

RIGHT CHOICES TODAY

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THE “NINTH WONDER” OF THE WORLD IS HIDDEN RIGHT HERE AT THE BEAUFORT COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL DISTRICT!

By Brisbane, Destiny, and James

If you dreamed about traveling the world to visit the Eight Wonders of the World and haven't gotten there yet and you are a student, staff, or member of the Beaufort County, SC community, then look no more! You may want to spend time talking to the Beaufort County School District's Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez, who the students at the Right Choices Program have named the “Ninth Wonder of the World!”

Why the “Ninth Wonder” of the World you might ask? Well according to yourdictionary.com to be a wonder something has to be remarkable in the world and we consider him to fit the characteristics of being a remarkable person. We came up with three characteristics of a remarkable person; to be natural, exceptional, and wonderful! Dr. Rodriguez is a natural educator who even during this interview recognized that I was nervous and took the time to teach me how to slow down, use eye contact, and he patiently waited as I took notes. He is an exceptional person because he is knowledgeable about the Beaufort County School District and recognizes that there is more work to be done. Finally, he is named the “Ninth Wonder of the World” because he is a wonderful leader! Here are nine leadership qualities that he has that makes him wonderful. He is:

His Leadership Qualities

- authentic
- humble
- optimistic
- committed
- a team player
- puts students and staff first
- self-aware
- relies on other's expertise
- avoids conflicts



Photograph From Twitter

Dr. Rodriguez has been the superintendent of the Beaufort County School District since July 1, 2019. He started his administration with the optimism and passion that just about anyone who starts a new job would have. Not long after starting he along with his senior staff, teachers, support staff, students, and the world endured Covid-19. Dr. Rodriguez recognizes the everlasting impact that it has had on the Beaufort County School District and acknowledged that “There is still more work to be done!”

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MEET DR. DAVENPORT

By Ky'Mira



THREE GOALS FOR THE RIGHT CHOICES PROGRAM

- Understand how the Right Choices Program was designed
- To see how it functions
- To ensure that it meets certain National Alternative Education Association (NAEA) Standards

MESSAGE FOR THE STUDENTS AT THE RIGHT CHOICES PROGRAM

"TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF, ARE YOU MAKING ASSESSMENTS OF YOUR ACTIONS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE HELPING YOURSELF!"

"THERE IS A PIPELINE FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL TO PRISON!" "MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT ON THAT PATH!"

With 40 years of experience in education, Dr. Roy Davenport has devoted more than half of his career serving the community with a concentration on alternative education. Dr. Davenport has been an educational consultant since 2018, which gives him the opportunity to share his expertise and give alternative education programs whether punitive, credit recovery, or therapeutic programs the long needed support. He gives the staff the professional development needed to provide the students with the best possible outcome!

What motivated you to work in alternative education?

A college roommate asked me to come to New York for spring break. He took me to a treatment facility for juveniles. After spending a few days there "It blew my mind!" That is when I understood the need to support students through alternative education.

Can you elaborate on your previous experience with alternative education?

- I have worked at Gramham Windham a student treatment center which was a therapeutic center for students who lived on campus and required emotional support before reaching behavioral or academic support located at Hasting on the Hudson
- I have worked at Spofford Juvenile Detention Center located in the South Bronx
- I Served as assistant commission for education at the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

Director of Alternative Education in Savannah Georgia

- Principal at Scott Alternative Learning Center K-12
- TAPP Teenage Pregnancy and Prevention Program
- Corporate Academy Day and Evening Performance Learning Center (PLC)

How effective do you believe alternative education can be?

It can be highly effective!

Share an example of a success story

I was at a public school working with troubled struggling students. I tried to understand the family dynamics and found a way for the student's grandmother to acquire legal guardianship. This helped the student focus and with continued support for the grandmother, the student excelled in school and is now a dentist!

With this success story there are many more to follow! This is why Dr. Davenport continues to support the underserved population of students in alternative programs whenever and wherever he can! Dr. Davenport travels approximately 5 hours each way from Atlanta, GA to The Right Choices Program in Beaufort, SC several times throughout the school year to interact with the students, staff, and administrators and watch the Right Choices Program evolve into a future model of alternative education programs!

ACE

ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXCELLENCE BEAUFORT/JASPER

By Jordan and Marcello



Image From: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/beaufort-jasper-academy-for-career-excellence/>

Your car breaks down, you need to get your hair done, or you want something delicious to eat, well, if you are a Beaufort County School District student then you are in luck! BCSD offers its students the opportunity to attend the Academy For Career Excellence (ACE) trade school. You can begin taking courses in the eleventh grade. You can learn technical skills such as auto technology, cosmetology, culinary arts, or welding.

If this sounds interesting, then you may be elated to know that ACE has collaborated with the Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL), so that students who attend the program can take college courses such as culinary arts and receive 9 college credits or English 101 or 102. The best thing about the dual program is that you can take college courses as long as you have a 3.0 grade point average or higher. This is a great opportunity to learn a trade and take courses at a higher education institution.

Meet Dr. Michael Lovecchio, Director of the ACE Program

- **You have a PHD, why are you interested in Beaufort County School District students getting a technical career?**

It's my job and it is also important to teach kids what they are interested in doing.

- **What motivates you to do this work?**

I love working with kids. It also makes me proud when students learn a skill that they can use in the real-world.

- **What do students need to do to attend ACE?**

The three things students need to do to attend ACE is to

- Be on track to graduate (pass all 9th and 10th grade courses)
- Have good attendance
- Apply

- **Once a student is certified through ACE, can a former student teach classes there? Or will they need to be a certified teacher in the field?**

Former students can teach at ACE if they have over 5 years of experience in the field.

MEET THE ACE TEAM



From Left to Right: Angela Dixon; Career Development Facilitator, Dr. Michael Lovecchio; Director, and Saide Conner; Counselor

- **Does your program offer students job placement, internships, or apprenticeships?**

Yes! There is a work-based coordinator who connects students who become certified with job placement.

- **What do you consider to be the favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part of my job is working with the students.

- **What message do you have for former, current, or future students?**

Learn as much as you can about your options and be flexible.

Dr. Lovecchio and his team visited the Right Choices Program to inform the students about the requirements, benefits, and value of acquiring a technical certification. We learned that by attending ACE you are getting the best of both worlds! You get to become certified in a trade, have the opportunity to earn college credit, and you graduate from high school college and career ready!

ENROLLMENT APPLICATION

If you are interested in attending ACE, you must submit a completed application signed by your parent or guardian and submit it to your school guidance department. Don't wait, you could be missing an opportunity of a lifetime!

- **Link for 2024-2025 Enrollment Application:**

- **[ACE APPLICATION HERE](#)**

MEET ALYISON (ALY) WALDROP

By Ny'Asia

Technology is all around us! From the invention of stone tools to self-driving vehicles! Wherever you turn there is some form of technology at your fingertips. The students at the Right Choices Program got the opportunity to spend the day with the Beaufort County School District educational technology coach Alyison (Aly) Waldrop who has been with the district for 4 years. During her visit, the students learned how to create their résumé using Canva software. They also learned more about Aly and technology!



- **What level of education or test do you need for this position?**

You need a four year bachelor's degree in education.

- **How long have you worked in the field of technology?**

I have worked in this field for three years.

- **What got you interested in the field of technology?**

What got me interested was the ability for technology to transform learning. Being an education technology coach, I also find enjoyment in traveling to schools throughout the district and helping others.

- **What are your job responsibilities?**

My job responsibilities include providing technology integration support and training to BCSD employees and students. It includes one-on-one support, small group instruction, co-planning, co-teaching, and professional development training.

- **What do you find to be the most difficult technology to teach to students? Why?**

The technology isn't difficult although getting students excited about learning something new can be tricky.

- **What do you think teachers should do to integrate technology in the classroom?**

Technology gives students another avenue to express their learning. Teachers can create a menu where students can freely choose the use of technology to complete assignments or projects. Technology is a great way to engage and challenge students.

- **With technology being used by infants and or preschoolers, do you think that parents and or educators should limit the use of technology?**

Yes, because there is an appropriate amount of technology that will vary by age and learning needs.

- **What do you see as the future of technology for the students of the Beaufort County School District?**

Technology skills that students will need to be successful are digital citizenship, basic computer skills, and the ability to leverage technology to collaborate, communicate, and design to name a few.

- **How can Beaufort County School District get the students beyond developing:**

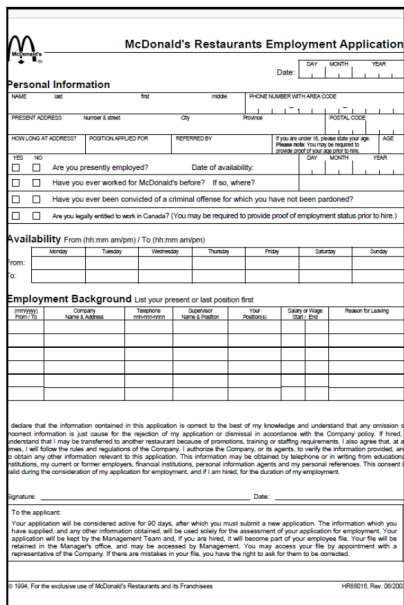
- Keyboarding skills
- Online researching
- Using software such as Google Classroom, Flocabulary, and Edgenuity, and push them to use higher order skills such as creating computer software and engineering hardware?

A great resource for accomplishing this would be the SAMR model. The four levels are substitution, augmentation, modification, and redefinition. This moves student technology skills and applications from low rigor to high rigor. As students move towards redefinition their learning becomes transformed.

Message to the Students

Technology has the ability to be a phenomenal tool for learning and creating. Students should become digital citizens, as they utilize the resources we have to offer.

Well, if you have not had the opportunity to work with one of the most innovative people who works for the Beaufort County School District, then email Aly. She has a strong character, is competent in her craft, and is committed to making sure that the staff and students are able to compete in this everchanging world of technology.



McDonald's Restaurants Employment Application

Personal Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (with area code): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Position Applied For: _____

Referenced By: _____

Are you presently employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever worked for McDonald's before? If so, where? _____

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense for which you have not been pardoned? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you legally entitled to work in Canada? (You may be required to provide proof of employment status prior to hire.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Availability From (thru) _____ To (thru) _____

Days: _____

Employment Background List your present or last position first

Company Name & Address	Position	Start Date	End Date	Reason for Leaving

I declare that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and understand that any omission or falsification of information is just cause for the rejection of my application or dismissal in accordance with the Company policy. I understand that I may be transferred to another restaurant because of promotions, training or staffing requirements. I also agree that, at any time, I will follow the rules and regulations of the Company, I authorize the Company, or its agents, to verify the information provided, and to obtain any other information relevant to this application. This information may be obtained by telephone or in writing from education institutions, my current or former employers, financial institutions, personal information agencies and my personal references. This consent is valid during the consideration of my application for employment, and if I am hired, for the duration of my employment.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

To the applicant:
Your application will be considered active for 90 days, after which you must submit a new application. The information which you have supplied, and any other information obtained, will be used solely for the assessment of your application for employment. Your application will be kept by the Management Team and, if you are hired, it will become part of your employee file. Your file will be retained in the Manager's office, and may be reviewed by Management. You may access your file for appointment with a representative of the Company. If there are mistakes in your file, you have the right to ask for them to be corrected.

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[Click Here: Mcdonalds Printable Job Application](#)

Hi my name is Jameya and I filled out the first of many job applications that I will complete throughout my employment history! When I first looked at it, it was very confusing. I did not know how to answer several questions. Now that I am learning how to fill out a job application, I now understand that filling out a job application is serious business! Through this experience I am thinking about getting my first summer job and if I can, keep it throughout the school year.

On the employment history part of the application, it was very confusing. I did not realize that even though I have not had a traditional job, odd jobs like babysitting for my mom and cousins count as job experience. Now that I know that I can include this as work experience, it may give me a better opportunity to get the job that I am seeking. When an employer checks your references and learn that you did a good job caring for someone's child, they will know that you are responsible!

One of the most important questions on the application is...Are you legally able to be employed in the United States? This means that there are laws in the United States that employers must follow that prevents them from giving jobs that U.S. citizens want to people who are not U.S. citizens. So if you do not have special permission to work in the United States, then you will not be able to get the job. Other important questions are....What is the last school you attended? Did you graduate? Now lets go back to an earlier question that was on my application. What is your date of birth? Anyone born in 2005 by the end of this school year should have gotten either their high school diploma or GED which is a general education diploma! Answering "No" to this question may make employers think that you are not a hard worker or serious about your application. They may skip your application and go to an applicant who is either younger and still in school or older who has a high school diploma or GED. Last but not least, this question is intimidating but must be truthfully answered. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Before you answer this question, you have to remember that being arrested although it is a big deal does not mean that the end result of that arrest led to a conviction. According to legalmomentum.org, a conviction means that you have been found guilty of a crime by a court or that you have agreed to plead guilty to a crime. So if you have a pending case, then you can answer "No" to this question!

The application that I completed was a McDonald's application that was on paper. Most applications are online. It is difficult to find paper applications. Regardless of the type of application, it is important to look at the application and ask questions before filling it out so you clearly understand what information you need to include to give you the best possibility of getting the job you want!

Next it is time to practice interviewing skills!

For more information on how to answer the criminal conviction question on your application, click on this link:

[CLICK HERE](#)

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FILL OUT A JOB APPLICATION?

By Jameya

Anyone born in 2005 by the end of this school year should have gotten either their high school diploma or GED which is a general education diploma!

WHO'S MANAGING YOUR MONEY?

By Ny'Asia



Photo From LinkedIn: Sophie Bosserhoff
Relationship Banker Team Lead/Assistant Manager

In the digital age, the days of keeping your money under your mattress is quite outdated. Yes, you can save money under your mattress, but it is much more convenient to have your money in a bank account that has a debit card linked to it just in case you need to make a purchase from Amazon.com in the middle of the night!

The students at the Right Choices Program had an in-house seminar with Sophie Bosserhoff a Relationship Banker Team Leader/Assistant Manager from Regions Bank to learn about setting financial goals, how to track your spending, and how to develop a savings plan through budgeting.

Learn More About The Banking Industry

What types of products or services does your branch offer that is unique to other banks? Explain.

Regions bank is very big on giving financial advice. We conduct one-on-one meetings with clients. One of our most popular products is the home equity line of credit. This is where you can use the amount of money you paid into your house minus the amount you own to make purchases such as to buy an additional home, pay for your child's education, or pay for medical bills.

What is a typical day at the bank like? Explain.

First and foremost SAFETY! We have to follow safety protocol to make sure that the bank does not get robbed. Next the vault is opened. Then, provide customer service to the community and offer support to customers who have appointments. Throughout the day, it is important for the team to provide quality customer service and remain alert to avoid any unwanted situations.

How does this bank provide both a positive and negative impact on the community it serves? Explain.

The positive impact that Regions bank has on the community is that we offer seminars where the community can become better informed about our products and services.

Regions bank does not have a negative impacts on the community.

How does your bank deal with foreign currency? Explain.

We only conduct foreign exchange with clients. This is done through pre-order.

Explain how your online banking system is secure?

- A password is needed to access your account
- If the password is incorrect several times, your account will lock
- If your account is locked you will need to come in person
- Wi-Fi/IP address track transactions

Many people use debit cards to purchase necessities like groceries, clothing, and even to pay their rent. What do you see as the future methods of making payments through the banking industry?

- Expansion of the Tap and Pay system
- Expansion of accounts linked to cell phones

If there was one thing that you could change about the banking industry, what would it be and why?

The ability to stay ahead of those who commit fraud. Preventing fraud is difficult to prove.

Now that you have shared information with youth, what do you recommend for young people to do to become active members of your banking community? Explain.

- Watch the information videos
- Open a bank account with Regions Bank
- Use direct deposit
- Build your credit

We were grateful for the information. Many of us realized that it is important to plan our budget and monitor our expenses. This summer I plan on working. I am going to open a bank account and start saving for the future!

Fun Facts:

- According to FDIC.gov as of 2022 there were 4136 commercial banks and 69,905 branches that were FDIC insured by the federal government.
- According to the American Banking Association, \$17.1 trillion in deposits are held by banks (2021)
- According to the American Banking Association, 94.6% of households have either a checking or savings account (2021)

WATCH OUT ...HERE I COME! DRIVER'S LICENSE

by Kaleb

Having a driver's license you can travel where and when you want. You can use it for a job that requires you to drive, or you can use it to conveniently travel to school, work, or recreation. Having a driver's license is just like having any license, there are rules and regulations that must be followed or you can have your driver's license suspended or revoked (taken away)! In the state of South Carolina you can get a conditional driver's license at the age of 15 and a half.

I am 15 years old studying for my driver's permit. If I had known this information, I would have studied and taken the permit test on my 15th birthday, that way I would be eligible for a driver's license 180 days after that date. I know that it is not as easy as it sounds, but it can be done! Watch out..... here I come! I could obtain a conditional driver's license by my 16th birthday.

What You Need To Do If You Are 15 or 16 Years Old Applying For Your First Driver's License:

- Complete an application for your permit or driver's license (Click Here: [SCDMV 447-NC](#))
- An adult must complete (Click Here: [Consent for Minor \(SCDMV Form 447-CM\)](#))
- The adult who signed SCDMV Form 447-CM must be present with a valid ID
- Bring your social security card
- Bring your government issued birth certificate or passport
- Proof of physical address (Parent or guardian)
- Letter from your school on official letterhead (Demographics Printout)
- Pass the knowledge test also known as the permit test \$2.00 fee/\$2.50 after you pass the test

[CLICK HERE TO PRACTICE FOR YOUR PERMIT](#)

- Pass the vision test
- Complete a driver's education course
- Practice a minimum of 40 hours of driving including 10 hours of night driving
- Follow the South Carolina rules and regulations for 180 days
- Register and pass the road test/pass the road test and pay \$25 for an 8 year license

*Congratulations, you have your conditional driver's license! This license will become a regular driver's license when you turn 17 if you follow the driving rules.



Where will you go now that you have your driver's license! You must remember that because your license is a conditional license, there are strict rules that you must follow or your license may be suspended or revoked (taken away). You must drive safely on the road and do your best to avoid having an accident. You also have to follow the time restrictions of driving between 6am and midnight with someone 21 years of age or older who has had a valid driver's license for at least one year or midnight to 6am with the person who signed Consent for Minor Form 447-CM. One benefit is that you are allowed to drive yourself and minors to school or work without an adult in your vehicle. Be careful!

If you follow the rules of the road and drive safely, there are endless possibilities of where you can go! Now that you have a driver's license, it is time for you to start thinking about purchasing a vehicle!

PASSPORT: ACCESS TO THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

By Marcello



[LINK TO US PASSPORT IMAGE](#)

Fun Facts

- The U.S. was among the first countries to require a passport photo
- The last major design of the U.S. Passport happened in 2007
- There were 20,690,491 U.S. Passports issued in 2019

Did you ever dream about traveling the world? Well, if you want to turn that dream into a reality you will need a passport. Since I am a citizen of the United States, I must apply for a U.S. passport.

Evidence of a passport has been around since the 1400's when King Henry V of England created the first British passport. According to gov.uk, the earliest reference to these documents is found in a 1414 Act of Parliament. While according to cntraveler.com, the first U.S. passports were for wealthy citizens. By the late 1800's, U.S. passports were becoming mainstream. During World War I, the passport became an official travel document by the government. During the early 1900's the application fee for a passport was \$1 but today the cost of an adult passport is \$130 with an additional processing fee of \$35!

How To Get A Passport If You Are 16 or 17 Years Old

If you are 16 or 17 you can go to your local passport office and submit the documentation on your own. One thing that you need from your parent or guardian is a notarized form called DS-3053 that lets your parent or guardian know that you are applying for a passport. Here is what you need:

- Fill out online or download Form DS -11
- Parent or guardian fill out and notarize Form DS-3053
- Get a passport photo at Walgreens, CVS, your passport office, or photography store
- You need a valid state photo ID or acceptable ID
- Birth Certificate or original proof of citizenship
- Social Security Card
- Passport fee

*** Remember to make a color copy of the front and back of all documents**

***You may enlarge the documents, but do not reduce them**

Why Is It Important To Get Your Passport?

According to CNN.com, by having a United States passport, Americans can travel freely to just about every country except for these five countries: North Korea, Cuba, Iran, Turkmenistan, and Russia. These countries have strict laws limiting free access to traveler. Strict travel laws are reaching the United states with citizens age 18 or older needing a U.S. passport or Department of Motor Vehicle issued Real ID to be able to fly domestically beginning May 7, 2025. To get a state issued Real ID you need: state issued ID, a birth certificate or U.S passport, social security card, and two proofs of address of your main residence. So having a US passport is becoming a necessary document for citizens who wish to travel on their home soil.

Your U.S. passport can be used as ID to prove your status as a United States citizen. It can be used to travel both domestically and internationally. If you join the military you need to have one if you are deployed to another country. Finally, having a U.S. passport gives you the right to tour the world for 90 days or go on business trips for up to 180 days.

Now that you know how to get a U.S. passport and the benefits of having one, it is time for you to get your passport so you can gain access to the world!

*Beaufort County South Carolina has two passport processing locations:

Beaufort Main Post Office located 501 Charles Street, Beaufort, SC 29902 [CLICK HERE FOR PASSPORT INFORMATION AT THE BEAUFORT LOCATION](#)

Bluffton Post Office Located 25 Thurmond Way, Bluffton, SC 29910 [CLICK HERE FOR PASSPORT INFORMATION AT THE BLUFFTON POST OFFICE](#)

If you want to apply for a U.S. Passport in other areas or have questions : [CLICK HERE](#)

Information for this report: [CLICK HERE](#)

Seal Image From: <https://www.state.gov/other-important-links/great-seal/>

ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

By Ky'mira

FOUR TYPES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Community College
- Universities
- Private
- Trade School
- Link to other types of colleges:

[Click Here](#)

If you are in the 10th grade and thinking about going to college, then this would be a great time to start learning about the different types of colleges that can help you get on the career path that you are interested in. As of 2021, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov), there were 1,985 non-degree granting institutions and 3,931 degree granting institutions in the United States. This means that you have many options to continue your education. It is up to you to decide if you want to spend two or four years getting a degree, take classes to improve your skills, or learn a trade like welding or boiler maintenance. Believe it or not, there is a post-secondary class waiting for you!

Four types of Post-Secondary Schools:

Community College

A community college is a type of higher education that offers a variety of educational programs. Students who attend community colleges may receive an associates degree, certificate, or vocational training. You must have a high school diploma or GED in order to enroll. Some community colleges offer adult education programs that assist students in obtaining their general education diploma, so they can be eligible to take college courses. The programs at community colleges often focus on skill that are in high demand such as nursing, automotive, technology, and computer programming. Once a student graduates from a community college, they may transfer to a four-year University to continue their education.

Universities

At a university you can continue your education from a community college or you can start off as a freshman and complete all four years of your education there. Universities offer a wide range of degrees including a Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate degree. The admission to a university is much more stringent than the admission to a community college. Students wanting to start at a university have to complete certain courses at their secondary school, have minimum GPA, and SAT score set by that particular institution. Universities usually have different schools within their school that are responsible for setting their own board standards. One university can have a College of Engineering, a College of Arts and Science, and a School of Business. At a university the possibilities are endless! Students at a university can participate in research projects, work with faculty on research, gain valuable experience in their field of study, and the opportunity to network with other students and professionals in their field of study. Although universities are more expensive than community colleges, this level of education can lead to professionalism in your chosen field.

Private Colleges

While most community colleges and universities are operated by the government or state, private colleges are funded by endowments or gifts, tuition fees, or donations. Private colleges are more selective in who they allow to attend their schools. This selective process leads to smaller class sizes which gives the students individual attention. Private colleges cost more than state and government operated community colleges and universities, so students who attend may qualify for financial aid or scholarships. The overall benefits of attending a private college is that most private colleges offer unique areas of study, have a strong reputation, and have networking connections in certain industries and fields. These connections can be valuable in helping a student reach their academic and professional goals.

Trade School

Spending two or four years in a public or private college may be expensive, time consuming, and not of interest to someone who want to quickly gain a skill and enter the workforce. If that sounds like you, then you may be interested in attending a trade or vocational school. At a trade school, students spend less time and money while focusing on a specific skill such as healthcare, technology, automotive, construction, or cosmetology. Some skills that you may learn are initial skills that are needed for entry level to the career of your choice. You may need to follow up with a longer apprenticeship that gives you years of on the job training to help you meet your career goal.

Now that you have learned about four different types of post-secondary levels of education, check out the hyperlink below the FOUR TYPES OF HIGHER EDUCATION section to learn about the other types of colleges such as religious colleges, for-profit colleges, historically black colleges and universities (HBCU's), and Hispanic-serving institutions (HSI's). Take the time to research the post-secondary school that you are interested in attending and start working on your career goals!

Website used for statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=1122>

Information From: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/private-vs-public-colleges/>

Information From: <https://www.midwesttech.edu/resources/careers/what-is-a-trade-school/>

Diploma Image: <https://www.diplomaframe.com/uncsc/presidential-masterpiece-diploma-frame-350973.aspx>

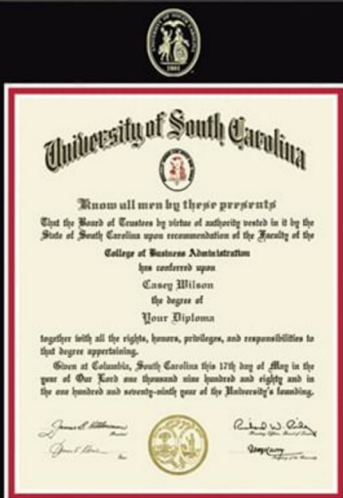
Benefits Of Going To College

- Discover Your Interest
- Increased Job Opportunities
- Job Satisfaction and Security
- Lifetime Higher Potential Earnings By \$500,000 More Than Those Without A College Degree

Now that you know some of the benefits of going to college take the time to research to see if you need to attend college for your future career interest!

Information From:

<https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/top-10-benefits-of-going-to-college-number-3-will-surprise-you/>



University of South Carolina

THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE MILITARY?

By Alex

So you are thinking about going into the military.... here is what you need to know! On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress established the first official Continental Army that later became the United States Army after the Revolutionary War (Military.com). Then and today the purpose of the military still has the same focal point. According to defense.com, the mission is to provide military forces needed to deter war and ensure our nation's security. Today there are six branches of the United States military and as of December 18, 2023, there were 171,736 active-duty troops located in 178 countries (globalaffairs.org).

Although I am in 8th grade, I am interested in going into the military. While I am here at the Right Choices Program I had the opportunity to speak with a former United States Marine who was in the military for 20 years. Through these conversations I am learning more about the military and the benefits of enlisting.

Why do people join the military?

Family members, friends, or always wanted to go.

What kinds of jobs could you do while in the military?

- Data Analysis
- Martial Arts Instructor
- White House Military Support
- Recruiter
- Drill Instructor
- Log in Records
- Administration
- Security Detachment Team

Where can you travel if you are in the military?

- Africa
- Japan
- France
- Ireland
- New Castle England
- Denmark
- Australia
- Kuwait
- United Arab Emirates (UAE)

What could a typical day be like?

- Recruits get up
- Clean up/make bed/help rack mates
- Ready to form/line/count weapons
- Chow hall (10 minutes to eat)
- Physical fitness run
- Duty assignments
- Lunch
- Meetings
- Tactical assignments
- Deployment workups (preparing to go to another country)

Why should you become a recruiter?

- You should become a recruiter because a lot of people are misinformed about the military. When most people hear about the military they only think about joining the military to go to war. Most people don't realize that the military has a wide range of career choices from being in the food service industry, to animal care specialist to multimedia illustrator to sports jobs.

How did you help your recruits?

- I showed them that there is a better way! I let them know that going in the military will open the door to networking with people from around the world!

SIX BRANCHES

- Air Force
- Army
- Coast Guard
- Marine Corps
- Navy
- Space Force



Image From: [marines.com](https://www.marines.com)

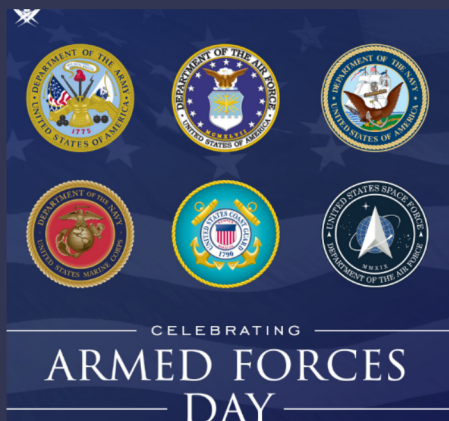


Image From Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=5224487817613917&set=a.216487118414037>

Do you recommend that people go into the military?

Yes, because it teaches discipline. Many recruits become financially independent. You get the opportunity to travel for free. There are many discounts from going to restaurants to purchasing a home. Once you retire you get to keep your medical and dental insurance. You can provide your family with life insurance in the event of your death. You can also learn on the job training and get college credits for your military experience.

Now that I have learned more about the military, I think that the possibilities are endless. I am not sure of the type of career that I am interested in, but I now know that my first step to entering the military is to study and pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test known as the ASVAB test with a minimum score of 31. I was also advised that the higher my score, the more options I will have when choosing a career path.

After learning about joining the military, serving my country, and learning a career, seeing the world is probably going to be one of the best things that happens to me after I graduate from high school! In a few years, my next step will be to studying for the ASVAB!!

Link to Military Rankings by the U.S. Department of Defense :

[CLICK HERE](#)

“NINTH WONDER OF THE WORLD”

Continued From Page 1

By Brisbane, Destiny, and James

Now it is time for you to learn more about Superintendent Rodriguez’s philosophy, vision, and mission on education and his desire to continually improve the Beaufort County School District with the support of his team that includes his senior staff, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, students, and the community. Working as a team is his overall objective to seeing that all students educational needs are being met!

When and where was the last time you taught a class of students?

I try to teach in the classroom at least once a year. In January of 2023, I taught a social studies lesson at River Ridge. I taught an American History lesson.

Compare that experience to what you see when you visit schools in the Beaufort County School District?

I visit the schools as often as I can. It is a great experience because I love being in the schools. Whenever I am near a school, I like to visit and see instruction so that it keeps me aware of what the teachers are experiencing on the forefront. I also like to teach and deliver instruction whenever I can.

With over 21,000 students in the BCSD, how do you know that all students needs are being met (special education, bilingual/new arrivals to the country, gifted and talented, etc)?

This is a great challenge of being a superintendent! I try to make sure that every child is being helped and that the systems we have in place or that need to be developed will make them better. I believe in continuous improvement. I believe in always working to make things better. My biggest challenges are filling the vacancies in special education and meeting the students’ IEP or Individual Education Plan.

Currently, serving students who are bilingual or new arrivals has become another challenge. Students who are bilingual or new arrivals may come with critical thinking skills and may be advanced in their native language. We are working on enhancing the transition for these students. We need to be strategic about our work so multilingual learners receive the content and language support to help them progress.

How do you prioritize the needs of each school? Explain.

All schools are very different! Each year we look at four needs of each school. We have to first identify the need, then prioritize the need, develop a plan to solve or fix the problem, create a time-line to take the necessary steps to implement the solution and finally, evaluate the outcome. For example; Bluffton High School is overcrowded and a referendum has been passed to construct a larger building.

Not all needs are a priority. If after analyzing a need, it may be determined that this need is not a priority, it may not be addressed at that time or in the future.



Image By Michele Brisbane: Superintendent Frank Rodriguez and Destiny Watts

Continued On Page 13

"NINTH WONDER OF THE WORLD"

By Brisbane, Destiny, and James

Continued From Page 12



Image By Carolyn Jenkins, Executive Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent Frank Rodriguez, Destiny Watts, and Michele Brisbane

Now that you have been with the Beaufort County School District for almost five years, what do you see as your biggest accomplishments and why?

- Before I got here there were failed referendums for 11 years. We were able to pass the first referendum in 2019 and the second one was passed in 2023, which allows the district to upgrade their school facilities. For example, a referendum has been passed to improve the facilities at Beaufort High School. Beaufort High School will have a new career and technical building to give students more options at their home school to support their interest such as culinary arts that is currently being taught inside of a makeshift classroom.

- Implementing the annual African Heritage Conference
- Raising teacher pay: Now Beaufort County teachers have the highest pay in the state
- Although this is difficult to measure, we have restored confidence that the community has in the school district. This was done by me spending a lot of time in the schools and the community, so people can ask me anything. This built respect and trust by telling people the truth and not just what they want to hear.

Now that you have been with the Beaufort County School District for almost five years, What do you see as your biggest failure and why?

Everything is not one hundred percent. I think continuous improvement is needed!

- The Right Choices Program is the biggest failure under my administration. By this I mean that I inherited a program that did not meet the National Alternative Education Association Standards (NAEA).
- There were three to four transitions in leadership.
- "We are still working on how to best support the needs of our students" who are continue their education in a Tier I punitive alternative setting for students in grade 6-12.
- Today, the Right Choices Program is being lead by Director Marlon Worrill who has several years of experience in alternative education. "I feel really good about Mr. Worrill putting together a plan and a package for alternative education!" Director Worrill is gradually making the necessary changes to transition the Right Choices Program into a program that not only meets but exceeds the National Alternative Education Association standards (NAEA).
- The vision and mission of Director Worrill is what the Right Choices Program needs to move towards excellence!

Continued On Page 18

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

By Brisbane and Lewis

Day after day, week after week, year after year, you keep your same routine! You go to work, care for your family, and spend your days off preparing to do it all over again! Let's not forget that occasional time that you spend outside of your home visiting family or friends. Now take a minute to think! With such a compact and busy life, you are forgetting the most important thing....health and wellness!

Whether you are in your teens, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's and up, although life's challenges are keeping you busy, it is never too late to start physically exercising. I am not talking about that occasional walk around the block when the weather is warm, or working out just to fit into an outfit for a birthday, wedding, or class reunion! If this sounds like you, then you need to workout with instructor/Personal trainer Jeff Lewis! His expertise goes back to his teaching fitness as a martial arts and small group fitness instructor in the military. He can provide you with a foundation that will have you not only thinking about going to the gym, but fitness for everyday life!

Brisbane's Weekly Workout Schedule

Monday

- Workout 1 hour before starting work (Push ups, situps, weights, ropes, jump rope, running)
- TRX class at the Beaufort Jasper YMCA

Tuesday

- Workout 1 hour before starting work (Tires, balance, slam ball, stretching, tire swings)
- Sauna and Kickboxing class at the Beaufort Jasper YMCA

Wednesday

- Workout 2 hours before starting work (shoulder press, work on lats with 20-25 lbs weights, decline push ups, balance, bench situps)
- Sauna and Tempo Ride at Beaufort Jasper YMCA (spin to music)

Thursday

- Workout 1 hour before starting work (bear crawls, squats, leg lifts, push ups, situps with 20 lb weights, jump rope)
- Steam room/Kickboxing class at the Beaufort Jasper YMCA

Friday

- Workout 2 hours before starting work (Tire-push, burpies, forward and backward lunges, balance, bench situps, stretching)

Saturday

- 8:30 am Kickboxing and 9:30 am Tempo Ride at the Beaufort Jasper YMCA
- Recovery stretch, pool, sauna, steam room

Sunday

- Work out 2-3 hours at the YMCA, practice running (3-8 miles), or pool for recovery

Brisbane's Story

It all started August 15, 2023! A casual conversation about health and fitness got me from the couch to the 10K Savannah Bridge run in fourteen weeks and five days! I agreed to take a class at the YMCA with instructor Jeff Lewis. Me being naive only asked how to register for the kickboxing class. I figured since the class was on Tuesday, I would warm up by using the gym provided by the Beaufort County School District for the staff located in room C536. I spent an hour in the gym riding the bike, walking on the treadmill, and using the elliptical. Kickboxing class here I come!

Little did I know that on Tuesday, August 22, my introduction to the kickboxing class was surreal and after not realizing how I made it home on my 8 minute drive, I looking up at the flight of stairs and tried to figure out how I was going to make it up to my bedroom. The next day I asking coach Jeff about the endless possibilities of fitness! So now, I not only take 6 of Jeff's classes at the YMCA, but as you can see from my daily workout schedule, twice a day I devote time to cardio, strength training, flexibility, and most importantly recovery such as water aerobics, the sauna, and the steam room all under the guidance of instructor and personal trainer Jeff Lewis.

Health and Wellness From Jeff Lewis

When you bend down to pick up something off the floor or you have on shoes that need to be tied, you will wonder where that pain is coming from. Well, it is coming from a lack of physical mobility. As a corrective exercise specialist with more than 25 years of experience, my goal is to motivate, congratulate, and irritate people into understanding that when a health disparity hits you it does not ask for your permission. It navigates its way from your strongest to weakest point. With that said, being physically active will help you solve life's equation which is mobility plus flexibility equals durability! This is why we must stay consistently engaged and not only pride ourselves on our accolades but acknowledge our health and wellness achievements. Health and wellness is more than the occasional need to become a particular weight but it must become a part of your daily routine. You must always remember that "you are one cupcake, one emotion, one baby, or one relationship from going right back where you started!"

Brisbane's Conclusion!

Since I started my health and wellness journey with instructor and personal trainer Jeff Lewis, I have not missed a day of working out or recovering! I have improved the way I look and feel. Physical fitness has improved my emotional intelligence and mental health as well as helped me to see the world through a different lens. What's next for me you might ask? Personal trainer Jeff Lewis is currently preparing me for the Cooper Bridge 10K run on April 6, 2024! As of this publishing, I beat my record of 14.25 minutes per mile while running the Cooper River Bridge. My new record is 12.18 minutes per mile! Don't wait! Begin your health and fitness journey today!



Photo Taken By Adriana: Brisbane's 10k and Lewis Medals

10 Tactics to Open Communication Pathways with Your Teen



Image From: <https://www.talkitoutnc.org/communication-pathways/>

The chart above provides parents or guardians with tactics to open and develop effective communication with teens.

Are you a teen who finds it difficult to communicate with adults? Well, as a teen, I find it difficult at times opening the doors of communication with an adult. Depending on how I feel, I may not want to talk about topics like drugs, sex, or pregnancy with an adult.

According to drexel.edu, there are five types of communication:

- **verbal:** talking to someone, this can be face-to-face, over the phone, or in this modern time over a Zoom meeting
- **non-verbal:** you may notice a person's facial expressions, hand movements, eye contact, or posture
- **written:** letters, text messages, an email, Facebook messages, or any form of writing
- **listening:** active listening gives you the opportunity to effectively communicate and respond to the speaker
- **visual:** images, pictures, advertisements, Facebook post, or emojis

Effective communication is more than just exchanging information. It is body language, eye contact, and the emotions and intentions behind the information. You need to be able to listen and also be able to respond to the speaker with a response that is connected to the discussion.

For many people communicating clearly and effectively requires learning some important skills. It could be trying to improve communication with your parents, teachers, school counselor, or a trusted adult. If you develop effective communication, you may deepen your connections to others, build greater trust and respect, improve teamwork and problem-solving, and you may overall improve your social and emotional health.

There are seven essential steps in the communication process:

- Develop an idea to transmit
- Encode the message
- Choose the right channel for delivery
- Deliver the message
- The recipient receives the message
- The message is processed
- The recipient provides feedback

Survey Results : Teens and Communication

Students participated in a five question multiple choice survey about teens and communication. Twenty students in grades eight through twelve participated in this survey.

- 40% of the students struggle with communication due to a lack of trust they have with the adult that they are communicating with. They believe that the information will be shared and the student may get embarrassed or in trouble for disclosing the information.
- Although there were other choices such as drugs and pregnancy, 40% of the students find it difficult to discuss sex with an adult.
- When asked which age teens felt more comfortable communicating (13-19 years old), 50% of the students agreed that teens 18 and above communicated with a parent or guardian.
- 55% of the teens sometimes openly communicated with their parent or guardian. When asked why, several students stated that they did not like the response they received from the adult.
- In the world where most teens text, contrary to what most people may believe, 65% of the students prefer to communicate face-to-face with an adult.

If you are a teen and you are having difficulty communicating with an adult, it is important for you to understand that it takes time and lots of practice to learn how to effectively communicate. Most of all if you are an active listener, you will be able to provide the feedback that the teen needs to problem-solve, make a decision, or to store in their memory bank for future use.

Information for this report can be found : <https://drexel.edu/graduatecollege/professional-development/blog/2018/July/Five-types-of-communication/>

MEET

MS. BROWN

BY NASIR AND Z'NIAH



Image From: House Beautiful

If you were a student or ever visited the Right Choices Program or Island academy, then one of the first people you may have met is one of the most amazing people who current serves as an administrative assistant for the Right Choices Program. She has worked for the Beaufort County School Distict for 32 years. Who is she you might ask? Ms. Carolyn Brown! Ms. Brown has worked at the Right Choices Program for seven years. Her role is liasion to support the students, staff, homeschools, and parents with documents FYI (for-your-information) only.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WORK IN THE BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT?

I wanted to work in the Beaufort County School District because I grew up and went to school in Beaufort. I also want to make kids lives better!

WHAT DO YO THINK ABOUT THE STRUCTUAL CHANGES THAT THE RIGHT CHOICES PROGRAM HAS GONE THROUGH SINCE LAST YEAR?

I think that the structual changes that the program has gone through since last year are great. These changes are supporting the students and helping them become successful!

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT THE RIGHT CHOICES PROGRAM WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Right now there is nothing that I think needs to be changed!

Can you elaborate on why the Right Choices Program can be an effective program?

It can be effective if we put the needs of the students first. We also need to see beyond the physical child and raise the expectations so the child can challenge himself and realize that he can do anything he puts his mind to!

I have been at the Right Choices Program more than one time. What do you think about students who return to the program?

I think there are students who make mistakes but, they eventually learn from them and move on.

Ms. Brown is an important member of the Right Choices Program. She always takes the time to talk to a student to guide them in the right direction! The Right Choices Program is lucky to have a dedicated staff member who goes above and beyond her call of duty to make sure that the program flows with ease.

MESSAGE FROM MS. BROWN TO THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE RIGHT CHOICES PROGRAM

**Don't beat yourself up because everyone makes mistakes!
Learn from them and try something different! Stay positive!**

MEET MRS. DUBON

By Erick

Students have the privilege of entering a school building and have nothing to do but focus on their school work. Here at the Right Choices Program we are fortunate to enter a building that is clean and sanitized daily. The classrooms, the hallways, and the bathrooms are spotless! We owe this all to a custodian named Mrs. Dubon. I got the opportunity to learn more about Mrs. Dubon and I will share it with you!

What is your name?

Nerelda Dubon

What is your job title?

Custodian

Where are you from?

I am from Veracruz, Mexico also known as Heroica Veracruz

How long have you lived in Beaufort, South Carolina?

I have lived in Beaufort for 28 years.

How long have you worked at the Beaufort County School District?

I have worked at the school district as a custodian for 2 years.

Do you like working at the Right Choices Program?

Yes, because the people are nice and they keep the school very clean.

If you could choose to have a different career, what would you choose? Explain.

I would have a beauty shop so I could be a hair dresser. "I enjoy doing hair!"



What is the best thing about your job? Explain.

Keeping the building clean. Even though some days it can be a lot of work, I am up for the challenge!

What is the worst thing about your job?

Sometimes the bathrooms are not maintained by the people who use them.

Mrs. Dubon is not only a custodian for the Right Choices Program, she also works in the main district building and the transportation and food service build. So the next time you enter the building look around and admire the effort that Mrs. Dubon has put into making the Right Choices Program, the main district office building, and the transportation and food service building a clean and sanitized place for those who receive their education here, work here, or conduct business here!

Photo of Mrs. Dubon By Mrs. Dubon

"NINTH WONDER OF THE WORLD"

Continued From Page 13

Who do you go to when you need to make a difficult decision that affects the students? Explain.

When I have to make a difficult decision that affects students first I go to my senior staff which is made up of the head of several departments such as human resources, operations, and the head of finance. There are also three executive directors. I also reach out to school principals to find out how this decision will impact the students.

In what way does the curriculum need to improve to make sure the students are college and career ready? Explain.

- I am glad to announce that as of 2023, English Language Arts (ELA) scores are the highest that it has been since we adopted the new assessment in 2016.
- We must continue to improve making progress in math. Since the pandemic we have not been able to obtain the growth that we invisioned.
- The students in Beaufort County need to receive more career development where they are acquiring skill that they can use to have gainful employment.
- Although we have a connection to Academy for Career Excellence or (ACE), we need to expand technical education to meet the future jobs demands of Beaufort County

What role do/did you have in developing or implementing the Right Choices Program? Explain.

I learned that a former alternative school called Island Academy closed as semester one ended in 2018 due to low performance. Also, the Right Choices Program, which is a punitive alternative program,

did not meet the National Alternative Education Association standards. So as I stated before, as I assumed the role as superintendent, I was immediately faced with the challenge of evaluating the programs needs.

- 1st year, I knew we needed to make changes
- 2nd year, the students were half hybrid due to Covid
- 3rd year, we needed a shift in leadership
- 4th year, some good things were happening, such as the Thanksgiving luncheon for students under Director Sanchez, who made an attempt to improve the climate and culture of the program
- Currently, Director Worrill has created goals and a vision that sets a path to transition the Right Choices Program. He plans to first meet, then exceed the National Alternative Education Association standards.

I meet with Director Worrill regularly to discuss his strategies for improvement and to support the growth and development of the Right Choices Program.

What do you see as the future design of the Right Choices Program? Explain.

Director Worrill measured the Right Choices Program to the national standards and identified the areas that need to be improved.

- How do we get better?
- The program must strive to meet national standards
- We must identify where we want to be and design a path to get there

The future design of the Right Choices Program is going to take hardwork and dedication, and at this time under Director Worrill's leadership, we will get there!

Continued On Page 19

"NINTH WONDER OF THE WORLD"

On November 10, 2023 you came to visit the Right Choices Program. What was your first impression of the students in the cafeteria? Explain.

- The students were sitting down eating their lunch and having discussions with their classmates. The mood was calm. I took the opportunity to talk to students to better understand the population of students that we are serving in the alternative program.
- I wanted them to know that alternative placement does not make them bad kids.
- I wanted to learn a little bit about the students. For example, one of the students is interested in wrestling and previously participated in the sport. In the future, I hope to come in contact with that student and get the opportunity to ask "How is your wrestling coming along?" This way, the student will be surprised that I remembered our conversation.

You can be quoted as saying: "It was the power of a great education that allowed my grandparents to start over here in America. As a result, making sure that all the students I am honored to serve receive a great education is what I am most passionate about." -Frank Rodriguez candidate for Beaufort County School District (April 8, 2019) By Amanda Labrat and Meredith Parker: [SORCE:WTOC.COM](https://www.sorce-wtoc.com)

Do you still have this passion for the Beaufort County School District? Explain.
Yes, I still have this passion! "It is what drives me to do my work everyday!"

If all 21,000 plus students in Beaufort County School District could hear you at one time, what message do you have for them?

My message to the students is to

- set goals
- think about your future
- build a plan
- work hard in school
- honor and respect teachers because they are going to help you get where you want to go
- be committed to what you want to accomplish even when there are setbacks keep striving!!!
- Students in high school will spend the rest of their lives managing the decisions they make during those four years!
- more doors will open for you, if you turn off your cellphone for at least 3 hours per day and do something constructive!

Fun Facts About Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez

- I love to play soccer. Whenever I get the chance, I play with the school teams
- I love to travel. I have traveled to Egypt, Tibet, Cambodia, throughout Europe, Zimbabwe and more. When I visit other countries, I try to visit their schools to learn more about their education system.
- I got the opportunity to fly with the Blue Angels on April 21, 2021. This was an awesome experience!
- [Click Link of Dr. Frank Rodriguez Flying with the Blue Angels](#)

Now that you have gotten the opportunity to learn more about the leader of the Beaufort County School District, I hope you realize that he is transparent when he says, that he relies on the support from his team to create solutions. For example, they developed eleven afterschool programs for students who have academic deficiencies. Nine of these programs are north of the Broad River. He is optimistic that the Beaufort County School District can evolve into a model district in time. He also has integrity which motivates him to make decisions that will have an impact on over 21,000 students annually! So, if you get a chance, you may want to spend time talking to the Beaufort County School District's Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez, and you will be able to draw your own conclusion as to why the students at the Right Choices Program have named him the "Ninth Wonder of the World!"

- Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez of the Beaufort County School District felt honored to do his first interview in his almost 5th year as an educational leader conducted by a student (Destiny Watts of The Right Choices Program).
- Questions by James a former student of The Right Choices Program

SAGGING PANTS

WILL IT STILL BE AROUND 100 YEARS FROM NOW?

By Zion and Jadon



Image via News4jax.com

History

Do you know the history of sagging pants? Well if you don't, you are not the only one! Most people associate sagging pants with the jail or prison culture, but little do they know that sagging pants goes all the way back to the history of slavery. It was difficult for me to find credible information about the practice called "buck breaking". But after digging deeper, I found videos and a reference of this practice by "slave breaker" Edward Covey in an attempt to control Frederick Douglass who was considered unruly.

ACCORDING TO HISTORY.COM FREDERICK DOUGLASS STATES "I WAS BROKEN IN BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT. MY NATURAL ELASTICITY WAS CRUSHED, MY INTELLECT LANGUISHED, THE DISPOSITION TO READ DEPARTED...BEHOLD A MAN TRANSFORMED INTO A BRUTE."

Douglass who was a strong writer, his words were known for accurately documenting the events that occurred throughout his life. Unfortunately, the hundreds of thousands of other males who faced these same circumstances may not have had the opportunity to document the abuse they faced!

Results Of The Sagging Pants Survey

Twenty students at The Right Choices Program participated in this survey. Four of the participants were females.

- 50% of the students selected that they do not sag their pants
- 55% of the students said that they knew the history of sagging pants. When asked to tell the history of those 20 participants or 10% knew the true origin.
- When asked why do you sag your pants, 60% of the participants stated that they do not sag their pants. This is incorrect because

originally, 50% of the students stated that they do not sag their pants and an additional 40% of the students replied that they sometimes sag their pants.

- 90% of the students agreed that if you are going to sag your pants you should not sag them at school, work, or during family gatherings.
- 35% of the students replied that they sag for fashion, however 30% replied that 100 years from now this fashion trend will still be visible.

Opinion #1

Teachers often say that I am sagging, but I don't think I am! In my opinion sagging pants is bad if you are showing your skin. Since I don't show my skin, I don't believe that I am sagging. Just because I am not wearing a belt, my pants are loose around my waist, and they sometimes slide down, as long as my skin is not showing, I am not sagging!!! -Zion

Opinion #2

Sagging pants make you look very unprofessional and it is also rude. People in public do not care to see your underwear. It makes you look lazy and ignorant. I did sag sometimes when I was younger. I saw family members doing it so I started. The only time I sag is when I have two pairs of pants on. Even though I got use to sagging, everytime my pants would fall down, it would feel uncomfortable. I wouldn't sag my pants in public because it is disrespectful. I definitely feel like I don't need to wear two pairs of pants, so I will stop sagging my pants! -Jadon

So now that you know the history of sagging pants and what the students at the Right Choices program think about it, I hope that you rethink when, where, or if it is even necessary for you to sag your pants! I know I will!

To learn more about the practice of "buck breaking" [WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)

[CLICK LINK: READ MORE ABOUT SAGGING PANTS HERE!](#)

HUMAN CODING GAME AT RIGHT CHOICES

By Brisbane and Students

HUMAN CODING GAME INSTRUCTIONS

- Look at the 16X20 ft grid mat and choose a location you predict that you can create a machine code to use to direct a person to that location.
- Observe your coding card to see the set of directions that you can use to create a set of machine code.

Conditions Of Your Machine Code

*Please remember that you may not use a direction more than two times in a row when creating your machine code. For example right arrow, right arrow, then left arrow, you cannot code right arrow, right arrow, right arrow!

Example:

**You must create at least one loop that repeats the previous sequence of six steps in a row.

Example:

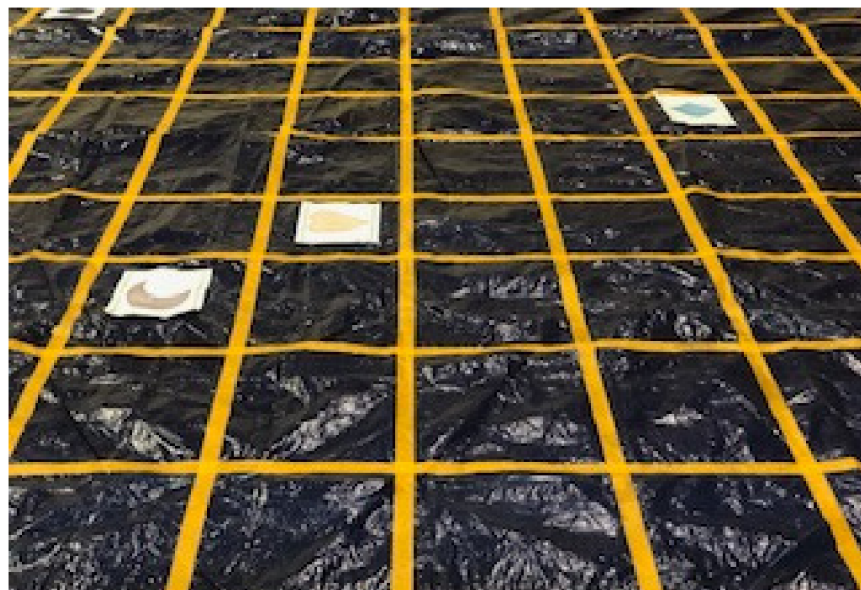
- You must start your machine code with **GO** and end your machine code with **STOP**.
- Run your machine code and see if it is a functioning program.
- Make adjustments as needed and run the machine code until you have a functioning program.

Key Vocabulary

machine code: is computer code consisting of machine language instructions, which are used to control a computer's central processing unit (CPU).

loop: a sequence of instructions that is continually repeated until a certain condition is reached.

*In this game 6 machine codes equal a loop.



Grid for Coding: Created by Students and Ms. Brisbane

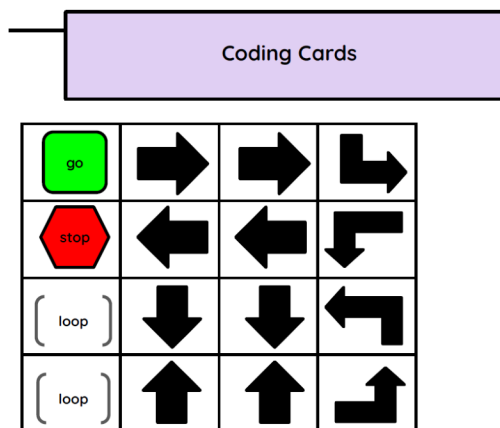
Are you good at giving directions? Well if you are, then play the "Human" coding game created by Ms. Brisbane and her students at the Right Choices Program. We named the game "Human Coding" because this game requires humans to create a set of instructions that leads a person to a specific location on a 16X20 foot grid mat.

When playing the game you are given three things:

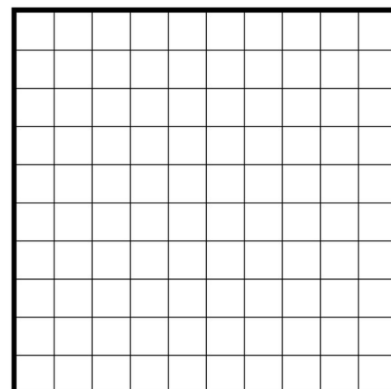
- visual of the grid mat (above photo)
- a coding card that show direction
- a blank 100 box 8x10 grid paper that you can use to plan your machine code

When I started playing the game I thought that it would be easy to direct a person to the targeted location. Once I read the rules and created my machine code. It took me several attempts before I could get the person to land on my target! What I learned while playing this game is that this is the same way computer programming language is used to send instructions to create an action on my computer. Fortunately, computer languages such as Javascript, Python, C++, and HTML have been created to simplify the process.

So if you are interested in coding, you can start off with playing the "Human Coding" game or learn one of the coding languages! Don't wait, coding is becoming a part of our everyday lives!



100 Box Grid



[LINK: TEACHERS PAY TEACHERS FREE RESOURCE](#)

[100 BOX GRID HERE](#)

BOOK REVIEW

Life Is So Good

by George Dawson and Richard Glaubman

Book Review by Dominick

Life Is So Good is a memoir of George Dawson's life with the assistance of Richard Glaubman. Dawson, who lived to 103 years old survived the majority of his life without being able to read or write. This book is a memoir that explains his life and why it was important for him to accomplish the skill of reading at the age of 98.

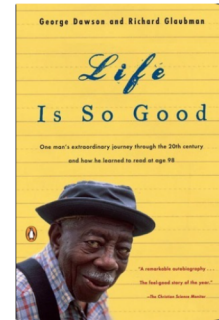


Image by Brisbane: Scanned Book Cover



In his early years, he started working at the age of 4 due to financial struggles. When he reached adulthood, he frequently traveled on trains to work in different places. He discussed how he was aware of racism and how he had to exercise caution when interacting with people to protect himself. He married four times and had 7 children. After he retired, a random knock at the door changed everything. A volunteer from an adult education program knocked seeking adults who were interested in attending a free literacy program. Dawson eagerly jumped at the opportunity and over time learned to read on a third-grade level.

So what was next for Dawson you might ask? Dawson met a fourth-grade teacher named Richard Glaubman who found Dawson's ability to learn to read at the age of 98 fascinating and wanted to share this story with his students in hopes of inspiring them to read. Together they wrote a memoir of Dawson's life that gained a lot of popularity and opened the doors of hope to people of all ages.

Although Dawson and Glaubman only published one book together, this memoir truly impressed me in many ways. The detailed short stories of important events in his life have aspects of both entertainment and life lessons. George Dawson's life helps accurately picture how it was to live in three different centuries (1800's, 1900's, and 2000's) in his perspective. It mesmerized me to know that he was able to retain all of these events without documenting them due to his inability to read and write.

Life Is So Good has mostly positive reviews. According to *U.S.A. Today* "Dawson has become a literacy hero, a testament to the power of perseverance." While *The Washington Post* states that "*Life Is So Good* is about character, soul, and spirit... The pride in standing his ground is matched -- maybe even exceeded--by the accomplishment of [George Dawson's] hard-won education." But with every consensus review, there are conflicting reviews. According to a CNN report, August 25, 2022, a North Texas school named after Dawson "ruled that a portion of his memoir describing his best friend getting lynched is not appropriate for some students." The school preferred for the book to be teacher-led rather than as an independent summer reading for 7th grade students. We will have to see if other school boards will try to ban this book from schools and libraries and challenge Mr. Dawson and Glaubman's First Amendment rights!

I recommend this book to teens 14 and up due to the descriptive content. If you like this book and are looking to motivate yourself to do just about anything from learning something new to living your life a different way then, *Keep Moving* by Dick Van Dyke is another great book that you should add to your reading list. This book is considered an instructional book on how to live life as you age and experience the different genres that go along with aging such as the loss of loved ones, physical and emotional changes, and developing the skills necessary to remain independent in this everchanging society. Both books offer the reader the motivation needed to obtain the skills necessary to develop into the person you may want to become!

I rate this book four and a half stars. The tenacity that Dawson had to put his pride aside and learn something new at the age of 98 lets me know that although I may not be able to accomplish all of my dreams when I am young, obstacles can be overcome at any age!

"Things will be all right. People need to hear that. Life is good, just as it is. There isn't anything I would change about my life." - George Dawson

ART



Image: Freehand by James

>>> Right Choices Today

Right Choices Today newsletter was created by Michele Brisbane an alternative education teacher in the Beaufort County South Carolina School District with 20+ years of teaching experience both in and out of the New York City Department of Education from Birth through Adult Education. The students at the Right Choices Program have been challenged to create questions, conduct research, interview, and question the validity of the information that they incorporated into this newsletter. The students worked both independently and collaboratively to collect data using various sources to produce both qualitative and quantitative analysis with very little teacher input. The biggest challenges for the students were to learn how to work independent of the teacher, conducting valid research, citing their sources, and creating DOK level 2-4 questions. In the end the students produced several pieces that have the students at the Right Choices Program question their future opportunities after they complete compulsory education! Issue two of *Right Choices Today*, accurately captures the reality of what life may be like for students after their experience at the Right Choices Program and leave the reader with questions that encourage them to evaluate what they wish they knew before they entered college, the military, the workforce, or was undecided after they completed formal schooling!

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MICHELE BRISBANE

Special thanks to Alyson Waldrop for technical support and all that you do!

Special thanks to Jeffrey Lewis for your project design ideas and letting me know that there is nothing that I cannot achieve!



Image From:
<https://hhihi.org/product/aed/>

First Aid/CPR/AED

You are never too young to take a First Aid/CPR/AED course. This could lead to life-saving measures if someone is injured, choking, or collapses and needs an automated external defibrillator (AED) to help restart their heart.

NEXT ISSUE

Where Are They Now!

Let's take a look back at former students who attended the Right Choices Program 2023-2024.



Image From:
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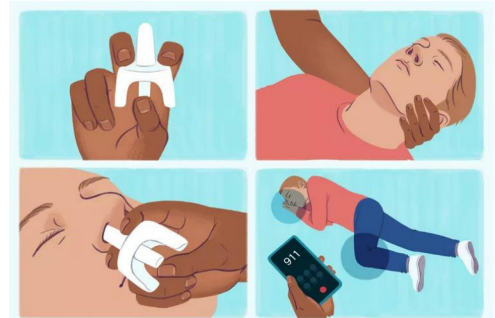


Image From:
<https://www.verywellhealth.com/how-to-use-narcan-nasal-spray-7373509>

Naloxone (NARCAN) Training!

The students at the Right Choices Program will learn what to do in a medical emergency that helps people who are overdosing on opioids.



>>> Right Choices Program

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