

PROOF POSITIVE

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

2015–2016 National Soccer Coaches Association of America High School Team Academic Award Winner

The **White Knoll High's boys soccer team** scored an impressive feat for the fourth time this fall — not on the field, but in the classroom.

For the fourth consecutive year, the team received the High School Team Academic Award from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. A team must have a minimum grade point average of 3.25 for the entire academic year to qualify for the academic honor. Eligibility is determined by adding every player's GPA, then dividing by the number of players.

Head Coach **Timothy Green** began coaching at WKHS in 2004.

The WKHS Timberwolves recorded one of the highest team GPAs in the nation on the boys' side, with an average of 3.80. Fifteen out of 17 players on the roster had a GPA of 3.0 or higher.



The 2016 WKHS Timberwolves included **Dylan Grant Bailey, Isaiah David Daley, Jacob Mills Dooley, Daniel Shane Fulmer, Josue Isai Hernandez, Kyle Stephen Holsclaw, Albert Harrison Hope, Jacob Ryan Koon, Diogo Valleriani Leite, Matthew Artem Lynch, Austin James Nagel, Victor Olawale Chukwudi Oladipo, Amar Omerbasic, Joel Thornwell Rogers, John Edward Rowe, Gilles Harris Kouasseu Seumou and Gavin Dwayne Sherriff.**

2016 S.C. State Fair First-place Art Winners

Judges at the 2016 South Carolina State Fair had a difficult time choosing the best from among creative and unique student artwork. Nonetheless, three Pleasant Hill Elementary students brought home first-place ribbons from the fair.

Second-grader **Sophia Rose Amodio**, Third-grader **Emily Ryan Ansell** and Third-grader **McKenna Reagan Myers** each received a first-place ribbon.

Amodio received first place for a 2-D piece while Ansell won for a 3-D piece. The judges awarded Myers a first-place award in the photography category.

2016 S.C. State Fair Student Art Education Teacher Award

While Pleasant Hill Elementary students received multiple awards from the judges at the S.C. State Fair, the guidance from PHES Art Teachers **Anya S. Degtyareva** and **Patricia M. Green** earned them an accolade, too.

Degtyareva and Green received the S.C. State Fair Student Art Education Teacher Award for having the most winning entries in the elementary division.

Of the 19 student entries submitted by the teachers, three students won first place and three won second place.



2016 5A Girls Golf State Champions

One year after finishing in the runner-up spot, Lexington High returned to dominance to claim the 2016 5A Girls Golf State Championship Title on October 24 and 25, 2016. The championship gives the **Lady Wildcats** 11 titles in just 13 years.

Head Coach **Charles Brandon Smith** remarked that his team played well on a very difficult course against 15 other teams. Junior **Gracyn Lee Burgess** led the Wildcats to victory, finishing in second place as an individual golfer.

Finishing the two-day tournament with a score of 645, the Lady Wildcats finished 38 strokes ahead of runner-up White Knoll High, the third-largest margin of victory in state history.

During the state match, Seventh-grader **Isabella Helen Rawl** shot the lowest round of the second day and moved up the leaderboard to finish tied for third place.

Other members of the state championship team included **Emily Dianne Beiers**, **Isabella AnnMarie Bernagozzi**, **Kennedy Taylor Gooding**, **Abby Caroline Gore**, **Molly Hardwick**, **Hannah Nicole Stephenson** and **Karlee Marrie Vardas**.

Lexington High School now has 47 state championships in school sports history.



2016 5A Girls Golf Individual State Champion

While Lexington High took home the team prize at the 2016 5A Girls Golf State Championship, a White Knoll High golfer won the 2016 5A Girls Golf Individual State Championship.

Sophomore **Jensen Marie Castle** finished with the best overall score of 152 after shooting a 76 during both days of the state tournament. Her performance put WKHS in second place in the team standings.

Earlier this season, Castle placed third at the regional meet on October 10 and shot a 78 at the 2016 5A Lower State Qualifier meet.

Castle also received the 2016 Girls Golf Player of the Year award from the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports for her season of accomplishments.

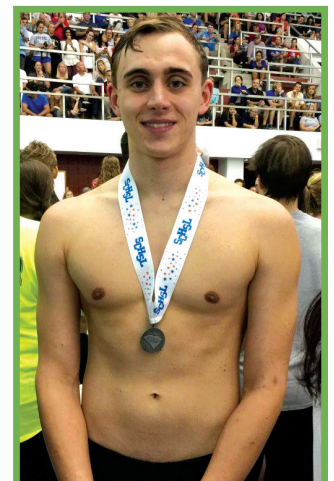
2016 South Carolina State Swimming Champion

This fall brought Lexington District One another state champion, this time in the pool. River Bluff High Senior **Brian Matthew Loos** won the state title in the 100 breaststroke event with a time of 58.19, which puts him in the top 6 percent in the country.

Loos also picked up an individual second place in the boys 100 butterfly as RBHS finished third overall in the team standings.

As part of the RBHS boys 200 medley and 200 freestyle relay teams, Loos swam to a third-place finish in the medley event and second place in the freestyle race.

The State newspaper named Loos the Midlands Boys Swimmer of the Year.





2016 South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports Volleyball All-State Players

The South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports honored two of Lexington District One's best volleyball players. Lexington High Sophomore **Maggie Grace Salley** and River Bluff High Senior **Reilly Anne Bartlett** earned all-state recognition this fall.

The Lady Wildcats finished with a 23–11 record in Coach Eric Shick's first year at the helm. Salley helped her team make it to the second round of the 5A state tournament, where LHS defeated West Florence and ended their season with a loss to top-ranked Wando.

During the first-round match against West Florence, Salley led LHS with 15 kills, four blocks and one ace.

RBHS volleyball wrapped up their season with a 23–8 record after advancing into the third round of the 5A state tournament. The Gators also lost to eventual state runner-up Wando.

Bartlett earned Player of the Game honors against Wando with 18 assists, 12 digs and six aces. She plans to continue playing volleyball at Erskine College.



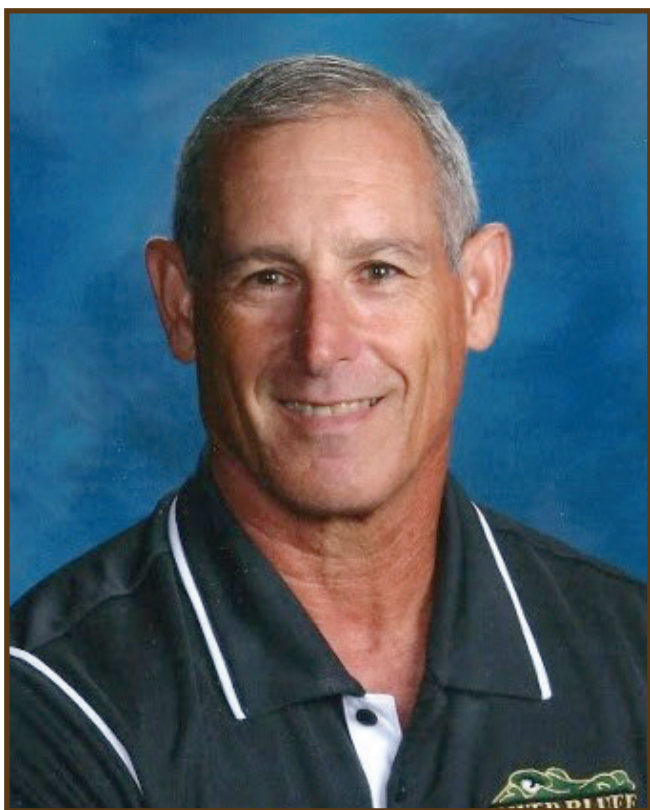
2016 South Carolina Junior Golf Association Beth Daniel Player of the Year

Lexington High's standout golfer Gracyn Lee Burgess recorded an impressive season, capping it off with a state title and being named the 2016 Beth Daniel Player of the Year by the South Carolina Junior Golf Association.

Only a junior, Burgess won five of seven tournaments this year including the Region 5–5A tournament, Lower State tournament, the Palmetto Preview, the Thoroughbred Invitational and the Women's S.C. Golf Association Invitational. She finished in second place in the individual state tournament standings.

Burgess also picked up All-Midlands Golfer of the Year from *The State* newspaper.

The winning streak continues for Burgess, who most recently won the Girls 15–18 category at the 69th Donald Ross Junior Championship in December.



2016 National Soccer Coaches Association of America High School Boys National Coach of the Year

River Bluff High Head Soccer Coach **Philip B. Savitz** added to his remarkable legacy this off-season with a national award on the heels of his 15th state title.

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America named Savitz the High School Boys National Coach of the Year on December 13, 2016. The RBHS soccer team won the 4A state title on May 14, 2016.

With nearly four decades as a head coach, Savitz boasts a record of 700–91–6. His win total exceeds all other high school soccer coaches in the history of the sport in South Carolina. His teams have won a record 15 4A state championships, while appearing in the state finals 24 times.

The S.C. Soccer Coaches Association featured Savitz in its inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2007. In 2012, the legendary coach joined the South Carolina Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

2017 South Carolina Association of School Administrators Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year

The South Carolina Association of School Administrators surprised a select few deserving educators with its annual slate of awards. On December 6, 2016, Saxe Gotha Elementary School Assistant Principal Janet B. Ricard learned she is the 2017 Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year.

Principal Beth Houck said Ricard's impact is felt far and wide at SGES.

"She encourages each one of our students to strive for excellence, to love learning and to respect each other. And she teaches all of us to give our best to our students, to wear a smile, to have faith and to remember that we can never go wrong when decisions are made in the best interest of the student."

An assistant principal at SGES since 2011, Ricard received her bachelor's degree in business administration with a management concentration, her certification in elementary education and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of South Carolina.



NATIONAL BOARD

for Professional Teaching Standards®

National Board Certified Teacher

On December 16, 2016, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards released the list of new National Board Certified Teachers as well as those who renewed their certification.

River Bluff High Social Studies Teacher **Anastasia Sease** received her certification in Social Studies–History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood. Certifications remain valid for 10 years.

Created by teachers, the certification process uses National Board standards, allows peers to review applications and takes into account multiple factors of effective instruction. Candidates must reflect on their classroom methods and measure their mastery of subject material. They must also submit an extensive portfolio with videos of teaching, lesson plans and student work samples.

Lexington District One teachers renewing their certification include **Dawn L. Brooker**, **Lisa V. Bustle**, **Alecia Clamp**, **Kathryn H. Cooke**, **Rachel L. Cooper**, **Sabra S. Denny**, **Stephanie A. Herring**, **Melissa M. Hooker**, **Christine S. Palmer**, **Susan S. Scott**, **Blair B. Wells** and **Ashley H. Williams**.

Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Lexington District One's Fiscal Services Office received two accolades for the *Fiscal Year 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*.

Both the Association of School Business Officials International and the Government Finance Officers Association recognized the district with their top honor. The district received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from ASBO and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from GFOA.

Earning these honors, the highest forms of recognition in the areas of governmental accounting and financial reporting, represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The achievement signifies that the district met or exceeded each association's highest standards for financial reporting and accountability.

The Fiscal Services Department is represented by Chief Financial Officer John C. Butler, Director of Accounting Deena S. Bishop and Director of Business Services David A. Cobb.

FranklinCovey The Leader in Me™ Lighthouse School

A leadership rally turned into a celebration on December 19, 2016, at Forts Pond Elementary. Led by Principal Michelle L. Smith, the school officially received its FranklinCovey The Leader in Me Lighthouse School status.

A three-year-long process, The Leader in Me program requires schools to implement a strong leadership model with students, and encourage leadership among staff, parents and community. Schools also go through self-evaluations and visits from The Leader in Me team.

To achieve this impressive goal, FPES formed a Lighthouse Team, created a leadership environment, taught and reinforced the 7 Habits, placed students in meaningful leadership roles and showed measurable results of student improvement.

Only approximately 250 schools worldwide have received Lighthouse School status. FPES is Lexington District One's fifth Lighthouse School.





2016 Spring Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grant Award Winners

Twice each school year, the Lexington One Educational Foundation, represented by Executive Director Julie Washburn, and the Michelin North America Lexington Site, represented by Business Unit Leader Cleve Johnson, award the Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants.

The 2016 spring winners include Carolina Springs Elementary's **Katherine K. Curry**, Lake Murray Elementary's **Nan Addy Ocheltree**, Lexington High's **Jason Paul Bagley**, Lexington Middle's **Sara A. Hanle**, Pelion High's **Dann R. Holland** and **Deborah F. Oswald**, Pleasant Hill Elementary's **Jennifer E. Jones**, River Bluff High's **Sarah E. Buckliew**, **Sarah Hulls**, **James Michael Mewborne**, **Casey Neill** and **Amanda R. Phillips**, and Rocky Creek Elementary's **Meredith L. Moore**.

Michelin awarded a total of \$2,500 to support projects and ideas that'll impact 2,790 students in Lexington District One.

Teachers submitted grant proposals that encompassed RBHS students participating in an international business conference, PHS student-athletes traveling to Pelion-area schools to read to younger students and new reading materials to help LMES students successfully transition from reading picture books to chapter books.

2016–2017 South Carolina DHEC Champions of the Environment Grant Winner

A collaborative project by Carolina Springs Middle's Student Government, world language department and special needs classes garnered attention from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The unique idea to create handicapped-accessible vegetable gardens earned CSMS a 2016–2017 South Carolina DHEC Champions of the Environment Grant worth \$2,000.

Also sponsored by International Paper, SCE&G and the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina, Champions of the Environment provides resources and support to foster environmental education and action in South Carolina schools.

Last spring, four CSMS teachers received a small grant that provided enough funding to start a school garden. Several of the special needs students who wanted to participate, however, would have had limited access to the garden.

After collaborating with special needs teachers, CSMS STEM Teacher **Martin Allen Hardin** and Principal **Brice L.S. Cockfield** applied for Champions of the Environment funding to construct a handicapped-accessible raised garden bed to increase the learning opportunities for special needs students. CSMS plans to send fresh produce from the garden to a local assisted living facility.

Additionally, CSMS students studying world languages will learn about gardening and environmental concerns in their target language.



2017 Spring Walter P. Rawl and Sons, Inc. School Garden Mini-Grant Winners

Walter P. Rawl and Sons, Inc. supports Lexington District One by providing School Garden Mini-Grants twice a year. The grants allow elementary students to learn more about diet, nutrition and where their food comes from.

Gilbert Middle, represented by **Amy L. Cooper** and Principal **Benjamin D. Ricard**, received \$247 to support the school's existing garden maintained by the self-contained special education class. Students care for three raised beds and a tilled area for root vegetables and collard plants.

Lexington High, represented by **Natalie Dawne Houck** and Principal **Melissa C. Rawl**, received \$400 to launch a brand-new school garden on the LHS campus.

The garden will be used as an educational tool for students, and the project will be led by LHS special education students and the LHS FFA program. Students will learn firsthand about gardening, composting and the health benefits of vegetables.



Relay For Life Top Ten Teams

Each year Lexington District One employees and students participate in Relay For Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The 10 schools that raised the most money for 2016 Relay For Life, listed in alphabetical order, are:

- **Gilbert Elementary**, represented by Donna W. Clarke and Principal Timothy F. Oswald;
- **Gilbert Primary**, represented by Principal Mylisa D. Apperson and Judy L. Kopp;
- **Lexington Elementary**, represented by Principal James H. Hamby, Jamie M. Hudson and Ashlee B. Young;
- **Lexington Middle**, represented by Ivey F. Homer, Charlene S. Jones and Principal Gloria B. Nester;
- **Meadow Glen Elementary**, represented by Jami C. Carter, Vera M. Diener, Nicole R. Estridge, Principal Cheryl H. Fralick, Amy S. Landers, Gloria J. Olsen, Tammy Sharpe, Tingting Shi and Corrina Sundstrom;
- **Meadow Glen Middle**, represented by Principal Bill A. Coon and Amy A. Long;
- **Midway Elementary**, represented by Principal Janet M. Fickling and Catherine L. Lazenby;
- **New Providence Elementary**, represented by Kerri P. Dowdy and Principal Deborah Rodgers Poole;
- **Oak Grove Elementary**, represented by Principal Sherry P. Cariens, Colleen M. Graffte, Amanda L. Livingston and Diane E. Schacht; and
- **Red Bank Elementary**, represented by Jamee M. Childs, Frances S. Cox and Principal Marie G. Watson.

As a district, schools gave a combined \$103,774 to support cancer research and find a cure.

United Way Campaign Award Winners

Just as Lexington District One receives support from the local business community, schools give back to the United Way of the Midlands with an annual fundraising campaign.

At the elementary school level, **New Providence Elementary** recorded the highest participation with 100 percent. Principal Debbie Poole and Employee Campaign Director Amy T. Pioreschi represent NPES.

Pleasant Hill Elementary turned in the largest donation, \$4,216, at the elementary level. Employee Campaign Director Jack A. Clifton and Principal Margaret B. Mitchum represent PHES.

The final elementary school award went to **Saxe Gotha Elementary** for exceeding its goal and donating \$2,775. Employee Campaign Director Sharon J. Barkley and Principal Elizabeth A. Houck represent SGES.

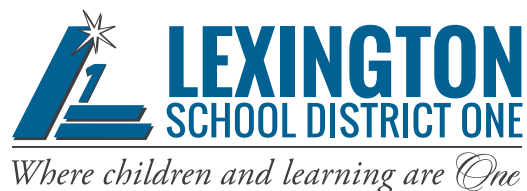
Among Lexington District One middle schools, **White Knoll Middle** recorded the highest participation with 49 percent. Employee Campaign Directors Ambria L. Martin and Tiffany A. Shull and Principal Guy A. Smith represent WKMS.

Pleasant Hill Middle, led by Employee Campaign Director Susan Marshall Cafferty and Principal Thomas E. Rivers, recorded the highest donation amount for middle schools. The final total came in at \$1,881.

Lexington District One's high schools participated in the fundraising, too, with **Gilbert High** recording the biggest donation of \$2,355. Principal E. Ann O'Cain and Employee Campaign Director Joye Taylor represent GHS.

White Knoll High recorded the highest participation, 21 percent, among district high schools. Employee Campaign Director Michelle F. Bishop and Principal Edward L. Daughtrey represent WKHS.

In total, Lexington District One donated more than \$42,000 to the United Way during the 2016–2017 campaign.



References to trademark and brand ownership have been removed for ease of reading, but in all cases should be taken as read and respected.

Lexington County School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints. The Chief Human Resources Officer handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title IX. Inquiries/complaints regarding Section 504 for elementary students go to the Coordinator of ESOL/RtI and for secondary students to the Director of School Counseling and Advisement. The Mathematics Coordinator handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title II. Contact these people if you have questions regarding these issues at 100 Tarrar Springs Road, Lexington, SC 29072 and telephone number (803) 821-1000.