

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release



**Shannon McAlister**  
Interim Principal at Stiles Point Elementary

Division of Strategy and  
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor  
Chief of Staff

### **Interim principal named at Stiles Point for 2021-22 school year**

**Charleston, SC** – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is excited to announce and welcome Shannon McAlister as interim principal at Stiles Point Elementary School. McAlister joined CCSD in 2014 and has served as Stiles Point's assistant principal for the last two years. Current Stiles Point Principal Michael Ard is set to retire at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.

McAlister began her teaching career as a third grade teacher at Oakway Elementary School in Seneca, SC. The following year, McAlister moved to Asheville, NC where she taught at both Carolina Day School and Johnston Elementary School over the next three years.

In 1996, McAlister relocated to Columbia, SC to join Richland School District Two as a third grade teacher at Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary School. Four years later, McAlister returned to the Upstate to teach fourth grade in Anderson District One. She also served as an adjunct professor at both Clemson University and Furman University during this time.

Beginning in 2001, McAlister took a teacher specialist position with the South Carolina State Department of Education working directly with Allendale County Schools, Richland School District One, and Charleston County Schools. In this role, she conducted ongoing formative observations and provided diagnostic feedback and remediation to educators. She also planned and conducted professional development, analyzed curriculum and made recommendations for revisions or modifications, and used evidence-based mentoring to provide formative assessment and facilitate professional growth of teachers.

After five years with the state department, McAlister joined the administrative team at Irmo Elementary School in Lexington Richland School District Five as the assistant principal. She served in this capacity for two years before becoming the school's principal for the next six years. While at Irmo Elementary, McAlister initiated a 4H gardening program and created a tuition-based, self-sufficient 4K program called EXCEL (Exposing Children to Early Learning). Additionally, she started a fifth grade yearbook journalism class, initiated looping first to second grade, and oversaw renovations of the historic school building and construction of the new school. She was also the recipient of several awards including the Exemplary Writing Award in 2008 and 2011 and the Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Award in 2009.

McAlister left the Midlands for the Lowcountry in 2014, joining CCSD as a teacher effectiveness specialist. For the next two years, McAlister conducted classroom observations across the district and provide diagnostic feedback, as well as plan and conduct professional development for teachers and administrators. She would go on to briefly serve as a first grade master teacher at Edmund A. Burns Elementary School before becoming the assistant principal at Pepperhill Elementary School and eventually the assistant principal at Stiles Point where she currently serves.

McAlister earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Clemson University, a Master of Education in Elementary Education from Cambridge College in Massachusetts, and a Master of Education in Elementary Administration from the University of South Carolina. She also holds a Master's plus 30 from Columbia College in Divergent Learning and a Bachelor's plus 18 from Furman University in Elementary Education.

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), a nationally-accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.