

Bluffton Today

LOCAL

Three Hampton County schools named Best Elementary Schools in South Carolina for 2024

HCS D News Release Bluffton Today

Published 8:30 p.m. ET Nov. 19, 2023 | Updated 8:31 p.m. ET Nov. 19, 2023

Washington, D.C. - The following Hampton County Elementary Schools — Ben Hazel Primary, Varnville Elementary, and Brunson Elementary School — are among the South Carolina recipients honored by the 2024 Best Elementary School rankings by U.S. News & World Report.

Across the nation, the top 40 percent of the state's public, charter, and magnet schools receive rankings with highly ranked schools being awarded badges of recognition. Seven of the nine Hampton County Schools were included in the rankings with three elementary schools earning the top honor badges.

"We are extremely proud of the work being done in our schools to provide students of Hampton County with a high-quality education," said Kristy C. Wood, HCS D director of curriculum & instruction. "This recognition is just a small glimpse into the great things happening in Hampton County School District. A huge 'Thank you' to our dedicated teachers, instructional leaders, and principals for all their hard work. We appreciate you and all you do for our students!"

Superintendent of Schools Ronald Wilcox added, "We are proud of our schools that were recognized in this report. We commend our administrators, teachers, and staff for their hard work. I also thank our curriculum committee that meets once per month to support our academic programs."

The curriculum committee is comprised of instructional leaders along with two board members, Debra Holmes and Marsha Robinson, who meet with the committee to help support curriculum and instruction along with Board Chair Hannah Priester and Superintendent Wilcox.

The methodology of the rankings focuses on state assessments of students who were proficient or above in mathematics and reading/language arts while accounting for student backgrounds, achievement in core subjects, and how well schools are educating their students.

The 2024 Best Elementary and Best Middle School rankings are based on publicly available data from the U.S. Department of Education.

"The 2024 Best Elementary and Best Middle School rankings offer a way for parents to get a snapshot of their child's school and how well it is doing compared to other schools within their community and state," said LaMont Jones, managing editor for education at U.S. News.

Hampton County School District US News Badge Awarded Schools:

- Ben Hazel Primary - Ranked #117 Badge Winner (80.92 Percentile)
- Varnville Elementary- Ranked #143 Badge Winner (76.64 Percentile)
- Brunson Elementary- Ranked #213 Badge Winner (65.13 Percentile)

To be eligible to earn a badge, the elementary or middle school must be in the 60th percentile or above.

Both HCS D middle schools were very close to earning the badge of recognition as well with Estill Middle School earning a percentile score of 58 and North District Middle a score of 51.

Hampton County School District has seen continuous growth in test scores despite the hurdles being faced in education today, say administrators.

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