



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

February 19, 2019 • Board of Trustees Meeting  
LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

# Proof Positive

## Taiste plays on U.S. National team

White Knoll High Junior Nick J. Taiste represented the Timberwolf football team as a member of the U-18 U.S. National Team, which played at the International Bowl held at the AT&T Stadium in Dallas, Texas, on Jan. 18.

Taiste played offensive lineman as the U.S. National Team scored 27 points in a 27-10 victory over Team Canada in the 10th International Bowl.

Taiste's other accomplishments include making *The State's* 2018 All-Midlands high school football team following the 2018 season, as well as an all-region selection and MVP at Aun and McKay Kickoff Classic in 2017.



NANCY MAYER 2018



*SGES special needs students and their Unified partners prepare for the Spring Games.*

## SGES hits the road with Special Olympics funds

Led by D. Michelle Vestal, Saxe Gotha Elementary received a Special Olympics South Carolina Unified Champion School Grant.

The \$400 grant enables students to participate in Special Olympics activities and travel to Special Olympic events including the "End the R Word" Statehouse Rally in March and the Spring Games at White Knoll High in April.

As a Unified Champion School, SGES provides opportunities for students with and without disabilities to play sports together and build friendships.

# District sends 57 to all-state chorus

Talented Lexington District One students will lend their voices to the annual South Carolina Music Educators Association's All-State Chorus Weekend. The Lexington District One singers perform at Winthrop University March 7–9, 2019.

The All-State Chorus program provides an opportunity for superior choral students to sing together and represent South Carolina in statewide events. The all-state weekend is an intensive and demanding vocal experience that fosters self-discipline and personal growth as well as musicianship.

Students earning a spot in the SCMEA 2018–2019 All-State Chorus include: Gilbert High's Katelyn M. Barefoot, Madison E. Berry, Sammie R. Browning, Heather G. Cook, Austin R. Coursey, W. Dolan Hislop, Kyla M. Osborn, H. Jordan Powers and Adam C. Smith; Lexington High's Kathryn D. Capili, Sydney R. Devoe, Lawson C. Estridge, Ashlin D. Gibson, Joshua G. Gravelle, Colby S. James, Nicholas C. Joy, Lindy K. McCloy, Jackson L. McKelvey, A. Grace Putman, Elizabeth F. Reynolds, London C. Saunders, Josiah D. Schrodtt, J. Taylor Spires,

Peyton M. Whetstone and Mary Grace Wingard; Pelion High's Ethan B. Lindler and Ella M. Mincey; River Bluff High's Harley R. Boaz, Mattison L. Bradham, Chase J. Carter, Lauren M. Garrison, Eliza C. Grant, Reagan K. Green, Mason A. Martin, Madeline G. Owens, Sarah M. Peter, Elena E. Pittman, Kathryn C. Shepherd, Grant T. Stillinger, Charlie R. West and Andrew Fellers Wise; and White Knoll High's Jerrith G. Baggott, Zoey E. Betty, Colton L. Duncan, Michael R. Fletcher, Josh L. Franklin, Nathaniel S. Hope, Taryn D. Jett, Hannah E. Kennedy, Bethany D. Lytton, K. Morgan Matthiesen, Samantha A. McMillan, Tyeler A. Mercer, Caleb M. Meyerand, Amber A. Sempervive, Cailey M. Williams and Genesis A. Williams.

To be selected for the chorus, these exceptional students auditioned before a panel of judges, who scored the students' pitch and rhythmic accuracy, intonation, diction, tone quality and musicality. Students also performed a prepared piece in small groups of five for the judges, followed by a short test of their sight-reading ability.



## DonorsChoose.org funds classroom needs

Through the online giving platform DonorsChoose.org, educators can post funding requests for specific items such as books, technology and flexible seating.

Educators with fully funded projects include Deerfield Elementary's Birte C. Fretwell, Gilbert Primary's Madeline C. Jahn, Lexington High's Dana Crowley, Pelion Elementary's Katie H. Alexander and Saxe Gotha Elementary's Haylee G. Boltjes.

Funded projects provide students with new materials such as a 3D printer to enhance science and mathematics classes at DES, Boogie Board writing tablets at GPS, high-interest texts for struggling readers at PES and mathematics puzzle games at SGES.

At LHS, donors made it possible for Crowley to purchase fluorescent light covers to soften the harsh glare of classroom lights, creating a calm environment for students with sensory issues.





## LMS counselor wins Middle School Counselor of the Year

The Palmetto State School Counselor Association named Lexington Middle Director of School Counseling and Advisement Leigh O. Eubanks as its 2019 Middle School Counselor of the Year.

An educator for 30 years, Eubanks has a passion for counseling and the LMS students. She demonstrates expertise and dedication to professional growth, as well as advocating for the whole child.

“Being a school counselor has been one of the most rewarding things that I have done in my 30 years in education,” she says.

The School Counselor of the Year Award recognizes educators who have demonstrated their ability to provide leadership in executing a comprehensive school counseling program impacting students, the community and other stakeholders.

The Palmetto State School Counselor Association, a statewide nonprofit organization, helps advance the profession of school counseling by assisting South Carolina school counselors in guiding their students toward academic achievement, career planning and social/emotional development, helping today’s students become tomorrow’s productive, contributing members of society.

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## Walmart Foundation grants support literacy and outdoor fun

Students at Gilbert Middle and Pleasant Hill Elementary will benefit from projects funded by two Walmart Foundation Community Grants.

GMS Mathematics Teacher Elaine B. Rej applied for a \$250 grant to begin construction on a 9-hole disc golf course. The grant provides seed money to purchase cement and tee markers.

Rej plans to seek additional funding to complete the project, giving students the opportunity to stay active while learning a new game.

At PHES, Second-Grade Teacher Debra A. Crews received a \$500 grant for “Cougar Collections: Parent Helper Packs.” This project provides collections of leveled reading books for checkout in the library.

Each collection contains four to five books of a similar reading level, as well as detailed information for parents about their student’s skill level and the instruction they receive. Each bag includes questions for parents to use to facilitate discussion and to help grow their student’s comprehension.

Any teacher may check out the Parent Helper Packs, enabling all grade levels to benefit from the project.



## WKHS takes green steps with recycling grant

White Knoll High Science Teacher David R. Cann received a \$1,500 Recycling Education Grant to help the large school reduce its environmental footprint.

Cann applied for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control grant in order to purchase additional recycling bins.

Once a week, students from the Environmental Science class take bins throughout the school to collect recyclable materials. After they sort the paper and plastic, Cann carries the bins to the local landfill for processing.

The recycling efforts fulfill a requirement of the Green Steps Schools program, allowing WKHS to reapply for distinction as an S.C. Green Steps School.



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The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

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