



For Immediate Release

December 19, 2017

Contact:

Kevin Smith 843-763-1529

Media Release

National Organization Honors C.E. Williams Middle

C.E. Williams Middle School for Creative and Scientific Arts

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Cynthia Ambrose
Deputy Superintendent of Learning Services

Joseph Williams, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Middle School Learning Community

Kevin Smith
Principal

Charleston, SC – C.E. Williams (CEW) Middle School for Creative and Scientific Arts has received initial designation as a School to Watch (STW) by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. CEW is the only school in South Carolina to receive initial designation for the 2017-2018 school year, and is the first in Charleston County School District.

The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform is an alliance of over 60 educators, researchers, national associations, and officers of professional organizations and foundations committed to promoting the academic performance and healthy development of young adolescents. The program has expanded to 18 states across the country.

“The staff of C.E. Williams endeavor to support our learners through their middle school years as we prepare them for high school, college, and careers in a global economy,” said Principal Kevin Smith. “We are excited for our work to be recognized by STW. As a West Ashley native and product of CEW, I am humbled to be a part of our school receiving this award.”

The National Forum states on its [website](#) that the truly high-performing middle-level school embodies the intersection of academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure. National Forum also explains it is not difficult to find middle-level schools that excel in one of the four areas of high performance; however, it is extremely difficult to find schools that excel in all four.

Once a school receives initial designation, they must reapply every three years to maintain STW status.

There will be a celebration at the school, tentatively scheduled for next month, where the official banner for the honor will be presented. CEW will be featured at the South Carolina Middle School Conference March 2-4, 2018, and will be recognized this summer at the Annual National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C. June 28-30, 2018.

For more information about this honor, contact Principal Kevin Smith at (843) 763-1529.

###

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 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.