



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

# Proof Positive



## All-state musicians harmonize with the best

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

Students from middle and high school bands auditioned for the all-state clinic band, junior-level band, or senior-level band selected by the South Carolina Band Directors Association.

Students selected for the SCBDA 2019 All-State Clinic Band include Lexington High's Cody A. Campen, Zaria G. Daniels, Kathryn H. King, Katie B. Sightler, Garrett C. Spees and Joanna C. Taylor; River Bluff High's Megan T. Clancy, Kevin Liu, Kenna M. Morrison and Christopher D. Unumb; and White Knoll High's Savannah L. Strickland.

Spees and Unumb also made first chair for tenor saxophone and baritone saxophone, respectively.

Carolina Springs Middle's Emma C. Ballentine and Jack P. Bernard, Gilbert Middle's Scarlet L. Clamp, Lexington Middle's Michael B. Clancy and Ana J. McCall, and Meadow Glen Middle's Rebecca L. Yu will perform with the SCBDA 2019 All-State Junior Band.

Bernard also made first chair for bassoon.

Students chosen for the SCBDA 2019 All-State Senior Band include Gilbert High's Kris D. Phelps; River Bluff High's Devon L. Mastin, Lauren S. Oh and Aleigh R. Trotter; and White Knoll High's Christopher R. Eggleston.

Judges scored students on performance of scales, sight-reading and a selected solo, as well as musical terms and definitions.

During the weekend clinic, students perfect their skills and rehearse with other top musicians from South Carolina.



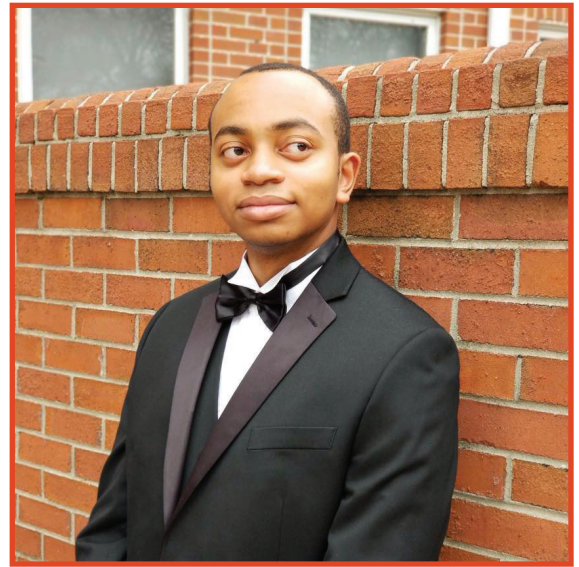
# Drumming up a stellar career

Judges with the South Carolina Band Directors Association chose a Lexington District One band student, Gilbert High's Kris D. Phelps, for the 2019 All-State Jazz Band.

A percussionist, Phelps attended the SCBDA All-State Jazz Band Clinic, held Feb. 28–March 2 at Newberry College. He studied under Jack Wilkins, director of Jazz Studies at the University of South Florida School of Music, along with top jazz student musicians from around the state.

As a Gilbert Middle Student, Phelps earned a spot in a 2014 all-state band and won a spot in an all-state band every year since.

A member of this year's SCBDA All-State Senior Band and one of the top chairs in this year's all-state band, he also filled one of the percussion seats in the South Carolina Music Educators Association's 2019 All-State Orchestra.



## PHMS wrestler 'takes down' state title

Pleasant Hill Middle's Matthew Orofino won a state wrestling championship sponsored by the South Carolina Wrestling Coaches Association. An eighth-grader, he competed at the Carolina Invitational Wrestling Tournament in the middle school category.

Competing in the 96-lb bracket, Orofino defeated four other middle school wrestlers to take the title. Before competing in the tournament, he won a series of qualifiers.

Orofino, who began his wrestling career while still in kindergarten, also runs cross-country for Lexington High and track for PHMS.

## FPES school counselor helps students make 'cents'

South Carolina Treasurer Curtis Loftis recognized Forts Pond Elementary School Counselor Gina S. Mahoney as January's Future Scholar Financial Literacy Program Educator of the Month.

Using the Future Scholar Financial Literacy Program materials, Mahoney teaches fifth-graders about needs versus wants and good financial habits.

She began using the interactive program three years ago, with the goal of making learning financial skills interesting and fun.

Approximately 27,000 South Carolina students and 238 schools have participated in the Future Scholar Financial Literacy Program since 2015. The web-based financial management course focuses on skill building, budgeting and decision-making.





# From bass to viola

After impressing all-state judges with their instrumental talent, student musicians from eight Lexington District One schools performed during the annual South Carolina Music Educators Association All-State Orchestra weekend.

All-state orchestra members include Carolina Springs Middle's Ekemini B. Umanah; Gilbert High's Sophie G. Ngo; Lexington High's Brooke E. Erickson, Connor B. Hewson, Paul T. Kim and Raymond Lin; Meadow Glen Middle's Brianna M. Talton; Pleasant Hill Middle's Aaron G. Kaufman and Leanna T. Kim; River Bluff

High's Matthew S. Chong and Olivia D. Cook; White Knoll High's Tristan C. Groscost; and White Knoll Middle's Joshua R. Groscost.

The all-state orchestra event, held Feb. 22–24, 2019, brought together students who finely honed their skills on instruments including bass, cello, violin and viola.

Irmo High School hosted rehearsals, while Lexington District One students performed at the Lexington District One Performing Arts Center at Lexington High for the culminating event.



## RBHS teacher wins former mentor's scholarship

River Bluff High's Jessica C. White will continue pursuing her master's degree thanks to a scholarship she received in memory of a former professor and mentor.

White received the Cindy Mackie Foundation Higher Education Scholarship, named in honor of Winthrop University's Dr. Cynthia Furr and her daughter, Mackie. While earning her teaching degree, White studied under Furr.

The Foundation offers scholarships to high school, undergraduate and postgraduate students who demonstrate academic merit along with commitment and the desire to excel. The Foundation challenges recipients to create a better future for themselves and others.

Inspired by Dr. Furr's legacy, White plans to use her scholarship to complete her master's degree and grow as an educator.

## School counselor renews National Board Certification

A Lexington District One school counselor recently completed the process to renew her National Board Certification with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Gilbert High Director of Counseling and Advisement Jennifer H. Adams earned recertification in the area of School Counseling/Early Childhood Through Young Adulthood.

Adams joined GHS this year after three years as director of counseling at Carolina Springs Middle. She started as a counselor in Lexington District One in 2004.

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 also submit an extensive portfolio with videos of teaching, lesson plans and student work samples.





## Championship coach wins state award

Head coach of the reigning 5A state softball champions, White Knoll High's April J. Farr won State Softball Coach of the Year honors from the National Federation of State High School Associations.

The NFSH chooses state and national winners in sports including basketball, golf and volleyball.

Farr led the Lady Timberwolves to the school's first state softball title in May 2018, also winning South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Softball Coach of the Year and Region 5 5A Softball Coach of the Year, and coaching in the North-South all-star game.

WKHS finished the season with 31 wins and only two losses, setting a new WKHS home run record with 44. The championship season came after a tough season ending the prior year, when WKHS finished as state runner-up. Under Farr's leadership and challenge to look forward, the team rebounded in 2018 to take the title.

This spring is Farr's sixth at the helm of Lady Timberwolves softball.

## 'Making a Difference' for diverse populations

Families who work with Parent Educator Gigi E. Towers know she makes a positive difference in their child's education. Now, the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs has recognized her impact.

The statewide organization featured Towers on its "Hispanics Who are Making a Difference" webpage, citing her excellent work reaching Hispanic families and empowering them to thrive.



Using her certification in the Parent as Teachers and Parent-Child Home Program, Towers effectively uses both models with the Parenting Center's Spanish-speaking families. Her work helped the Parenting Center earn designation as a Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon Affiliate in 2017.

Since 2003, Towers served as a member of the Commission's Hispanic/Latino Affairs Initiative Advisory Committee, which provides information on challenges as well as recommendations to help Hispanic students succeed in school.

She joined Lexington District One in 2002 as a parent educator at the Parenting Center and served as a member of the South Carolina First Steps Board.

## Teachers use grant funds for unique offerings



Carolina Springs Middle Drama Teacher Jennifer S. Simmons and Lexington Middle Art Teacher Vicki Gadecki picked up \$500 grants from the South Carolina State Federal Credit Union Teacher Grant program that allowed them to bring unique activities to their schools.

Simmons used her \$500 to offer two Zumba certification courses for CSMS faculty members. Two teachers will earn their Zumba certification in April. The school will then pilot an after-school Zumba class for students and staff, with the goal of fully establishing the program in the 2019-2020 school year.

Gadecki, on the other hand, arranged to have Nancy Basket, an artist-in-residence with the South Carolina Arts Commission, visit LMS for a four-day basket-weaving workshop for grades six and eight. Students learned about the culture and history of Native Americans while weaving baskets made of pine needles.





## AES teacher presents at conference with USC grant

Alternative Educational Services Teacher Angela Still attended an educator's conference this month after receiving a micro-grant from the University of South Carolina.

An English teacher with 27 years in Lexington District One, Still received a \$250 grant for the South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education's 42nd Annual Conference held March 1-3.

She presented a session entitled "While I Breathe, I Hope: Using Mindful Breath and Movement to Enhance Learning." She also attended sessions on student advocacy, leveraging student knowledge in diverse classrooms and motivation theory.

Still applied for the grant from South Carolina Middle Grades Initiative, a program under the Center for Educational Partnerships at USC. Offering grants to attend the conference aligns with the program's goal of providing professional development and other enriching experiences so that educators can meet the diverse developmental needs of middle-level students.

## Pelion teacher named 'champion'

Pelion High Instructional Coach Ashton C. Padgett encourages a love of literacy and learning, dedicating the time to champion each individual student's needs.

Padgett received this year's Literacy Champion award from the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English in recognition of her efforts to increase literacy in her school and district, and share her knowledge of best practices in combating illiteracy. She tirelessly advocates for positive change through curriculum decisions, program implementation, arts infusion, STEAM integration and data dives.

Padgett launched several positive changes including the adoption of two new ELA curriculum programs and a comprehensive Professional Learning Plan that supports all teachers and focuses on student engagement.

Embodying the concept of lifelong learning, Padgett pursues ways to grow professionally by seeking out mentors, professional conferences and other development opportunities on her own time. She designed and procured a Professional Development library for teacher use in an effort to spread her love of reading and research with her colleagues.



# South Carolina House of Representatives honors board

On behalf of the South Carolina House of Representatives, Rep. Chris Wooten recognized members of the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees during the board's March 19, 2019 Board Meeting.

Wooten presented each board member with a certificate of appreciation for "loyal service on the Lexington County School District One Board" and "dedicated leadership in public education and continuing service to the students of Lexington County School District One."

Wooten thanked board members for raising the bar on public education and giving their time and expertise to make a positive difference.



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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.

The district designates specific individuals to handle inquiries or complaints. To find out whom to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at [lexington1.net/contact-us](http://lexington1.net/contact-us).