

# 2022-2023 Annual Report



We love and grow  
our students!





PHYSICAL  
SAFETY



PHYSICAL  
HEALTH



SOCIAL  
NEEDS



MENTAL  
HEALTH



BEHAVIORAL  
NEEDS/SKILLS



ACADEMIC  
READINESS



EDUCATIONAL  
NEEDS



WHOLE CHILD  
CONTINUUM



# Message from the Superintendent

## ***How are the Children?***

I ask this question every day until we can confidently say that all the children are well. Our school district has a simple vision - "We Love and Grow our Students." This vision guides our mission and the outcomes we aim to achieve. Consequently, our teachers, administrators, and staff work tirelessly to ensure we meet two vision objectives in our mission. The first objective is to make sure that every student feels loved in our schools, and the second objective is to ensure that every student has demonstrated academic growth in our schools.

## ***We Love and Grow our Students! - District Vision***

Every mission has challenges that present an opportunity for improvement and growth. I was reminded of our mission while visiting elementary students working in a school garden. The students were asked to create an environment that would support the growth of the plants in the garden. From those simple instructions, the students began their work. They enriched the soil with nutrients, watered the roots, and pruned away obstructions that blocked the sunlight. This mirrors the work educators do every day. Just as plants need sun, water, and good soil to grow, our students need knowledge, skills, and good character to grow. These young students helped inspire the theme for the 2023-2024 school year - "The Growing Season." Our teachers, staff, and administrators are committed to creating a healthy environment that supports student growth. To overcome the challenges to our healthy environment, we will pursue three (3) improvement and growth opportunities. Firstly, we will develop a district-wide Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program to address the rise of anxiety, depression, and trauma experienced by our children. SEL programs are proven methods to create a positive school climate by helping students learn skills like



self-regulation, problem-solving, empathy, and impulse control. These skills will not only help reduce negative behaviors like bullying, but will also improve decision-making and increase academic performance. Secondly, we will focus on connecting students with mentors, advisors, coaches, and volunteers to make supportive connections to maximize the potential of all students. We cannot grow our students if we do not know our students. Our third major opportunity involves the 5-Year Master Facilities Plan. This plan will address the growth of student enrollment in the Chapin schools and the growing facility needs of the Dutch Fork and Irmo schools. We are conducting a study of enrollment projections, facility conditions, school capacities, and educational needs to determine capital priorities for all schools. The targeted completion date of the 5-Year Master Facilities Plan will be in 2030. With your help, we will be able to overcome these challenges and take advantage of the improvement and growth opportunities that will allow all students to meet their greatest potential.

***Our 2,600 educators work with 17,300 students daily to continue the vision of loving and growing all students. Let's grow until all the children are well. #LetsGrow***

Akil E. Ross, Sr., Ed.D.  
Superintendent, School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties



# About Our District

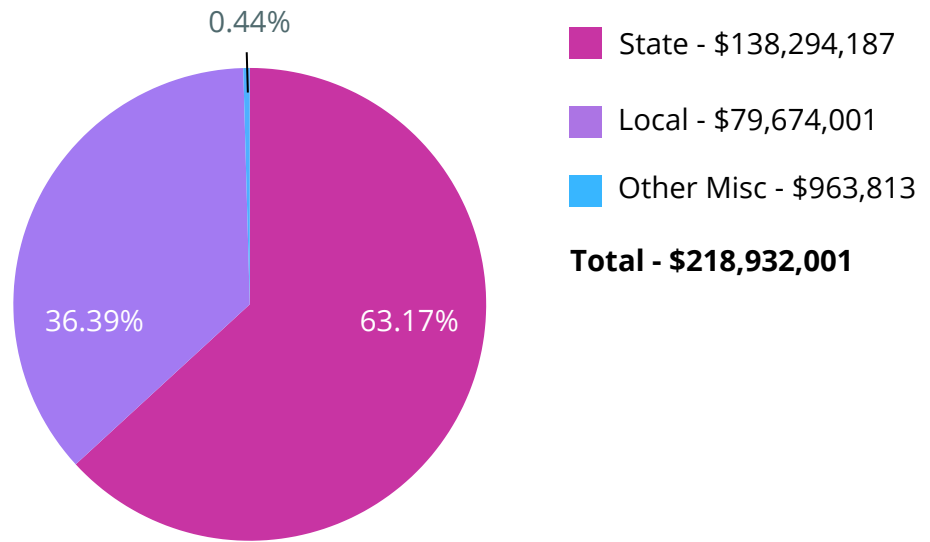
School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties encompasses a land area of approximately 196 square miles, approximately one-half of which is situated in each of Lexington and Richland Counties. The District is primarily a residential suburb located to the northwest of the city of Columbia, the capital city of South Carolina. Included in the District are the towns of Irmo and Chapin. The school district has three attendance areas: Chapin, Dutch Fork, and Irmo. District Five operates a total of 13 elementary schools, two intermediate schools, three middle schools, four high schools, one Center for Advanced Technical Studies, one alternative school and a virtual education option called FIVE.

School District Five offers educational programs that challenge and stimulate thinking and problem solving and foster superior achievement. Our comprehensive educational program focuses on both academic and personal success for all students, from early childhood education through grade 12 and includes both adult and community education programs.

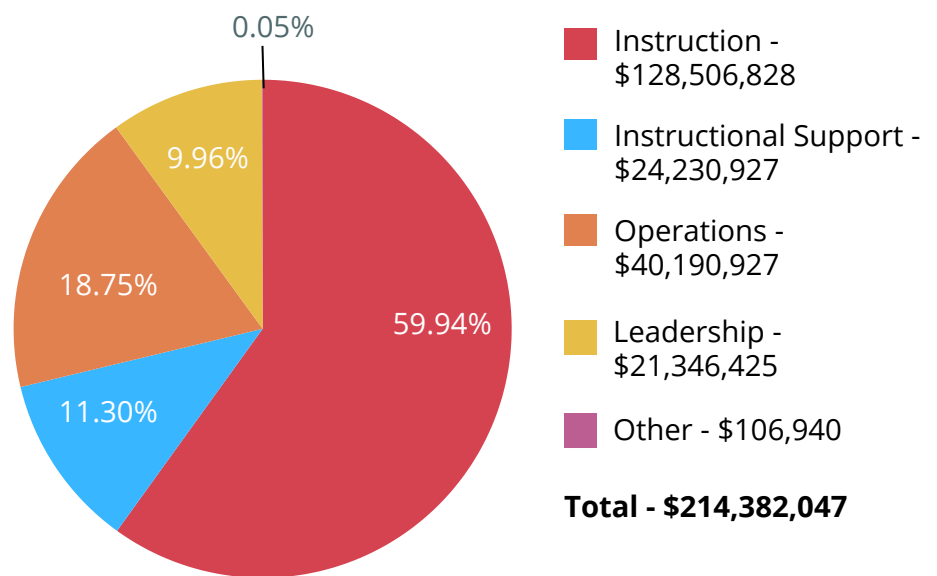


## GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

### FISCAL YEAR 2023 AUDITED REVENUES



### FISCAL YEAR 2023 AUDITED EXPENDITURES



WE LOVE & GROW our students!



# Vision

*We love and grow our students!*

# Mission

The mission of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, in partnership with our stakeholders, is to prepare all students to be college and career ready by providing a challenging curriculum in a safe, secure, diverse, and equitable learning environment focused on academic, social, and emotional growth and development.

### Whole Child Continuum

- Physical Safety
- Physical Health
- Social Needs
- Mental Health
- Behavioral Needs/Skills
- Academic Readiness
- Educational Needs

# Outcomes

LOVE	GROW
<b>Objective:</b> Every student feels they are “loved” in our schools.	<b>Objective:</b> Every Student has demonstrated academic growth in our schools.
<b>Performance Goal Area (1)</b> School Climate 6 Strategies	<b>Performance Goal Area (2)</b> Student Achievement 6 Strategies
<b>Performance Goal Area (3)</b> Teacher Administrator Quality 6 Strategies	<b>Performance Goal Area (4)</b> Gifted and Talented 8 Strategies



Throughout the year, students take part in many spirit weeks and fun fundraisers for their school, including dress up days like 100 Days of School.



Students pose with their District Science Fair awards.

# District Highlights

***Celebrating the 2022-2023 School Year in District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties***

Niche.com released its 2023 Best Schools in America rankings, and Lexington-Richland School District Five was again named as a top school district in South Carolina and the number one school district in the Midlands.

The district earned an “A” rating by Niche and was ranked as the number one “Best Places to Teach” in South Carolina. The district was also voted the top district in the Midlands with the

***“Our district staff, school leaders, teachers and support staff are truly dedicated to making District Five a great place to work and also a great environment to “love and grow our students.”***

“Best Teachers” in South Carolina. School District Five’s overall “A” rating is based on categories consisting of academics, teachers, clubs and activities, diversity, college prep and health and safety. The rankings include updated data for 92,743 public schools, 30,112 private schools, and 11,820 school districts nationwide. While traditional rankings rely almost exclusively on metrics like test scores and academic performance, Niche’s rankings combine user

input — ratings from current students, alumni, and parents — with quantitative data from sources like the U.S. Department of Education to evaluate teachers, resources and facilities, extracurricular activity opportunities and more.

“What an incredible honor it is for School District Five to be named, once again, as a top school district in South Carolina,” said Superintendent Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr. “Our district staff, school leaders, teachers and support staff are truly dedicated to making District Five a great place to work and also a great environment to “love and grow our students.” For all 10 areas to be graded at the “A” rating (A- to A+) is evidence that the work of our staff is valued and that our community is informed.” ♥

***District students begin First Jobs initiatives through internships***

The district celebrated the first-ever First Jobs Signing Day on February 28, 2023. The First Jobs Initiative is a unique way to help the district with the nationwide labor shortage, as well as prepare students to be career ready.



"The First Jobs initiative is part of School District's Five vision for loving and growing our students," School District Five's Career and Technical Education Coordinator Charity Simmons said. "The goal is to recognize all students' accomplishments as they move from the classroom to the workplace. We want to highlight our students who are transitioning into the workforce in the same way that we celebrate a future collegiate athlete with a signing day ceremony."

The district students work in jobs in the transportation department, student nutrition department, clerical positions, as well as jobs in basic maintenance and landscaping. The objective of the initiative is to provide students ages 16 and older with state-approved work-based learning experiences in order to increase their career readiness and improve school operations.

The job openings at the school district also provide students with a good alternative to other jobs in the area, which may require them to work late night shifts, weekends, and holidays. ♥

### **District Adult Education Program receives statewide recognition**

The District's Adult Education Program was recognized by the South Carolina Office of Adult Education for outstanding performance in response to the pandemic.

School District Five's Adult Education Program received a "Stepped Up to the Plate" award during the South Carolina Office of Adult Education's Fall Institute Celebration of Success Luncheon. The award category is presented to Adult Education programs that have developed innovative solutions to address the many challenges that arose during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This award is an acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of the School District Five Adult Education team," said Paula Wright, School District Five Adult Education Director. "The award itself represents our prioritization of student needs, our creativity in providing student support, and the compassion that guides how we educate our students. I am very proud to be a member of the District Five Adult Education Family!"

School District Five's program was spotlighted for recognizing the need to provide better access to instruction, enrollment and record keeping by moving to digital onboarding processes as well as digital teacher and student folders. This process began as a response to the program's normal operations being disrupted by the evolving COVID-19 protocols in the 2020-2021 school year.

However, because of the ability to provide greater access to current and future students as well as staff, and due to the efficiency of the new processes, the digitization of registration and record keeping has become standard operating procedure. ♥



**District students sign their First Jobs certificate to begin their contract as a School District Five employee.**



**Adult Education Director Paula Wright poses with an Adult Education graduate during the 2023 Commencement.**





**BUSES  
138**

**Total Miles: 1,468,378**



**'23 SUMMER MEALS  
36,028**



**TOTAL WEBSITE HOME  
PAGE VISITS**

**581,080**

**Meals Served during the  
2022-2023 School Year**

**2,391,947**

**DISTRICT 5 FOUNDATION ASSISTANCE**

**\$60,398**

- Student Teacher Grants
- Snack Pack Program
- Emergency Fund (Fires, etc.)



**TOTAL  
WEBSITE  
PAGE VIEWS**

**457,323**

**RD5STORY#OURD5  
RY #OURD5STORY  
RD5STORY#OURD5**



# 15 MAGNET SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS

# #1

"BEST PLACES TO TEACH"  
IN SOUTH CAROLINA

NICHE.COM



Employees: 2,676



STUDENTS  
17,509

293 NATIONAL BOARD  
CERTIFIED TEACHERS

# #2

"BEST SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
IN SOUTH CAROLINA"

NICHE.COM





# School Awards

***School District Five schools continue a tradition of excellence in award recognition.***

Lake Murray Elementary School was recognized by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) on March 15 as the 2023 Palmetto's Finest award winner in the elementary school division during an announcement on SCETV.

"Winning Palmetto's Finest is really an amazing award that showcases what we already know about Lake Murray Elementary School, that it is a premiere elementary school in the state of South Carolina," said Superintendent Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr. "We're so proud of the administration and the Lake Murray staff for their hard work and how they represent our

***Leaphart Elementary named SC Green Steps Conserve School of the Year***

Leaphart Elementary School STEAM Magnet has been recognized as the 2023 South Carolina Green Step Conserve School of the Year for their ongoing efforts to protect the air and water around their school. The Green Steps program guides teachers and students through a process of implementing eco-friendly educational activities throughout their schools and community. "I continue to be so proud of the work our staff and students are doing," Leaphart Elementary School Principal Courtney Sims said.

district so well each and every day."

Lake Murray Elementary was one of 19 schools across the state who submitted a 20-page application followed by an onsite examination visit from a review committee. The school, along with 10 other finalists, underwent a second onsite evaluation before being selected as the winner. ♥

***"Palmetto's Finest award winners are models of innovation throughout our state," said Beth Phibbs, SCASA executive director.***

"As a STEAM magnet, we seek to reimagine how materials can be used in an unconventional way. Through our engineering design process, we re-use and recycle materials almost daily. Being selected as the Conserve School of the Year shows that our green STEAM efforts are making an impact!" Leaphart won for their projects in Reuse, Recycling and Green Purchasing (harvesting and selling seeds from the sunflowers they grew).

Lake Murray Elementary students celebrate the school's recognition as a 2023 Palmetto's Finest award winner in the elementary school division.



***Leaphart Elementary students investigate a sunflower.***



Leaphart Elementary has developed a culture of enlisting children to participate in projects that benefit their community like collecting and preparing typical items for recycling, collecting plastic bags for the TREX Challenge, collecting gently used shoes for Keep the Midlands Beautiful's annual shoe drive, and using STEAM skills to repurpose items that would otherwise be thrown away.

Leaphart was named a Green Step School in 2022 and earned the certification by establishing and maintaining model quality sustainability projects. ♥

**School District Five Magnet Schools recognized by Magnet Schools of America**

Three Lexington-Richland School District Five schools have received Merit Awards by Magnet Schools of America (MSA), the national association for magnet and theme-based schools.

Nursery Road Elementary-Arts Magnet (NRES-AM) has been named a National Magnet School of Excellence and Spring Hill High School Career Pathways Magnet and Leaphart Elementary School STEAM Magnet have been named National Magnet Schools of Distinction.

"At Nursery Road Elementary School- Arts Magnet, we embrace the responsibility of educating the whole child, and nurturing our students' artistic skills in order to unlock their genius," said Nursery Road Elementary School Principal Karey Fisher. "Encouraging their success within the arts is how we create amazing things and change this world for the better. Receiving the National Magnet School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America affirms our dedication to diversity and commitment to academic standards. The NRES-AM Administration and Staff are proud to be among this select group of magnet schools around the nation."

Spring Hill High School Career Pathways Magnet is a comprehensive all-choice, all-magnet, public high school that offers five focus programs to students from grades 9-12 including: Engineering, Entertainment, Entrepreneurial,

Environmental Studies and Exercise Science academies.

"We are so excited and thrilled that Spring Hill High School has once again been named a National Magnet School of Distinction by Magnet Schools of America," said Spring Hill High Principal Dr. Michael Lofton. "The award belongs to our entire school family and I could not be more proud of what we are accomplishing each and every day The Spring Hill WAY."

Leaphart Elementary School STEAM Magnet offers students a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The STEAM curriculum is grounded in authentic, project-based learning and design thinking to inspire, challenge, and empower all students. This inquiry-based approach relies heavily on student-led investigations where students are encouraged to take risks, experience failure, and try again.

"The students, staff, and families are so deserving of this recognition," Leaphart Elementary Principal Courtney Sims said. ♥

**Nursery Road Elementary students pose in the school's light room during the school's annual Open House.**



**Spring Hill High students in Anatomy & Physiology pose in skeletal and muscular systems t-shirts.**

# Stellar Staff

## ***Announcing the 2023-2024 District Teacher, Grace Abbott, and Support Employee of the Year, Elizabeth Balog***

The District announced its new Teacher of the Year and Support Employee of the Year during a May 16 ceremony.

Grace Abbott, an English teacher at Chapin High School, was named 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year during the district's Employee Recognition Program. Elizabeth Balog, a social worker at Harbison West Elementary School, was named 2023-2024 Support Employee of the Year.

***All of our honorees are winners and are a great representation of our district and the fine profession of education."***  
***said Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.***

District Superintendent Dr. Akil Ross said, "To be able to celebrate education and our Teachers of the Year and our Support Employees of the Year tonight is a recognition to our community that shows how important our staff is to the vision of our district and that is to "Love and Grow All Students." All of our honorees are winners and are a great representation of our district and the fine profession of education."

Abbott has served at Chapin High School since 2020. She began her teaching career in 2017. She received her bachelor's degree in French and English from

the University of South Carolina (USC) Honors College, and a masters of teaching English degree from USC.

"It is an immense honor and I am so glad that I get to represent my district and my students," Abbott said. "I am amazed that this gets to happen to someone like me because I do what I do because of my love for teaching. I didn't become a teacher for the fame and glory. I have an immense love for teaching and to see that recognized I am excited to celebrate that with the world."

Balog joined School District Five 2 years ago. Prior to joining the district, she worked as a multidimensional family therapist.

"I feel very grateful and a bit shocked to win this honor," Balog said. "I think I spent a lot of time reflecting on how privileged I have been over the past two years to work with some of the best people I have ever met...both staff members, students and parents. I just feel like I am very blessed to work with people who motivate and inspire me to do my best every day." ♥

Along with Abbott, Cari Bonhomme from Chapin Middle and Dr. Sandra Markowitz from Chapin Intermediate were Teacher of the Year finalists. Clare Steele from Lake Murray Elementary and Tiffany Ulmer from the Academy For Success accompanied Balog as finalists for the District's Support Employee of the Year.



Photo (L-R): Elizabeth Balog and Grace Abbott

## ***District administrator Melanie Harris named 2023 South Carolina Elementary Level Assistant Principal by SCASA.***

District Five elementary assistant principal Melanie Harris was named 2023 South Carolina Elementary Level Assistant Principal of the year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA). Harris moved into the principalship role at H. E. Corley for the 2023-2024 school year.

"We are pleased to announce that Melanie Harris has been named the SCASA Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year," said Beth Phibbs, Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. "She is a servant leader who works tirelessly to ensure everyone in her school community feels important, welcome, and supported. Ms. Harris supports H. E. Corley Elementary School with her strong instructional expertise and a compassionate, caring leadership style."

Ms. Harris was selected from an outstanding field of administrator candidates by a veteran panel of judges. The criteria used in the selection of this award are set by the National Association of Elementary School





Photo (L-R): Beth Phibbs and Melanie Harris



Photo: Newberry College Hall of Fame of Master Teachers (L-R Top Row): Wicker, Taylor, Carnes



Photo: Susan Aplin



Photo: Carmen Plemmons

Principals. The state sponsors are Horace Mann and Herff Jones.

Former Principal of H. E. Corley Elementary School, Jason Pollock, said, "I am so excited to see Ms. Harris receive this award. There is no one more deserving of this recognition than Melanie Harris. She is a dedicated educator who works tirelessly to ensure H. E. Corley Elementary is in the best position to be successful. She gives her all to our students, teachers, staff, and parents. Her caring heart has no limits, and it is evident through the relationships she has built in this community. I am so proud to call her my co-worker but even more proud to call her my friend. Congratulations, Ms. Harris." ♥

**Additional staff highlights and awards include:**

Chemistry teacher Dr. Laurie Taylor (Chapin High) was named 2023 South Carolina Academy of Science Teacher of the Year. This award is given to one teacher in the state for their excellence in secondary teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Coordinator of Instructional Technology Carol Lunsford was named the Administrator of the Year for the South Carolina Association of School Librarians.

Educators Jane Miller (Dutch Fork High), and Gayle Whitlock (FIVE) were 2 of 19 educators statewide recognized by South Carolina State Treasurer Curtis Loftis for achieving Bronze certification and qualifying for the fourth cohort of the South Carolina Financial Literacy Master Teacher Program.

Educators Hannah Carnes '18, Kim Taylor '85 and Dr. Reggie Wicker '04 were inducted into Newberry College's Hall of Fame of Master Teachers.

Instructional Technology Specialist Susan Aplin was selected to be a part of the South Carolina ASCD Emerging Leaders Class of 2022.

Biomedical Sciences Instructor Peter Lauzon (The Center) named one of 50 public school educators from 45 states chosen to participate in the 2023 National Education Association Foundation Global Learning Fellowship.

Physical education teacher, Carmen Plemmons (Lake Murray Elementary), received a 2022 Honor Award from the South Carolina Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Dutch Fork High School Band Director Jeremy Ley has received the National Band Association's (NBA) Citation of Excellence.

# Academic Growth

***Excellence in the classroom and beyond through clubs, organizations and scholarship***

Three School District Five seniors have been nominated for one of the highest honors for the graduating class of 2023.

Joseph Hodges (Irmo High), James Holliday (Spring Hill High), and Carlynn Rychener (Chapin High) have been named candidates in the 2023 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

More than 4,000 candidates were selected on the basis of superior

***Center for Advanced Technical Studies students shine in multiple events***

Three School District Five students from the Center for Advanced Technical Studies (The Center) represented South Carolina as state delegates at the American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual conferences.

Doonya Khan (Biomedical Science), Carolina Ottich Seiwald (Biomedical Science) and Daisy Walsh (Clean Energy Technology) were selected to attend based on their outstanding performance in the 2022 SC Junior Academy of Science Research Symposium.

These SC delegate students presented their research, participated in numerous roundtable discussions, toured prestigious research laboratories, attended the AJAS and AAAS conferences, and networked with students and real research

academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. ♥

scientists from across the nation, including Nobel Prize winners. Each student created a research project. Khan's was titled Redesigned Cat Litter Box that Neutralizes Toxoplasma gondii, Ottich Seiwald's was titled Sweet Night: Inventive Pillow that Helps You Sleep, and Walsh's was titled Optimizing Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Energy.

Center Biomedical Science Instructor, Julie Krusen, said, "I am fortunate to work in a school and a district that values hands-on research and gives students the opportunity to distinguish themselves by conducting research and competing at science fairs, especially at state and national levels." ♥



Photo: Carlynn Rychener presents her ISEF research project

## ***International Science Fair Winners***

Two District Five students received top awards at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (Regeneron ISEF). A program of the Society for Science for over 70 years, Regeneron ISEF is the world's largest global science competition for high schoolers.

Carlynn Rychener (Chapin High) and Andy Yang (Dutch Fork High) competed at the world's largest global high school competition in Dallas, Texas, on May 13-19. These youth were chosen based on their outstanding research projects at the South Carolina Regional II Science & Engineering Fair.

Rychener is a senior at Chapin High. She placed 3rd at ISEF in the Earth & Environmental Sciences Category with her project on the creation of microplastics in the environment due to abiotic and environmental factors.

Yang is a junior in the STEM Program at Dutch Fork High. He placed 4th in the Robotics and Intellectual Machines Category. Yang is interested in innovation with machine learning, specifically developing algorithms to enhance objection recognition for fuzzy natured images.

"Our teachers encourage us to strive for curiosity and Mr. Barry Lindler has helped to inspire a passion in computer science," Yang said. "I just wanted to delve more deeply into code and coding languages. Our teachers encourage us to go past the content and encourage us to look for things you can apply to real life and search for innovation." ♥



## National Poster Contest Winner

Caroline Chorey, a fourth grader at Leaphart Elementary School STEAM Magnet, received second place in the elementary school level in the 2023 Magnet Schools of America Poster Contest.

The contest highlights and promotes magnet schools across the country. This year, students had the option to express or interpret one of the magnet school pillars or all five. The pillars are: diversity, innovative curriculum & professional development, academic excellence, high-quality instructional systems, family and community partnerships.

"I am so excited my poster placed in the contest. When it comes to drawing, first my ideas come from the heart and then the creativity comes from the head," Chorey said.

Students compete in one of three levels: elementary, middle or high school level. Online voting took place in March. Voters selected the top five posters from each level. They also voted on originality and organization as well as the use of color and design. Students had to adhere to the theme as well as provide a clear and concise message. ♥

## Poster submitted by Caroline Chorey for the National Poster Contest



## Celebrating the Class of 2023 at district graduations



## South Carolina Teaching Fellowships

Ten School District Five students have been awarded the prestigious South Carolina Teaching Fellowship.

The 10 students who were selected will receive up to \$24,000 in fellowship funds from the program while they complete a degree leading to initial teacher certification.

The students include: Joshua Dean (Dutch Fork High, Winthrop University), Katelyn Haack (Chapin High, Clemson University), Alivia Jordan (Dutch Fork High, University of South Carolina), Hollings Lesesne (Chapin High, College of Charleston), Andrew Lindler (Chapin High, Winthrop University), Lillie McCloy (Spring Hill High, Lander University), Kate Moseley (Chapin High, College of Charleston), Keiser Paschal (Spring Hill High, Winthrop University), Danica Ward (Dutch Fork High, University of South Carolina-Aiken), Ella Whisenand (Spring Hill High, University of South Carolina).

Teaching Fellows participate in advanced enrichment programs at Teaching Fellows Institutions, have additional professional development opportunities, and are involved with communities throughout the state. ♥



District families explore the many Magnet School and Choice options at the annual Magnet Fair



Thankful for the local media who visit and share our academic learning in the news

# 2022-2023

## ACCOUNTABILITY

### REPORT CARD

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
College & Career Readiness	83.9%	78.2%* *Formula Changed	80.4%	79.9%	80.2%
Grad Rate	88.4%	90.7%	87.7%	89.0%	89.0%
SC READY ELA (% Meets & Exceeds)	55.9%	N/A (COVID)	50.8%	54.5%	60.6%
SC READY MATH (% Meets & Exceeds)	53.6%	N/A (COVID)	46.0%	44.4%	46.4%
EOCEP - ALG 1 PASS RATE	79.7%	N/A (COVID)	72.2%	72.6%	80.9%
EOCEP - ENG 2 PASS RATE	N/A - English 1 was administered	N/A (COVID)	88.3%	89.9%	92.2%

## ACADEMIC 2022-2023

### K-12 HIGHLIGHTS

- The District SC Ready Data Meets/Exceeds rose from 47.7 to 62.7 percent within the last year for 6th grade, from 51.3 to 55.4 for 7th grade, and from 54.5 to 60.0 in 8th grade.
- SC Ready for grades 3-5 all showed an increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations.
- District Passage Rates for the following AP Science course increased from 2022-2023: Chemistry increased from 78.9% to 97.9%; Environmental Science increased from 71.8% to 80.4%; Physics C Mechanics increased from 82.4% (2021) to 93.3% (2023)\*. \*No testers in 2022.
- The district served over 775 students in Intervention in 2022-2023. The median growth percentile was 67.
- 8 Perfect Scores awarded for the Math section on the PSAT/SAT, with 41 overall awards for score recognition.



Irmo High School International School for the Arts varsity basketball team secures the 2023 4A South Carolina High School Leagues State Championship.



Photo: Photographer Sam Wolfe for The State



Photo: Columbia Star Sports



Photo: GoFlashWin

# State Champs

*Winning on the court, in the pool or on the turf, students also excel in the classroom*

Irmo High School varsity basketball program reclaimed the class 4A state championship. The Yellowjackets defeated Lancaster 58-45 to clinch the 4A state championship March 2 at USC Aiken Convocation Center.

"I am so excited and happy for my team," Coach Tim Whipple said. "I have been here before and it is fun every single time and special, but for these athletes it is their first time so that makes it extremely special."

"These players deserve this championship. They worked so hard, kept their focus the entire year and were rewarded by taking home the trophy!" Whipple made his 11th championship appearance and the victory gave

## ***Dutch Fork High Varsity Football wins the 2022 5A State Championship***

The Dutch Fork High School football program reclaimed the class 5A state championship. The Silver Foxes defeated Ft. Dorchester 47-10 to clinch the 5A state championship December 3 at Benedict College's Charlie Johnson stadium. Since the South Carolina High School League expanded to five

him his sixth state title. "We are ecstatic for our team, Coach Whipple, his staff, and our students to experience what a state championship feels like," Irmo High Principal Dr. Kaaren Hampton said. "In the words of Coach Whipple, we are living in the moment. A decade later after our last championship, it still feels surreal." ♥

***"These players deserve this championship. They worked so hard, kept their focus the entire year and were rewarded by taking home the trophy!"***

classifications in 2016, Dutch Fork has only lost one championship in the state's biggest division. "After losing in the State Championship last year, we were extremely motivated during our 'revenge run' through the playoffs," Coach Tom Knotts said. "Our team peaked at the right time and we were able to defeat Ft. Dorchester in the State Championship.

This was truly a team effort - from our spirited students, supportive teachers and administration, to our dedicated team. 2022 was the Year of the Fox in South Carolina 5A Football!!" ♥

## Additional District Athletic State Championships and highlights:

Dutch Fork High School student-athlete Jarvis Green was named the 2022-2023 Gatorade South Carolina Football Player of the Year.

The Heisman Trophy Trust announced the 2022 School Winners for the Heisman High School Scholarship. Veronica Cain (Chapin High), Nya Singletary (Irmo High), and Ethan von Ahn (Spring Hill High/Chapin High Athletics) were chosen from a pool of thousands of high school scholar-athletes graduating with the class of 2023.

Irmo High School senior Brandon Crawford was named the 2023 South Carolina Region 5 4A Men's Basketball Player of the Year.

Spring Hill High senior Kate Bogan (competing with Dutch Fork High) was named Girls Swimming State Champion in the 50 Free.

Chapin High freshman Preston White was named Wrestling State Champion for the 106 pound weight class.



**Ethan von Ahn (Spring Hill High/Chapin High Athletics) named a Heisman High School Scholarship recipient, poses with Spring Hill High School Principal Dr. Michael Lofton.**

# Arts

Dutch Fork High School Band Director Jeremy Ley has received the National Band Association's (NBA) Citation of Excellence.

The Citation of Excellence is awarded to outstanding concert band directors whose ensembles have a history of a distinguished level of accomplishment, or to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of bands and band music.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to receive the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association" Ley said. "The students of the Dutch Fork Band are an amazing group to teach and I am grateful to share this award with them. I am also incredibly grateful to the parents of our band program, as well as the support from the teachers, staff and administration at Dutch Fork High School." ♥

Chapin High School Junior, Samuel Cleveland, was selected to participate in the American Choral Director's National Honor Choir for their national convention.

Cleveland auditioned for this high honor and was selected out of 4,000 auditions. He will join 300 other high school singers who will make up the National Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (SATB) High School Honor Choir. ♥

South Carolina Band Director Association (SCBDA) Concert Performance Assessments results:

- Chapin High Symphonic Band: Superior with Distinction in Grade VI
- Chapin High Concert Band: Excellent
- Chapin Middle Band (Grade 7): Superior
- Chapin Middle Band (Grade 8): Superior with Distinction
- Dutch Fork Symphonic Winds: Superior with Distinction
- Irmo Middle Band: Superior
- Irmo High Symphonic Winds: Superior with Distinction (Class 3) ♥



**Dutch Fork High School Band Director Jeremy Ley receives the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence.**



# Facility Updates

## *School District Five construction updates and progress made throughout the year*



Renderings provided by LS3P Associates

### *Irmo High School New Wing*

In February 2022, the School Board approved LS3P Associates to begin the planning for a new wing at Irmo High School. The new wing will be built at the site of the current student parking lot and will match the front of the school tying into the west wing. Design ideas were received from staff and community members and a history wall will be incorporated to reflect the Irmo High School Community.



### *Chapin High School Press Box*

Construction of the stadium seating and press box at Chapin High School is near completion by Edcon General Contractors. The additional seating will allow Chapin to compete in 5A playoff events. In January 2022, the School Board approved Jumper Carter Sease Architects to design stadium seating for both the home and visitor sides.

This project also included the construction of a new press box that allows coaches and staff to call the games for our home field crowd, as well as a new concession stand and multi-purpose room all in one building.



Photo: Edcon General Contractors

### *District-wide 5-year Master Facilities Plan*

In March 2023, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture began a comprehensive study of all of District Five facilities. This included space utilization, building assessment and operational data collection. After meeting with all principals and directors, the study will provide information relating to how to build a thorough district-wide master plan for facilities and capital projects relating to improving the safety, security and environments within the district.

2023



NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
SEMIFINALISTS

12



SOUTH CAROLINA  
JUNIOR SCHOLARS



South Carolina  
**TEACHING  
FELLOWS**



U.S. Presidential  
Scholars  
Candidates



109 National  
Recognition  
Scholars  
COLLEGE BOARD




SCHOLARSHIP \$ OFFERED:  
**\$176,541,018**

#D5GRAD #D5GRAD  
#D5GRAD #D5GRAD  
#D5GRAD #D5GRAD  
#D5GRAD #D5GRAD



**PALMETTO FELLOWS = 104**



**GRADUATES:  
1,241**

**89%  
GRAD RATE**

**HOPE/LIFE SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS: 856**



**MILITARY  
COMMITMENTS:**





# We love and grow our students!





# General Information

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**Ballentine Elementary** (K-5).....476-4500; FAX 476-4520  
Robin Bright, Principal rbright@lexrich5.org  
1040 Bickley Road, Irmo, SC 29063

**Chapin Elementary** (PreK-4).....575-5900; FAX 575-5920  
Jesse Hutchinson, Principal jhutchin@lexrich5.org  
940 Old Bush River Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**Dutch Fork Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-3900; FAX 476-3920  
Rebecca Dilley, Principal rdilley@lexrich5.org  
7900 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063

**Harbison West Elementary** (PreK-5).... 476-3800; FAX 476-3820  
Dr. Thomas Turner, Principal thturner@lexrich5.org  
257 Crossbow Drive, Columbia, SC 29212

**H. E. Corley Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-4001; FAX 476-4020  
Melanie Harris, Principal mcharris@lexrich5.org  
1500 Chadford Road, Irmo, SC 29063

**Irmo Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-4200; FAX 476-4220  
Shannon Fincannon, Principal sfincannon@lexrich5.org  
7401 Dustin Johnson Dr., Irmo, SC 29063

**Lake Murray Elementary** (K-4).....476-4600; FAX 476-4620  
Kristen Eubanks, Principal keubanks@lexrich5.org  
1531 Three Dog Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**Leaphart Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-4700; FAX 476-4720  
Courtney Sims, Principal csims@lexrich5.org  
120 Piney Grove Road, Columbia, SC 29210

**Nursery Road Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-4300; FAX 476-4320  
Karey Fisher, Principal kfisher@lexrich5.org  
6706 Nursery Road, Columbia, SC 29212

**Oak Pointe Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-4100; FAX 476-4120  
Linard McCloud, Principal lmcloud@lexrich5.org  
1 River Bottom Road Irmo, SC 29063

**Piney Woods Elementary** (K-4).....756-1100, FAX 756-1120  
Cassy Paschal, Principal cpaschal@lexrich5.org  
814 Amicks Ferry Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**River Springs Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-4400; FAX 476-4420  
Matt Gams, Principal mgams@lexrich5.org  
115 Connie Wright Road, Irmo, SC 29063

**Seven Oaks Elementary** (PreK-5).....476-8500; FAX 476-8520  
Christian English, Principal wenglish@lexrich5.org  
2800 Ashland Road, Columbia, SC 29210

## INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS

**Chapin Intermediate** (5-6).....575-5700; FAX 575-5721  
Brent Davis, Principal bmdavis2@lexrich5.org  
1130 Old Lexington Highway, Chapin, SC 29036

**CrossRoads Intermediate** (6).....476-8300; FAX 476-8320  
Dr. Erin Doty, Principal ecdoty@lexrich5.org  
6949 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29212

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**Chapin Middle** (7-8).....722-5500; FAX 722-5521  
Dr. Stephanie Huckabee, Principal shuckabe@lexrich5.org  
11661 Broad River Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**Dutch Fork Middle** (7-8).....476-4800; FAX 476-4820  
Vernon Sava, Principal vlsava@lexrich5.org  
1528 Old Tamah Road, Irmo, SC 29063

**Irmo Middle** (6-8).....476-3600; FAX 476-3620  
Mansa Joseph, Principal mjoseph@lexrich5.org  
6051 Wescott Road, Columbia, SC 29212

## HIGH SCHOOLS

**Chapin High** (9-12).....575-5400; FAX 575-5420  
Ed Davis, Principal Eddavis@lexrich5.org  
300 Columbia Avenue, Chapin, SC 29036

**Dutch Fork High** (9-12).....476-3300; FAX 476-3320  
Dr. Gerald Gary, Principal ggary@lexrich5.org  
1400 Old Tamah Road, Irmo, SC 29063

**Irmo High** (9-12).....476-3000; FAX 476-3020  
Dr. Kaaren Hampton, Principal khampton@lexrich5.org  
6671 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29212

**Spring Hill High (9-12)** .....476-8700; FAX 476-8721  
Dr. Michael Lofton, Principal melofton@lexrich5.org  
11629 Broad River Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**Academy For Success** (6-12).....575-5300; FAX 575-5320  
Patrice Brand, Principal pbrand@lexrich5.org  
11629 Broad River Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**Center for Adv. Tech. Studies** (9-12)...476-8600; FAX: 476-8620  
Roy Frick, Assistant Director rrfrick@lexrich5.org  
916 Mt. Vernon Church Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**FIVE** (2-12).....476-8050  
Kelly Remia, Coordinator kremia@lexrich5.org  
814 Amicks Ferry Road, Chapin, SC 29036

**District Administration, (803) 476-8000 or (803) 476 + Ext.**  
District Superintendent.....Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr., Ext. 8169  
Chief Financial Officer.....Maddison Wilkerson, Ext. 8132  
Chief Human Resources Officer.....Dr. Tamara Turner, Ext. 8198  
Chief of Academics.....Tina McCaskill, Ext. 8128  
Chief of Student Serv. & Planning....Dr. Michael Harris, Ext. 8121  
Executive Dir. of Operations.....Dave Weissman, Ext. 8172  
Director of Communications.....Amanda Taylor, Ext. 8118  
Bus Transportation.....476-4980  
    Chapin High Cluster.....575-5856  
    Irmo High Cluster.....476-3252  
    Dutch Fork High Cluster.....476-4990  
    Special Needs .....476-3254

**Web Site:** [www.lexrich5.org](http://www.lexrich5.org)

All Lexington-Richland Five schools' websites can be accessed via this address.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mr. Matt Hogan, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Kimberly Snipes, Secretary  
Mrs. Elizabeth Barnhardt  
Mrs. Catherine Huddle  
Mr. Mike Satterfield  
Mr. Kevin Scully



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