

**For Immediate Release**

June 14, 2018

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# Media Release

## **Pair of CCSD Scholars Receive National PTA Recognition**

Office of Strategy and  
Communications

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**Charleston, SC-** Charleston County School District (CCSD) would like to congratulate students Adam Starling and Mark Owens for being honored in the 2018 National PTA (Parent Teacher Association) Reflections Contest. There were a total of nine winners from South Carolina, and 205 winners nationwide in this year's competition; the theme was "Within Reach."

Starling, a rising second grader at Jennie Moore Elementary School, submitted a song he wrote entitled "Car Line". He earned the Award of Excellence at the state level and the Award of Merit in the Primary Composition of Music division of the National PTA Reflections Contest.

"I made the 'Car Line' song to have something to do while we waited in the car," said Starling, "We were just having fun, but it turned out really good."

Owens just finished his eighth grade year at Camp Road Middle School (CRMS). He won the Award of Merit in the Middle School Division of Film Production with his submission entitled *Oosiboos*; it is a short film about plastic skeleton that came to life.

"Mark is a well-rounded student who excels academically and athletically," said CRMS Principal David Parler. "He is polite, well-mannered, and respected by students and teachers for his character and dedication to school."

The National PTA Reflections Contest is a way schools can encourage students to explore ideas through the arts. Hundreds of thousands of scholars show off their artistic talent by sending in various works. The submissions range from dance and choreography to photography and visual arts. Students of all grade levels, including kindergarten, can participate through their school PTA; there is no limit to the number of submissions for each individual.

"[I like that] anyone can enter as many times as they want," added Starling. "I thought that was cool."

There will be a 2018 National PTA Awards and Reflections Celebration to commemorate the winners at the National PTA Convention and Expo in New Orleans June 23, 2018. Then, all of the winning submissions will appear at the U.S. Department of Education's National PTA Student Arts Showcase and Exhibit in Washington, D.C. January 22, 2019.

For more information about this honor for Adam Starling and Mark Owens, contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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**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.