

Proof Positive

October 17, 2017 • Board of Trustees Meeting
LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE



JROTC Award for Excellence in Academics Winner

Lexington High School's **Zachary W. Kearney** earned national recognition for both an outstanding record in the classroom and as a cadet in uniform. A junior, Kearney holds the rank of Cadet Senior Airman in LHS's Air Force JROTC.

Kearney received the JROTC Award for Excellence in Academics from the Celebrate Freedom Foundation, a locally based organization that provides educational opportunities while promoting military service and STEM careers.

Cadets must demonstrate initiative and self-confidence, take responsibility within their unit, allow for personal growth, have a desire to pursue a military career and rank in the top 15 percent of his/her academic class to be eligible for the JROTC Award for Excellence in Academics.

Kearney received the award with Highest Distinction, an additional commendation given by the Blue Star Mothers. His essay received the top score in the nation.

Retired Lt. Col. Bobby McDonald, LHS AFJROTC instructor, nominated Kearney for being one of the top cadets in the program.

"He volunteers for every community service event we have," McDonald said. "Last year, he accumulated more than 15 hours of community service. He is an active member of our color guard team that presents the colors at varsity football games and many other major school events. Despite his busy schedule, he manages to maintain a 4.4 GPA."



South Carolina 4-H Honey Bee Project Junior Division Winner

Gilbert Elementary School's **Wilson B. Oxner** participated in the inaugural of the South Carolina 4-H Pollinator Project. He came away with new skills and a first-place award.

Fifth-Grader Oxner and his bees won first place at the county and regional levels before winning the state 4-H Honey Bee Project Junior Division.

He and the other participants from around the state learned about entomology while building hives and tending to their bees. Competing in the junior division for ages 9 to 13, Oxner built a wooden 10-frame hive before installing his bees. He planted pollinator gardens and blooming plots to increase their foraging options. The hard work paid off when he harvested honey this summer and made candles from some of the beeswax.

Oxner kept a record of his expenses and steps, took photographs to chart progress and researched the importance of pollinators. He did such a remarkable job that he helped other beekeepers install their bees, demonstrated the steps of honey harvesting, and even sold some of his honey and candles.



National Merit Scholarship

This year's National Merit Scholarship semifinalists include Lexington High Seniors **Jack A. Hoog**, **Kelley Jiang** and **Sideny Lin**.

Semifinalists represent the top one percent of U.S. high school seniors. They must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be recommended by a high school official, write an essay and earn high SAT scores.

About 90 percent of the semifinalists will be named finalists in February 2018. They will continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation will announce scholarship winners will be announced beginning in April 2018. Scholarship recipients will join more than 330,000 distinguished young people who have earned the title of Merit Scholar.

Dollar General Literacy Foundation Youth Literacy Grant Recipient

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation provides additional funding to support the growth of literacy for all ages and backgrounds. Oak Grove Elementary School Interventionist's **Sarah W. Weiss** recently received a \$3,000 Youth Literacy Grant.

Youth Literacy Grants provide funding to schools, public libraries and nonprofit organizations to help students who are below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading. Funding can be used to purchase technology and books, implement new literacy programs or expand existing programs.

Weiss plans to use the grant funding to purchase iPads for the school's Response to Intervention program.



South Carolina Horse Show First-Place Winners

Members of the Lexington 4-H Horse Club brought home multiple ribbons from the South Carolina State 4-H Horse Show. First-place winners include Carolina Springs Middle's **Aliza Grace Allison**, Gilbert High's **Sianna M. Smith**, Gilbert Middle's **Khara D. Cox**, and Lexington High's **Loni M. McKenzie** and **Hailey N. Williamson**.

Allison won first place in the junior division horse judging competition and junior division essay contest, and received two first-place awards in the riding competition for western pleasure and western showmanship riding styles.

In the educational portion of the competition, Cox won first place in the junior division creative contest, while McKenzie and Williamson won first place for team presentation in the senior division. McKenzie and Williamson will travel to Louisville in November to compete at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up.

Smith earned first place for public speaking in the senior division and received a \$750 scholarship for winning first place overall in the Level 2 record book competition with her first-place record book and record book test.

Deerfield Elementary Fifth-Grade Teacher Kimberly R. Williamson coaches the Lexington 4-H Horse Club.





Donors Choose Funding Recipients

Starting the school year off with kindness, donors from around the world funded needs submitted by Lexington District One teachers through the online platform [DonorsChoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org).

Recent recipients of grant funding include Gilbert Middle's **Andrew P. Connelly, Pamela W. Crim, Michael F. Grimsley** and **Sharmen M. Oswald**; Lake Murray Elementary's **Erica Hardin, Blair B. Wells** and **Heidi D. Woolbright**; Lexington Middle's **Meghan Blackburn**; Midway Elementary's **Joy H. Gallo, Samantha H. Leitzsey, Merritt W. Lemmon, Melissa L. Livingston, Andrea L. McLane, Katrinda W. Scott, Amanda B. Shealy** and **Kathrine P. Zahm**; Oak Grove Elementary's **Anna F. House**; and Pleasant Hill Elementary's **Cindy P. Hecko** and **Stacy R. Whisennant**.

Lexington District One teachers recently sought funding to purchase musical instrument cases and music stands for orchestra students, a German magazine for World Language students, and technology from Apple to support professional development in the area of assistive technology.

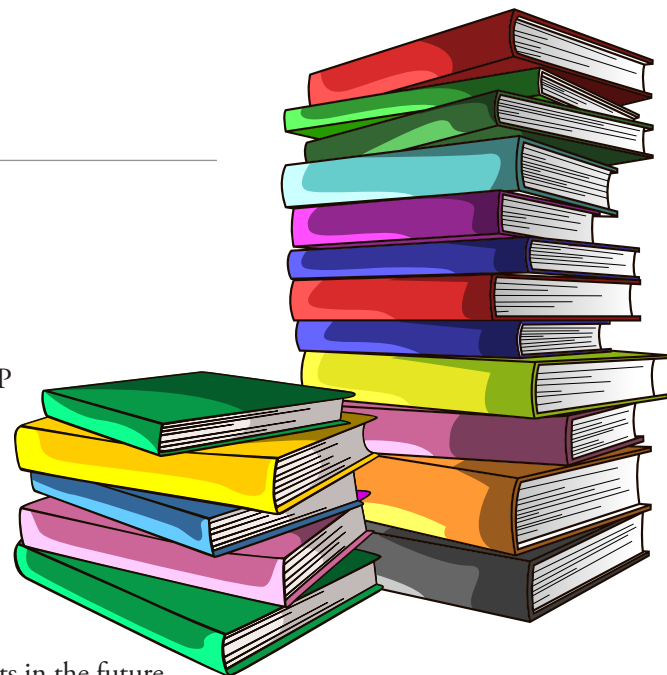
These materials and technology will enhance students' learning as teachers introduce new books and projects to capture their imaginations.

Bucks for Books Grant Recipient

A new grant from the Lexington One Educational Foundation and its LEAP education funds support literacy in Lexington District One.

The district's Office of Instruction, represented by **Erica K. Bissell, Ed.D.**, and **Gloria J. Talley, Ed.D.**, received \$34,000 total to assist teachers in building their classroom libraries. Funds will be distributed to Lexington District One's elementary schools, as all 17 schools receive \$2,000 for new books.

The Foundation leadership hopes to continue supporting such literacy efforts in the future.



Discovery Educator Network Summer Institute

Carolina Springs Elementary School's **Kristin Magee** spent the summer bolstering her knowledge of digital content and classroom resources from Discovery Education.

As part of a global community of educators, Magee participated in the 2017 Discovery Educator Network Summer Institute, an immersive, weeklong professional development experience held at the University of California, San Diego.

According to Discovery Education, the summer institute featured a number of interactive seminars and hands-on workshops designed to support educators as they combine the latest technologies and content to create authentic digital learning environments that engage students and improve achievement. Educators also shared resources, ideas and strategies during the week.



International Triathlon Union Long Course Duathlon World Championships Team USA

White Knoll High School's **Glenn J. Robinette** traveled to Switzerland last month to represent his country in a physically demanding event.

A job coach, head boys cross country coach, and assistant track and field coach at WKHS, Robinette joined Team USA in 2016. He competed September 3 at the International Triathlon Union Long Course Duathlon World Championships, also known as the Powerman. Duathlon athletes compete in a run-bike-run format without the swimming component of a traditional triathlon.

Robinette completed his first triathlon in 1989. After qualifying for Team USA in May 2016 in his first duathlon, he trained diligently for the next 15 months for the Powerman.

Since 1989, athletes from around the world have been coming to Switzerland for one of the most important duathlon events. The race draws a mixture of top triathletes, duathletes and athletes from other endurance sports. Some claim that the Powerman is even more demanding than the Ironman.

Arts in the Basic Curriculum Grant Recipient

Two Lexington District One middle schools received another round of funding to support arts education. Pleasant Hill Middle, represented by Shannon B. Canady, Lori L. McKelvey, Jessica I.M. Robbins and A. Mickey Summerall, and White Knoll Middle, represented by Debra C. Adams and Jolene K. Walter, will continue their excellent arts courses and offerings with an Arts in the Basic Curriculum grant.

PHMS will receive \$11,932, with WKMS receiving \$8,352.

With this funding dedicated to the arts, schools can invite artists-in-residence to show students career opportunities, provide professional development for art department teachers and implement arts education into core subject areas.

21st Century Innovation Grant Winners

The Lexington One Educational Foundation supports learning in Lexington District One in part by funding big ideas that teachers want to bring to life.

This year's 21st Century Innovation Grant winners include Lexington Elementary, represented by Jim H. Hamby; Meadow Glen Elementary, represented by Cheryl H. Fralick and Nancy A. Lind; New Providence Elementary, represented by Debbie R. Poole and Rebecca Matthews; Pleasant Hill Elementary, represented by Betsy P. Goodman, Jen E. Jones, Margaret B. Mitchum and Amanda Youmans; and Saxe Gotha Elementary, represented by Beth A. Houck and Meghan W. Snipes.

Projects include "Fidget-Friendly Classrooms" at LES, "Equity and Diversity in Curriculum Matter" at MGES, "Promoting a Brain-Based Learning Environment" at NPES, "Building a Box in Order to Think Outside of It" at PHES and "Watch D.O.G.S." at SGES.

Funding for this school year totals \$19,149. Schools receive funding based on their project needs.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching State Finalist

Carolina Springs Middle School Teacher, **Teresa B. Gibbons** remains in the running for the United States government's highest award given to exceptional mathematics and science educators.

An eighth-grade science teacher, Gibbons is a state-level finalist in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Nominating committees select up to five finalists from each discipline, either mathematics or science, for recognition at the state level.

Teachers' applications must include letters of recommendation, a narrative outlining Five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching, and a videotaped classroom lesson. Gibbons demonstrated effective use of instructional materials and student assessments, personal growth, and leadership outside of the classroom to achieve status as a finalist.

Winners from each state receive a certificate signed by the President of the United States and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.



LEAP Winners

Funded solely by donations from Lexington District One employees, the Lexington Employee Assistance Plan offers financial assistance to employees and students in need. Employees contribute during the two-week LEAP Campaign held at the beginning of each school year by the Lexington School District One Educational Foundation.

During the 2017–2018 campaign, 2,508 employees donated \$158,391.

Top contributions came from Carolina Springs Middle, represented by **Ashley Carter**, **Brice L.S. Cockfield, Ed.D.** and **Joi H. Walden**; Gilbert Elementary, represented by **S. Ryan Allman**, **P. Heath Branham** and **Stephanie Margraf**; Lake Murray Elementary, represented by **Kim T. Nunnery**, **Christy S. Peters** and **Jennifer A. Stanley**; Lexington Elementary, represented by **Jim H. Hamby**,

Susan S. Kirlough and **Courtney C. Leaphart**; Lexington High, represented by **Carol A. Camp**, **Julie E. Herndon**, **Charles E. Pinta** and **Melissa C. Rawl**; Midway Elementary, represented by **Jan M. Fickling**, **Brandy R. Ludlam** and **Rick C. Masters**; Rocky Creek Elementary, represented by **Brenda B. Nichols**, **Jennifer M. Ringo** and **Jennifer B. Taylor**; and the Transportation Office, represented by **Adrianne L. Bazemore** and **Bill A. Kurts**.

Among elementary schools, GES, LES and MES contributed the most, while CSMS and LHS employees donated the most for middle and high schools, respectively. Transportation employees donated the most among district-level offices.

LMES and RCES received recognition for 100 percent participation in the LEAP Campaign.



Law Enforcement Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year

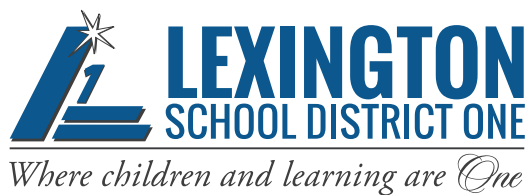
A fixture at three Lexington District One schools, Steffonie C. Cockerill recently won an award for going above and beyond to keep Lexington children safe. During the Child Passenger Safety Summit, Cockerill won Law Enforcement Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year.

Cockerill works as a Town of Lexington Police Department's School Resource Officer at Lexington Elementary, Meadow Glen Elementary and New Providence Elementary.

Community leaders dedicated to child safety were honored by Children's Trust of South Carolina. Cockerill won for her work during Child Passenger Safety Week events.

This year marks the second time Cockerill has won the Law Enforcement Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year award for ensuring every child rides in "the right seat."





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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.