIntosh said the program addresses the need to give back and strengthens community relationships. She hopes the elementary school students will one day pass that on.

“I’ve seen growth in my high school students,” said McIntosh. “I’ve seen their

leadership skills improve and I am certain they’re getting the bigger picture.” Senior Arthur Gibson enjoys helping the younger students meet and exceed their goals.

“I had a tutor when I was younger, and I wanted to do the same for other students,” said Gibson. “My tutor inspired me to do great, and it feels great to be a role model for these kids.”

McIntosh will host the elementary students at the high school May 28 for an end of the year roundup.

CCSD Athletes Honored at Moultrie News’ 2019 Prep Sports Event

Focus ON CCSD

Focus on Charleston County School District is published for, by and about CCSD, the state of South Carolina’s premier school district where *Students are the Heart of our Work.*

Gerrita Postlewait, *Superintendent of Schools*
Erica Taylor, *Chief Officer, Strategy & Communications*
Sully Witte, *Communications Officer*

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Eight Charleston County School District senior athletes were honored May 22, 2019 by the Moultrie News at their annual Best of 2019 Prep Sports celebration.

The event, held at Alhambra Hall highlighted the wide-ranging and outstanding performances of these high school athletes on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

Seven students from Wando High School and one student from Academic Magnet High School were honored and recognized by emcee Dean Stephens, a local television personality, and guest speaker George Rogers, University of South Carolina 1980 Heisman Trophy Winner.

The students honored were:

Academic Magnet High School

Colin Baker - The Courage Award, and Boys Cross Country

Wando High School

Emma Stevenson - Cheer
Maggie Van Thullenar - Girls Soccer
Sami Meredith - Girls Soccer
David Kowalchick - Boys Track
Justin Pelic – Football
Nathan Fasanaro - Boys Lacrosse



Pictured (from left) are Nathan Fasanaro, Wando; Justin Pelic, Wando; Maggie Van Thullenar, Wando; George Rogers, USC 1980 Hiesman Trophy Winner; Emma Stevenson, Wando; Colin Baker, Academic Magnet and Sami Meredith, Wando. Not pictured is David Kowalchick.