

For Immediate Release

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Media Release



Michelle Conner

Principal at Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School

**Division of Strategy and
Communications**

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor, Ed.D.
Chief of Staff

Whitesides Elementary to welcome new principal for 2022-2023 school year

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce and welcome Michelle Conner as the principal at Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School. Conner has served as the principal at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary in West Ashley since April 2017. Whitesides Interim Principal Cathie Middleton will retire at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year.

In her education career, Conner first served as a graduate assistant to three year olds at the Early Childhood Development Center at the College of Charleston while earning one of her master's degrees. Upon completion of her graduate studies, Conner obtained a preschool special education teaching position at Mary Ford Elementary in 1993, where she also served as Preschool PTA Club Chairperson. Several years later, Conner took her career abroad serving as an English as a second language (ESL) kindergarten teacher and English grade level leader at the American School of Guatemala in Guatemala City from 1996-1999. Upon her return to the states, Conner took a kindergarten teaching position in Alexandria, Virginia. Several years later, she went on to teach second grade in Wichita, Kansas.

In 2004, Conner returned to CCSD at Mt. Pleasant Academy (MPA) where she taught kindergarten, first, and third grades over the course of the next 11 years. While at MPA, Conner spent time during the summers serving as a Summer Literacy Program Site Coordinator at Mitchell Elementary and assisting MPA administration with special projects including back-to-school activities and programs for teachers. In 2015, Conner became the assistant principal at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary and in 2017 was promoted to principal where she has served up until now.

Conner earned a Bachelor of Arts in Language and International Trade with an emphasis in Spanish and Global Marketing from Clemson University. She also holds a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education from the College of Charleston and a Master of Education in Elementary Administration from The Citadel.

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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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.