



**Academic Magnet High School**

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### **Academic Magnet's Mock Trial team places fourth in the state**

**North Charleston, SC** – The Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) community congratulates its Mock Trial team on its fourth-place finish at the state competition on March 11, 2022. This is only the second year for the Academic Magnet Mock Trial team. The Raptors made the state competition by taking third place in the regionals last month, beating out 34 other high schools..

At the state level, the team competed valiantly, winning all but one of their three rounds, eventually falling to one of the top two teams in South Carolina. Team attorneys Betsy Bailey ('24) and Harry Ding ('24) were recognized by their peers as top litigators, as were witnesses Lucas Sutherland ('24) and Harrison Biddle ('23). Peer-nominated attorneys from the regional competition included Harry Ding, Wilson Swenson ('24), and Joey Benich ('23). Recognized witnesses included Harrison Biddle, Lucas Sutherland, and Kimberly Do ('25). Regional scoring judges recognized attorneys Harry Ding and witnesses Lucas Sutherland, Cambell Leshner ('24), and Colin George ('24).

Academic Magnet's Mock Trial program is an extracurricular activity, meeting after school every week. Assistant principal Kimberly Zerbst helped start the team last year. This year, teacher-librarian Dr. Lara Russell manages the team with assistance from attorney coaches Elizabeth Fritz Bailey and Judge Gene Wilson.

"Dr. Russell and Ms. Zerbst have been instrumental in getting this team to a fourth-place finish in just two years," said Bailey. "Our team was well-rounded and professional with almost all of the members being recognized by their peers and judges in 'most effective' awards over the two competition weekends and no violations."

The team credited a lot of their success to the dedicated work of Bailey and Judge Wilson, both of whom regularly instructed participants on the mechanics of the law and trial proceedings.

For the students, Mock Trial is ultimately more than learning about the law itself; it's about having fun as part of something larger than oneself.

"I have met some of the greatest people through Mock Trial, and I am so grateful for the experience," explained AMHS freshman Kimmy Do. "Mock Trial is like a family made up of the most talented and brightest people I know."

For more information, contact Lara Walker Russell at [lara\\_russell@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:lara_russell@charleston.k12.sc.us).

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), music and other creative and performing arts, career and technical preparation programs, and military.