



**Lucy Beckham High School**

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Superintendent of Schools

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

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Executive Director of Secondary  
Learning Community

**Anna Dassing**  
Principal

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release



### **Lucy Beckham hires Jamel Smith as head football coach**

**Mount Pleasant, SC** - Jamel Smith has been named the Head Football Coach at Lucy Beckham High School opening in the fall of 2020.

Coach Smith comes to Beckham from Wando High School where he's been the defensive coordinator for the last four years.

While a student athlete at Spring Valley High School, he was All-State and was honored to play in the SC/NC Shrine Bowl. After graduation, he received a football scholarship to Virginia Tech. He played in the 2000 National Championship vs. Florida State University.

Smith's senior year he was Second Team All-American. After that, he played three years with NFL Europe for the Rhein Fire. While in the NFL Europe, he played in two World Bowl Championships. When Jamel stopped playing football, he started coaching at his alma mater. He left Spring Valley to become a G.A. at Virginia Tech (2008-09) and then an assistant coach at Coastal Carolina (2010-2011).

"Coach Smith is a fantastic addition to our team both in the classroom and on the football field," said Principal Anna Dassing. "His ability to connect with student athletes and grow them from boys to young men of character and integrity is second to none."

"Coach Smith brings instant energy to Lucy Beckham High School," said Athletic Director Scott Innes. "When he starts talking football, it makes me ready to put on a helmet and pads and do tackling drills. Every athlete in the 29464 zip code will be excited to play for Coach Smith."

Dassing knows that Coach Smith understands the game from the inside out and his vast personal and professional experiences with football and coaching make him primed to lead the Bengal football family.

"Lucy Beckham saw the same potential for greatness in Coach Smith when she hired him at Wando years ago," said Dassing. "We are thrilled to have him on board and know Lucy would be proud that he will be the first Lucy Garrett Beckham High School Football Coach."

For more information, contact Principal Dassing at (843) 856-6790.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that spans 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.