



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

September 18, 2018 • Board of Trustees Meeting
LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

Proof Positive

Students lasso first-place ribbons

Competing as part of the Lexington County 4-H Horse Club, Carolina Springs Middle's Aliza G. Allison, Lexington High's Loni M. McKenzie and Hailey N. Williamson, and Pleasant Hill Middle's Molly E. Kozemko won an armful of first-place awards at the S.C. 4-H State Horse Show.

Students received awards for horsemanship, as well as creativity and record keeping. Judges scored them high in categories including dressage, photography and hunter over fences.

McKenzie and Williamson both won three first-place awards, while Allison won four first-place ribbons and Kozemko took home two.

A junior at LHS, Williamson also attended the S.C. State 4-H Congress in July, where she won a \$500 scholarship and a trip to national 4-H Congress. She created a portfolio of her 4-H career with evidence of her leadership, citizenship and 4-H projects.



Where in the world is Mrs. Dew?

Lexington High's Katherine Dew brings the world into her classroom with unique methods, earning her the title of Geography Teacher Fellow.

An award from the American Geographical Society, the Geography Teacher Fellow program honors the top 50 geography teachers in the country.

Dew will attend the AGS Fall Symposium in November at Columbia University in New York City. At the symposium, educators gain cutting-edge content knowledge and awareness of the real-world geographic and geospatial workplace skills required by today's employers.

The event also features networking opportunities and the Mapathon, as well as workshops led by experts in geospatial technology. Teacher fellows will receive training in open web-mapping and how to take what they've learned back to their classrooms.

Dew currently teaches AP Human Geography.



Inaugural cohort wins prestigious award

Multiple Lexington District One educators completed a valuable learning experience in December 2017, equipping them to better serve students from schools with higher poverty. In recognition of their hard work and implementation of the tools and resources, the group received the Lorin W. Anderson Award for Excellence.

Cohort members include Central Services' Sarah M. Childers and Stephanie J. Robinson, Forts Pond Elementary's Stephanie G. Taylor, Gilbert Middle's Ann F. Pilat, Lake Murray Elementary's Mylisa D. Apperson, Lexington Middle's M. Elizabeth Whisenant, Midway Elementary's Katina F. Roeder, Pelion Elementary's Tracey L. Jackson, Beverly M. Potts and Ruth Ann Treaster, Pelion Middle's Shelly A. Martin, Saxe Gotha Elementary's Casey L. Hart and White Knoll Middle's Deidre D. Foote.

This group was the first from Lexington District One to earn Teachers of Children of Poverty certification from Francis Marion University's Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty.

Designed to recognize educational stakeholders who successfully implement Center strategies for under-resourced learners, the Lorin W. Anderson Award for Excellence honors the vision and leadership of Dr. Anderson, an advocate for preparation and ongoing support for teachers in high-poverty schools, and co-founder of the Center.

Phillips receives scholarship to attend reading recovery institute

Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Peggy Phillips will enroll in a unique program and attend a national conference after winning a scholarship from the Reading Recovery Council of North America.

Phillips received \$15,000 to attend the RRCNA National Conference and enroll at Clemson University for a year of training as a reading recovery teacher leader.

A year of training and working with literacy leaders from across the state will make it possible for Phillips to bring the best practices in literacy education back to Lexington District One. Her goal is to see students and teachers become literacy leaders.

An educator for 23 years, Phillips recently became the district's reading recovery teacher leader, while continuing to serve struggling readers at White Knoll Elementary.

In addition to her work at WKES, she will train reading recovery teachers across the district and support district administrators in implementing reading recovery in Lexington District One elementary schools.



Michelin donation engineers win for robotics clubs

Continuing its support of local schools, Michelin North America's Lexington site pledged funds to engineer more opportunities for students.

Represented by Communications Manager Cassie Durrell-Briggs, Site Manager Lisa Hayes and Personnel Manager Mike Williams, Michelin committed \$30,000 during the next three years to the Lexington District One Educational Foundation.

These funds will support five of the district's robotics teams.

Michelin's leadership believes this donation will develop and sharpen technological, mechanical, communication and leadership skills in students who participate in the robotics teams. They also hope that this investment will result in encouraging and creating future engineers.



Pleasant Hill PTAs serve with excellence

Both Pleasant Hill Elementary and Middle schools won an "excellent" award from the National PTA for developing strong family-school partnerships.

Led by PHES Principal Margaret B. Mitchum, PHES PTA representatives Amanda Morrison and Bridget Winston, PHMS Principal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr., Ph.D. and PHMS PTA representative Dena Johnson, each school received School of Excellence designation.

National PTA awards this distinction, which lasts for two years, to schools that create and implement an action plan for school improvement based on PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

As Schools of Excellence, PHES and PHMS are in the running for the National PTA Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award which includes a \$2,000 grant.



Panthers put safety first

Pelion High Head Athletic Trainer and Assistant Athletic Director George S. Wham, Ed.D. led his school to another accolade for promoting safety.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association named PHS a Safe Sports School, the second award of its kind since 2014.

The Safe Sports School award recognizes schools that take crucial steps to keep their athletes free from injuries. To achieve Safe Sports School status, athletic programs must promote safe and appropriate practice and competition facilities; plan for selection, fit, function and proper maintenance of athletic equipment; create and rehearse a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan; and develop injury and illness prevention strategies, among other initiatives.

Led by Wham, PHS received the 1st Team Safe Sports School award for meeting all of the recommended and required elements.

PHS takes safety to the next level with ImPACT testing, an assessment that measures students' memory and reaction time, creating an individualized baseline to compare against should an athlete sustain a possible concussion. In 2008, PHS became the first high school in South Carolina to utilize ImPACT testing.

PHMS awarded arts-focused grant

The S.C. Department of Education recently awarded a large grant to help grow her school's artistic offerings to Pleasant Hill Middle Dance Teacher Jennifer M. Coffey.

With the \$12,500 Arts Curricular Innovation grant for the 2018–2019 school year, PHMS will establish a mobile lab for use across all arts areas. The project, "Designing Our Future in the Arts," furthers PHMS's plan to explore the STEAM initiative.

The mobile lab equipped with cutting-edge editing software along with DSLR cameras will allow approximately 900 students to work with industry-standard technology as they create, design and produce original works in many forms.

Arts Curricular Innovation grants assist schools in developing and implementing arts initiatives that support quality arts education programs aimed at improving student achievement in the arts. Funds help develop quality programs in the areas of dance, music, theatre and visual arts.





Cougars are champions for Special Olympics

Pleasant Hill Middle is the latest Lexington District One school to earn the title of Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School.

Led by PHMS's Anne M. Peterson, Christine M. Rivers and Thomas E. Rivers, Jr., Ph.D., as well as Lexington Elementary's Mary Ashley Rodriguez, who was instrumental in developing PHMS's Unified sports before moving to LES this year, PHMS continues to show outstanding support for special needs students.

In 2014, PHMS began offering Unified sports to provide students with and without special needs the opportunity to team up and compete together. Participation has grown each year. Unified athletes participate in pep rallies and a send-off when leaving for Special Olympics events.

PHMS believes supporting Special Olympics athletes has increased awareness and acceptance as the entire school embraces students regardless of ability level.

Survey says: District ranks high

Niche, a national website that provides parents with information on the best educational resources in their area, recognized six Lexington County School District One schools in its top 20 South Carolina elementary, middle and high school rankings.

Lexington High, Meadow Glen Elementary, Meadow Glen Middle, New Providence Elementary, Pleasant Hill Middle and River Bluff High all earned a spot in their respective categories.

Lexington District One received an A+ in activities and administration; an A- in teachers, health and safety; and an A in sports and facilities, as well as a B+ in academics, diversity and college prep resulting in an overall A-.

Every Lexington District One school earned a B or higher.

According to their website, Niche bases rankings and grades on a rigorous analysis of academic and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education, along with test scores, student proficiency, teacher salary, parent surveys, college data and ratings, and heavily weighted academic information collected from millions of Niche users.

When comparing all 81 school districts in South Carolina, Lexington District One ranked fifth overall, eighth in school safety and ninth in best places to teach.





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Lexington County School District One is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, parents/legal guardians, staff, visitors, personnel and community members who participate or seek to participate in its programs or activities. Therefore, the district does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or any related medical conditions), color, disability, age, genetic information, national origin, or any other applicable status protected by local, state, or federal law.

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 who to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at <http://www.lexington1.net/contact-us>.