

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### **Thrift named Lowcountry Regional Librarian of the Year**

**Charles Pinckney Elementary School**

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Michelle Simmons**  
Executive Director of Elementary Learning Community

**Tiffany Henderson**  
Principal

**Mount Pleasant, SC** – Jennifer Thrift, the teacher librarian at Charles Pinckney Elementary School, was named the [Lowcountry Regional Librarian of the Year](#) on November 29, 2021, by the South Carolina Association of School Librarians. This is her 17th year in the position that she describes as a true passion. Thrift was also named a Library Journal Mover and Shaker in 2019, served as president of the Charleston County Association of School Librarians, and currently serves on the Charleston County School District (CCSD) Library Advisory Team.

“Mrs. Thrift creates a positive, nurturing environment where her students feel confident and fearless,” said Principal Tiffany Henderson. “She provides a sense of security, where each child does not feel intimidated about learning. Innovation, technology, and arts integration are key components that she uses to drive student achievement and excitement for learning in her media center.”

Christy James, CCSD’s Library Media Services Coordinator agreed.

“Jennifer exemplifies a true teacher librarian, with a special emphasis on the teaching piece,” said James. “She takes her instructional role very seriously with both students and staff, and has extensive knowledge of standards, curriculum, literacy, technology, and instructional practices. This is an invaluable combination in a school library.”

Thrift said the Pinckney library is more than a place to check out books, it is a community where all are welcome. She focuses on building relationships, so this is the place students and teachers want to be.

“This is a true classroom and the only difference between me and a traditional teacher is that I teach all of the students in the school,” said Thrift. “Additionally, I collaborate with my colleagues so that what I am teaching is in tandem with what students are learning in their core subjects.”

“We are fortunate to have a flexible schedule for our media center, so she is able to spend her days collaborating with teachers and teaching lessons,” added Henderson. “She frequently shares her research and technology expertise during teacher collaboration time while also managing the circulation of library books.”

Thrift said she was honored to be recognized.

"I am humbled to represent the profession and the Lowcountry," said Thrift. "It is truly an honor to be recognized by my peers across the state."

Thrift will now compete against three other regional winners for the title of 2021 South Carolina Librarian of the Year, which will be announced in March.

For more information, contact Tiffany Henderson at (843) 856-4585.

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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.