

Proof Positive

March 20, 2018 • Board of Trustees Meeting

LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

*Jacob Brasseur**Selwyn Porter**Pierce Clinger**Ben Emery*

Wrestlers draw state championships, all-star bids

Lexington District One student-athletes wrapped up their season on the mat with state title runs and all-star recognition.

The district's newest state champions in boys wrestling include Lexington High's **Jacob L. Brasseur** and White Knoll High's **Selwyn D. Porter**. Both also earned recognition as North-South All-Star wrestlers as did LHS's **Pierce W. Clinger** and River Bluff High's **Ben A. Emery**.

Brasseur's second state title in two years capped off a record-setting high school career. Winning an 11-5 decision for the Class 5A 120-pound championship, Brasseur finished as LHS's all-time wins leader with a 209-9 record. In his four seasons as a Wildcat, he finished third at state as a freshman and runner-up as a sophomore. The S.C. Wrestling Coaches Association voted Brasseur 5A Senior Wrestler of the Year.

Also standing on top of the podium at the state tournament, Porter won the Class 5A 145-pound title. He wrestled the reigning Upper State champion and defending state champion, RBHS's Emery, to give WKHS its first 5A wrestling title in school history. He finished his senior campaign with a 55-5 record.

Brasseur, Clinger, Emery and Porter received invitations to wrestle against South Carolina's best seniors at the S.C. Wrestling Coaches Association's 2018 Best Western North-South All-Star Wrestling Classic, held March 2 and 3.

Emery finished as the state runner-up in Class 5A 145-pound, with an overall record of 50-3 for his senior season.

Clinger had an overall record of 34-17 this season and went 1-1 during the all-star weekend.

Gilbert High singers perform at regional showcase

Gilbert High choral students **Katelyn M. Barefoot, Madison E. Berry, Samantha R. Browning, Austin R. Coursey, Kyla M. Osborn** and **Emmalee G. Phillips** recently added their voices to a choir of the Southeast's best singers.

After auditioning in front of a panel of judges, the group received an invitation to perform with the American Choral Directors Association Southern Region Honor Choir.

Led by GHS Choral Director Craig J. Coelho, the GHS students traveled to Louisville to perform during the ACDA Southern Region Conference, held February 21–24.

All-state senior band musicians tune their talent

Lexington District One student musicians joined a prestigious group of performers this month to learn from and play with the best.

Students selected for the South Carolina Band Directors Association All-State Senior Band include Gilbert High's **Kris D. Phelps**, Lexington High's **Andrew F. Thomason**, River Bluff High's **Gabe N. Carrilho**, **Raymond E. Immerso**, **Devon L. Mastin** and **Ben T. Tidwell**, and White Knoll High's **J. Isaac Hyer**.

Junior and senior band members can audition for the SCBDA All-State Senior Band.

These chosen student musicians participated in the SCBDA All-State Band Clinic, held March 16–18. During the weekend clinic, students perfected their skills and rehearsed with other top musicians from South Carolina.

'Golden' photograph earns national recognition

Lexington High's **Hannah A. Phipps** received a unique honor for a compelling photograph she entered into a national competition.



Phipps won a Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Gold Key for her entry titled "Galactic Pond." As a Gold Key winner, her photograph becomes eligible for judging at the national level.

Presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards celebrate student artists, writers, filmmakers, photographers, poets and sculptors. Students receive opportunities for scholarships as well as having their work exhibited or published.



Smith tees up coach of the year

The National Federation of State High School Associations named Lexington High's **C. Brandon Smith** as South Carolina Boys Golf Coach of the Year for his leadership of the Wildcats.

Smith led the Wildcats to a region championship and a fifth-place finish at the state tournament in 2017. LHS started the 2018 season with a second-place finish at the Patriot Invitational on March 5.

While working at LHS, he also coached the girls golf team to multiple state titles.



(Left to right) Superintendent Greg Little, LHS Principal Melissa Rawl and GHS Athletic Director Chad Leaphart.

SCAAA honors Lexington One administrators

Three Lexington District One administrators received accolades from the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association, while another earned a South Carolina High School League award recently.

Superintendent Gregory D. Little, Ed.D., won the 5A/4A SCAA Superintendent of the Year award. Lexington District One's Director of Athletics David Bennett praised Dr. Little for his support of Special Olympics athletes, renovations to women's athletic facilities and his frequent "rock star" visits with students.

GHS Athletic Director **Chad J. Leaphart** took the SCAA's Region 5 3A Athletic Director of the Year, an award voted on by Region 5 coaches. Leaphart led the GHS football team to a historic undefeated regular season in 2017. The Indians powered their way into the third round of the playoffs, losing in the 3A Lower State semifinals to end their season with a 12-1 record.

SCAAA honored Lexington High's **Melissa C. Rawl** with the 5A Principal of the Year award. LHS became a National Unified Champion School for its support of Special Olympics athletes in 2017 and was among the first schools in South Carolina to award athletic letters to Special Olympics athletes.

The accolades for LHS continued as the South Carolina High School League awarded Athletic Director **W. Perry Woolbright** with an Award of Excellence for Exemplary Display of Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity.



Johnson earns basketball all-star

White Knoll High's **Yamia B. Johnson** scored an invitation to the S.C. Basketball Coaches Association North-South All-Star game, a fitting way to end her career with the Lady Timberwolves.

Though Johnson was unable to play in the all-star game due to an injury, she represented WKHS on the SCBCA all-state list. She also won Region 5 5A Player of the Year.

Johnson will continue her basketball career at Gardner-Webb University.





Three teachers earn PSTA scholarships

The Palmetto State Teachers Association awarded Pelion Middle's **Laura D. Beckham**, Rocky Creek Elementary's **Whitney G. Seddon** and White Knoll Middle's **Suzanne Brooks** with a scholarship to use toward an advanced degree.

PSTA annually chooses five educators to receive Dr. Elizabeth Gressette Professional Development Scholarships. They will receive the \$1,500 scholarship at the PSTA Convention on April 7.

RCES's Seddon, a third-grade teacher, is pursuing a master's degree in educational administration from the University of South Carolina.

Brooks, digital learning coach at WKMS, is pursuing a master's degree in Library Science from the University of South Carolina.

PMS's Beckham, digital learning coach, is pursuing an education specialist degree in literacy at Converse College.



'Superior' entertainers earn rave reviews

Aspiring singers and actors from Lexington High earned high marks at the Palmetto Dramatic Association and South Carolina Thesians Festival.

Students receiving a superior award, the highest level at state, include **Miranda N. Campagna**, **Kathryn D. Capili**, **Thomas C. Hysom** and **Madeline G. Owens** for Duet Musical; **Madeline G. Owens** for Solo Musical; **Kathryn D. Capili** for Monologue; **Camryn S. Harsey** and **Jacin H. Prevatte** for Duet Acting and **Miranda N. Campagna** for Acting.

LHS also won a superior in One Act Play category for "The Insanity of Mary Girard." Performers included **Hannah L. Atkinson**, **Miranda N. Campagna**, **Kathryn D. Capili**, **Jessica L. Cook**, **Sydney R. Devoe**, **Travis R. Dudley**, **Noelle J. Eslick**, **Josh A. Gasdia**, **Thomas C. Hysom**, **McKenzie F. Kaiser**, **Trinity K. McClaran**, **Lindy K. McCloy**, **Madison N. Nelson**, **Sara E. Norton**, **Summer G. O'Brien**, **Madeline G. Owens**, **Jacin H. Prevatte**, **Anna F. Robinson**, **Josiah D. Schrodt** and **Tony M. Todd**.

Capili, Campagna, Harsey, Hysom, Owens and Prevatte advanced to the International Thespian Festival competition, held June 25–30.

Additionally, Owens received a superior award in vocals at the National Association of Teachers of Singing State Festival. She was eligible to compete at the NATS Mid-Atlantic Region Student Auditions, held March 16–17.



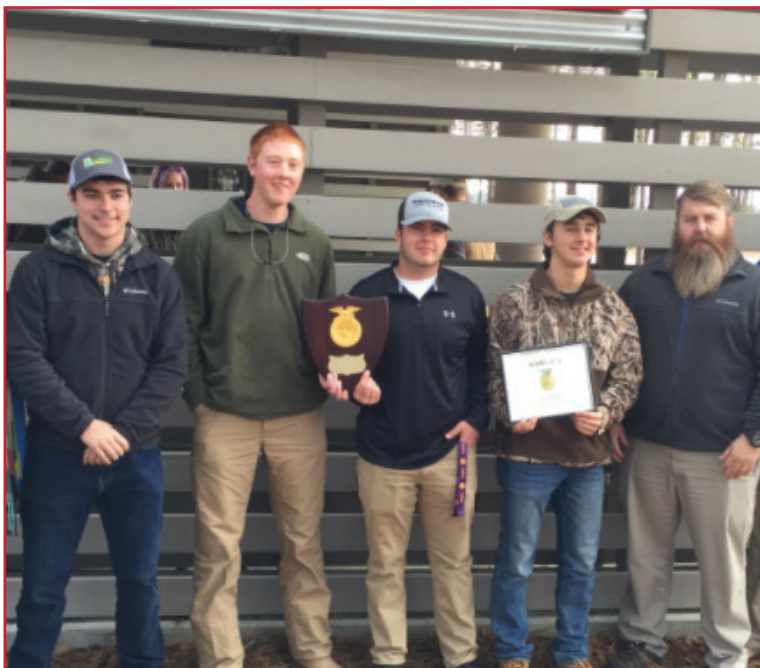
(Left to right) WKHS Principal Ted Daughtrey and Tonya Swalgren.

'Out of this world' educator

White Knoll High's **Tonya K. Swalgren** encourages students to look at the stars, and others know it.

The South Carolina Academy of Science honored her by recognizing her as Teacher of the Year for Excellence in Secondary Science or Mathematics Teaching for going the extra mile to make science relevant.

Swalgren, a teacher for 28 years, teaches astronomy, physics and AP physics.



(Left to right) Henry Gunter, Carl Spears, Zachary Shumpert, Albert Weymouth, FFA Adviser Derrick Cooper.

Judges go 'wild' for Gilbert FFA

Gilbert High's **Henry D. Gunter, Zachary R. Shumpert, Carl T. Spears** and **Albert K. Weymouth** added another first-place plaque to their FFA trophy case.

The team won first place at the state FFA Wildlife Career Development Event by demonstrating exceptional knowledge and understanding of wildlife conservation and management, plant identification, and basic management practices for native wildlife species. Career development events built on agricultural classes and encouraged students to put their knowledge into practice.

Weymouth also scored an impressive individual first-place award at the event.

This is the first Wildlife CDE state title for GHS's FFA chapter, which won the Forestry CDE state title in May.



Duvall earns another title

Anna R. Duvall's dedication to helping Lexington High students navigate high school and reach their goals earned her recognition from the College Board.

College Board named Duvall Southern Region Counselor of the Year. This region covers Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Nominated by LHS Principal Melissa Rawl, Duvall's service at the regional and national levels has helped students make the most of their opportunities.

Duvall served as the director of counseling and advisement at both White Knoll High and Gilbert High before joining LHS as director of guidance in 2013.



How many books is that?

New Providence Elementary's **Ja'Que J. Anderson** won the winter 2018 session of Read with the Gamecocks just pages shy of 7,000.

The literacy-focused program organized by Gamecock Athletics encourages students to read consistently to sharpen their skills. Those who read the most pages during a two-week time frame receive game tickets and a plaque congratulating them on a job well-done.

With a total of 6,911 pages read during a two-week period in January, Anderson earned Highest Overall Reader. He is currently a fourth-grader.



(Back row, left to right) Jerrith Baggott, Dawson Sams, Jehovah Lavington, Coach Amy Blackburn, Rickie Groseclose, Zachary Blackburn, Evan Wilkowski. (Front row, left to right) Emily Bolin, Madison Zitkus, Kasie Sacco, Savannah Dudney, Marguerite Azzara.

Bowling over the competition

After impressive seasons, both White Knoll High bowling teams brought home U.S. High School Bowling Foundation League championships this year.

The boys team — made up of **Jerrith G. Baggott, Zachary J. Blackburn, Rickie Groseclose, S. Jake Laird, Jehovah E. Lavington, Connor L. MacDougall, Dawson C. Sams** and **Evan A. Wilkowski** — bested River Bluff High on January 25 to claim the school's first league championship in several years. The team knocked down a combined 11,978 pins this season.

Playing a few lanes over, the girls team — featuring Gilbert High's **Savannah N. Dudney** and WKHS's **Marguerite L. Azzara, Emily G. Bolin, Kasie Sacco** and **Madison G. Zitkus** — swept Airport High School 10-0 in the final game, giving them an undefeated season. Their season pin fall totaled 9,504.

Both teams play as part of the U.S. High School Bowling Foundation and work to grow the sport among high schoolers.



(Left to right) S.C. Department of Education's Wendy Stephens and Jessica Latham.

Latham inspires students' love of languages

Jessica L. Latham's Lexington High students described her as “plugged in,” “thoughtful” and “genuine” when nominating her for the South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers' Association Teacher of the Year award, which recognizes best practices and excellence in the teaching and learning of world languages as well as leadership in the profession.

Latham received the award for not only capturing students' attention and instilling a love of Spanish, but also for creating a Russian program for the school.

During the past six years, Latham developed a Russian curriculum and, in partnership with the College of Charleston, recently established the first Russian Day. LHS students spent a day with college students and professors on the college campus demonstrating their language skills and learning about the college experience.



We are the champions!

For the third year in a row, Lexington District One students returned home from the “We the People” state competition as champions.

Competing on the district’s Center for Law and Global Policy Development team, state champions include Lexington High’s **Macy T. Cope**; River Bluff High’s **Grant M. Bradford**, **Benjamin P. Brandes**, **Kristyna R. Brown**, **Colby D. Caviness**, **Madison A. Corley**, **Shaylor G. Crawford**, **Sean H. Dedmon**, **Chloe R. Farhat**, **Riley D. Lankes**, **Jacob M. Marsh**, **John C. McKay**, **Gabriela D. Ortiz Soto**, **Nathanial A. Rizer**, **Luke P. Shealy**, **Aditya Singh**, **Camille R. Sullivan**, **Austin P. Tindal**, **Kamryn M. Ufford** and

Aydan M. Wunderlich; and White Knoll High’s **Izzy L. Dail**, **Chevonne Hasell**, **Hunter L. Hughes**, **Jamon M. Major** and **Nitzia R. Orozco**.

Sponsored by a service arm of the South Carolina Bar, its 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.

Walmart supports WKES literacy program

White Knoll Elementary Literacy Coach **Jennifer B. McPherson** helped her school receive a Walmart Foundation Community Grant to support family literacy.

The \$2,000 will support WKES’s ongoing efforts to promote literacy in the community with its Reading Prize Patrol.

WKES teachers designate an evening, drive around their community and look for families reading. Families are encouraged to turn on their porch light or read outside. If caught, they could receive prizes from the WKES Reading Prize Patrol.

Walmart Foundation Community Grants support localized efforts to boost educational opportunities, public safety training, healthy eating and environmental sustainability.



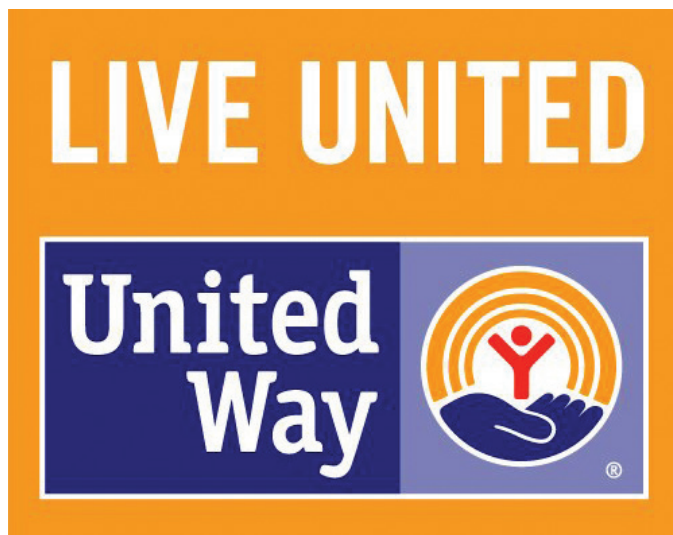
LES becomes prestigious IB PYP World School

Led by Principal **Jim H. Hamby** and International Baccalaureate Coordinator **Lynn B. Dempsey**, Lexington Elementary became an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme World School on March 7.

As an IB school, LES will provide students with more opportunities to think globally, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and learn how to apply what they learn through service-learning projects.

LES first declared interest in becoming an IB school in 2012. The following six years featured LES teachers and administrators visiting other IB elementary schools and attending IB workshops, adding parents to the discussion and incorporating the IB Learner Traits into the school's everyday routines.

LES achieved IB candidacy status in fall 2016 and received an IB consultant in March 2017. Once the school submitted its application, a team of IB educators conducted an inspection by observing classrooms, interviewing stakeholders, and assessing curricular units and student work samples.



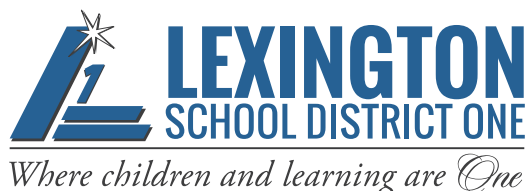
District unites for a cause

During the United Way of the Midlands' 2017 fundraising campaign, Lexington District One schools and employees gave generously, with contributions totaling \$42,544.62.

Pleasant Hill Elementary, represented by Jack A. Clifton and Margaret B. Mitchum, raised the most money among elementary schools with \$4,600.

In the middle school category, **Pleasant Hill Middle**, represented by Susan M. Cafferty and Thomas E. Rivers, Ph.D., came out on top with \$1,887. **Lexington High**, represented by Kelly G. Kennerly and Melissa C. Rawl, claimed bragging rights in the high school category with donations totaling \$2,682.

United Way also recognized schools and departments that met their 2017 fundraising goal: **Central Services**, represented by Gregory D. Little, Ed.D., **Lexington Technology Center**, represented by Mark A. Brannock and Bryce B. Myers, and **PHES**.



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Lexington County School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, genetic information 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. Chief Human Resources Officer Michael L. Stacey handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title IX, inquiries/complaints regarding Title II with respect to employees and/or public access to buildings and grounds, and inquiries/complaints involving the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Inquiries/complaints regarding IDEA for students K-12 go to Director of Special Services Wendy Balough, Ed.D. Inquiries/complaints regarding Section 504 for students K-12 go to Director of School Counseling and Advisement Zan Tracy Pender. Inquiries/complaints regarding Title II implementation go to Coordinator of Title II Part A Dianne Steelman.

Contact these people if you have questions regarding these issues at 100 Tarrar Springs Road, Lexington, SC 29072 and telephone number 803-821-1000.