



**For Immediate Release**  
September 27, 2017

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## Media Release

### Wando Art Teacher Receives State Award

#### Wando High School

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

**Cynthia Ambrose**  
Deputy Superintendent of Learning  
Services

**Kim Wilson**  
Executive Director of Secondary  
Learning Community

**Sherry Eppelsheimer, Ed.D.**  
Principal

**Mount Pleasant, SC** – Mary Catherine Peeples has spent over a decade at Wando High School teaching visual arts, with a passion to see her students learn the subject while they grow as artists. That passion, and her performance in the classroom, led to a major honor this month. The South Carolina Art Education Association (SCAEA) recently named her the 2017 Secondary Art Educator of the Year.

“I am absolutely humbled and grateful to receive this award,” said Peeples. “It has been my goal these past 13 years at Wando to impact my students in a meaningful way through rigor, relevance, engagement, and relationship, and to raise the level and recognition of the Wando High School Visual Arts Department. I would not be where I am today without the support of incredible colleagues and administrators. I am blessed to work with six other amazing art educators that inspire and push me as an artist and as an educator every single day. I have been so lucky to work under Sherry Eppelsheimer (Wando’s current principal), former principal and mentor Lucy Beckham, and an administrative staff that believes in the power of the arts to impact and teach kids.”

Peeples, a product of Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools herself, will be honored at an awards ceremony during 2017 South Carolina Art Education Association staff development conference USC-Beaufort on Saturday, November 4, 2017.

“We are both pleased and honored to congratulate Ms. Peeples on being selected to receive the South Carolina Art Education Association’s Secondary Art Educator of the Year,” commented Dr. Eppelsheimer. “Ms. Peeples is an integral part of our visual arts department’s acclaimed success. She has contributed so much to students through sharing her knowledge and instilling a true love and respect for the arts.”

For more information about this honor for Peeples, contact CCSD’s Interim Arts and World Languages Coordinator, Catherine Hines-McCormack, at (843) 937-6474 or [catherine\\_hines@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:catherine_hines@charleston.k12.sc.us).

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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.