



PROOF POSITIVE

Honoring Lexington County School District One students and staff receiving state, national and international awards

2016 S.C. State Fair First-Place Winners

Excelling in the garden, kitchen and art classroom, several students in Lexington County School District One created award-winning masterpieces this year to submit for judging at the S.C. State Fair. Other students wowed the judges with their expert horsemanship in the youth horse competitions.

First-place winners in student art include **Madysen Marie Amick** (2-D art) and **Wilson Boyd Oxner** (2-D art) from Gilbert Elementary, **Lukas Todd Shealy** (2-D art) from Gilbert Primary, and **Brayden Rylee Myers** (photography) and **John Patrick Thomas** (3-D art) from Pleasant Hill Middle.

Two students — **Laken Cole Busher** from Lake Murray Elementary and **Owen Michael Sumner** from White Knoll Elementary — won first place and a \$10 prize for original creations made out of Legos. Busher also received second place for decorated baked goods.

Pleasant Hill Middle Student **Elizabeth Laurel Mills** won first place in the fabric and threads category for a crocheted piece. WKES Student **Kevin Lane Rutherford** baked first-place brownies and received another first-place ribbon in the jewelry category, while WKES Student **Donald Jacob Rutherford**, Kevin's brother, also won first place in the jewelry category in addition to two second-place ribbons for baked goods.

Growing enormous produce won Meadow Glen Elementary Student **Gavin Craig Hartman** and PHMS Student **Lucas DuBose Reynolds** accolades from the S.C. State Fair. Hartman received first place in pumpkin category and second place in the mega pumpkin category, while Reynolds grew the largest watermelon in the 20–100 pound category. Also receiving awards for agriculture, Gilbert High Student **Kayhsen Leigh Taylor** won three first-place ribbons along with three second-place, one third-place and two fourth-place ribbons in the field crops category, fruits and nuts category, and vegetables category.

Eight students rode to first-place finishes during several days of youth horse events at the fair, with most competing in more than one event. First-place winners include: Carolina Springs Middle Student **Aliza Grace Allison** (Novice Western Walk/Jog and Novice Western Champion); Forts Pond Elementary Student **Brooke Kelsey Stalnaker** (Novice Hunter Showmanship); Gilbert Middle Students **Alexandria Elizabeth Burnett** (Western Showmanship), **Khara Dawn Cox** (Western Showmanship) and **Elizabeth Grace Dukes** (Equitation Over Fences); Lexington High's **Mabel Grace Stephenson** (Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Seat Equitation Flat and 13–15 Hunter Champion); PHMS Student **Jordyn Sue Keene** (Pole Bending); and Pelion Middle Student **Alexandra Marie Smith** (Hunter Over Fences).





2017 Wingate University 9–10 All-Carolina Select Choir

Nearly 600 students from North and South Carolina auditioned for the annual Wingate University 9–10 All-Carolina Select Choir. Of the 145 chosen, two attend Gilbert High.

Freshmen **Samantha Ryanne Browning** and **William Dolan Hislop** represented Lexington County School District One on the All-Carolina choir. The group performed January 27 and 28 during the 9–10 All-Carolina Select Choir and High School Choral Educators Summit.

Choir Director **Janna Brendell** leads the GHS choir.

2017 SCMEA Elementary Honor Choir Member

Lexington Elementary's Dakota Jessie Blake performed this February as part of the 2017 South Carolina Music Educators Association Elementary Honor Choir.

During the audition process, students had to sing solo tonal patterns, match the pitches accurately, and sing patterns in harmony. A panel of music educators rated more than 500 students on a 44-point rubric. Students scoring a 43 or 44 were invited to be part of the honor choir.

Blake and the other honor choir members rehearsed with renowned clinician Andrea Ramsey and performed a concert for parents and friends at the S.C. Music Educators Association State Conference on Saturday, February 4, 2017.



2017 South Carolina Youth Tour

Two Pelion High students will join other South Carolina high schoolers on a tour of historic sites this summer. **Hannah Grace Daggerhart** and **Macey Marie McLaurin** completed an intensive application process to be invited on the 2017 South Carolina Youth Tour sponsored by Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative.

During their all-expenses-paid trip to the District of Columbia, students learn about the important roles electric cooperatives play, meet their representatives and senators, and explore sights around the nation's Capitol.

The Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour has been a tradition since the late 1950s. More than 40,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this unique program.

Daggerhart and McLaurin can also compete for a scholarship through the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina.

South Carolina 4-H Presidential Inauguration Guest

Gilbert High Junior **Lindsey Jean Scott** joined dignitaries and other leaders attending the Presidential Inauguration on January 20, 2017. She won the opportunity to attend through participation in South Carolina 4-H.

Eight students from South Carolina attended the historic ceremony after receiving tickets from U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan. To be selected, Scott submitted a record of her 4-H leadership, an essay and letters of recommendation.

More than 500 4-H students from 25 states attended the inauguration as part of the National 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus. They also toured historic monuments and spoke with political leaders about careers and roles in government.



'We the People' State Competition Winners

On January 5, 2017, Lexington District One students repeated as champions with their second "We the People" win at the state level. The district's Center for Law and Global Policy Development brought home the state title last year in its very first year sending a team.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Bar's Law Related Education division, "We the People" allows students to gain a deeper understanding of American government and how constitutional democracy affects their daily lives. Students compete by testifying before a panel of judges, showcasing their knowledge, and defending their position on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

In addition to taking the top prize, the Lexington District One team also received a Best Unit award for five units of study.

Since the competition began, several schools have won more than once. It's rare, however, that a team repeats as champions, especially in its first two years of competition.

Winning team members include **Audra Noelle Knight** from Lexington High and River Bluff High's **Alexander John Bowers**, **Mehmet Emre Cakir**, **Bryan Jose Castillo Justo**, **Devin Drew Cook**, **Sarah Elaine Gibson**, **Mickal Emanuel Henderson**, **Connor Brian Kelly**, **Katherine Faith Laughridge**, **Carson Lee Lester**, **Georgia Talbot Loadholt**, **Heather Renee Paeth**, **John Thomas Hunter Parrish**, **Lacey Alexandra Scott**, **Megan Anne Simmons**, **Henry David Strehlow**, **Lynne Taylor**, **Kelsey Michelle Warf**, **James Nolan Wilson** and **Kristina Lynette Wuchenich**.



DonorsChoose.org Funding Recipients

Teachers in Lexington District One often go above and beyond to provide engaging projects and classroom content for their students. To fund these projects and activities, some use DonorsChoose.org to raise money and showcase student learning.

Recent DonorsChoose.org funding recipients include Deerfield Elementary's Elaine M. Drenten, Forts Pond Elementary's Carly J. Bain, Gilbert High's Denton Cruser, Lexington Elementary's Suzanne M. Brooks, Midway Elementary's Stephanie Hunt and Amanda D. Oswalt, Oak Grove Elementary's Kim D. Gibson, Rocky Creek Elementary's Emily S. Kimpton, Katherine M. Merrell and Whitney G. Seddon, and White Knoll Elementary's Amanda A. Elliott.

Teachers received funding for projects that include critical thinking and logic, exploring 3-D art and researching the American Revolution. Some teachers funding enabled them to purchase flexible seating and new reading materials for their classrooms.

Together, teachers raised more than \$7,300 to enhance classroom instruction.

2016 S.C. State Fair First-Place Winner

It's not just the students who are talented in Lexington District One.

Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation's **Joan E. Kalec** received two first-place ribbons and one second-place ribbon in the cut horticulture category.

Additionally, the S.C. State Fair judges chose to feature Kalec's acrylic artwork piece "On the Prowl" in the 2016 S.C. State Fair Juried Art Show.

2016–2018 Palmetto State Teachers Association President

Members of the Palmetto State Teachers Association, a statewide teachers organization, elected Deerfield Elementary Fifth-Grade Teacher **Sherri Paulette Moses** to serve a two-year term as president of the Palmetto State Teachers Association.

Moses joins a five-member board of directors in addition to six district directors hailing from six regions of South Carolina. She will serve as president until 2018.

Representing approximately 13,000 teachers from across the state, the organization was founded in 1976 and is the largest professional association for educators in South Carolina.

2017 PSSCA Elementary School Counselor of the Year

The Palmetto State School Counselor Association honored a Lexington Elementary school counselor with one of its top awards during their 2017 annual conference.

An active member of PSSCA, **Michelle R. Privette** received the Elementary School Counselor of the Year award. Throughout her career, Privette has served on the PSSCA board, and presented at PSSCA and American School Counselor Association conferences. She is currently performing the duties of secretary on the PSSCA governing board.



"Throughout my career, regardless of the school setting, I have advocated for my school counseling program, promoting its impact on students and how it makes a difference in their successes," Privette said.

A school counselor for 23 years, Privette helped White Knoll Elementary achieve Recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program status in 2009. She was also selected as the PSSCA nominee for National School Counselor of the Year.



South Carolina Army National Guard First Female Battalion Commander, 51st Military Police Battalion

Lexington High Mathematics Teacher **Erika O. Perry** made history this month with her latest promotion in the South Carolina National Guard. On February 12, 2017, she was sworn in as the first female battalion commander of the 51st Military Police Battalion.

A teacher at LHS for 19 years, Perry has served in Iraq and Afghanistan and on the home front during times of crisis (such as Hurricane Matthew) during her 17 years in the National Guard. She said the South Carolina National Guard allows her to serve her country while remaining a teacher and thanked LHS administrators for always being supportive during her deployments.

In addition to roles as company commander and future operations planner, Perry was the LHS Teacher of the Year in 2005–2006 and District Teacher of the Year in 2006–2007.



International Baccalaureate World School

Four years after beginning the multi-step endeavor, **Lexington Middle** received word on November 29, 2016, that it had achieved International Baccalaureate World School status. Joining the IB community gives LMS students an increased global perspective, while still maintaining the school's flexibility to meet all students' needs.

LMS teachers and administrators first conducted a feasibility study in the fall of 2012. After officially declaring interest in becoming an IB World School, LMS selected an IB coordinator and began sending teachers and administrators to IB workshops. Along the way, curricular units were written or revised to include an inquiry approach that teaches the relevance of content while building the skills and characteristics of the S.C. Graduate. LMS also rewrote its mission statement to reflect a focus on inspiring, preparing and empowering students to make their world a better place.

LMS received approval for candidacy beginning with the 2014–15 school year. During the candidacy phase, an IB consultant came to the school to provide formative feedback.

Once the school's application was submitted in March of 2016, a team of IB educators conducted an intense two-day inspection of LMS this past November, including classroom observations, interviews with stakeholders, and assessments of curricular units and student work samples.

Studying at an IB school benefits students by allowing them to sharpen many of the skills and traits found in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and learn how to apply what they learn through content-based inquiry and service learning projects.

2017 PSSCA School Counselor Advocate of the Year

One of Lexington Elementary School's most faithful volunteers received a statewide honor this month in recognition of his dedication to students and teachers.

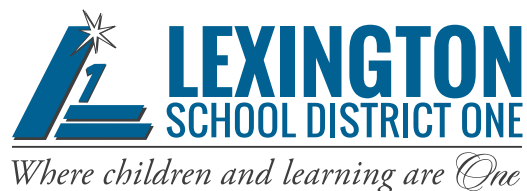
The Palmetto State School Counselor Association named Lexington Town Councilman **Ron Williams** 2017 School Counselor Advocate of the Year. Winners are honored for their support and positive impact on school counselors and their students at the local, state or national level.

Williams often volunteers in the morning car line, helps teachers prepare for the day by making copies, and even helps unload and distribute snack pack bags to make sure students don't go hungry during the weekend.

In addition to playing the role of conductor in the LES Polar Express for years, Williams is also a guest speaker for the annual Learners of the Pride Student Recognition Program.

As a town councilman, Williams made arrangements for the LES Student Council to attend a town council meeting so that students could observe the legislative process.

"As a school administrator for more than 19 years, I have never seen a non-parent volunteer work so hard to support my school's counseling program," LES Principal James H. Hamby said. "He is a glowing example of true volunteerism."



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