Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT > excellence is our standard

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Media Release

U.S. News and World Report ranks Academic Magnet among the best high schools in nation

Four CCSD schools ranked in the top-25 in South Carolina

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC — Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) is the seventh-best high school in the country according to the U.S. News & World Report's 2024 national rankings. This is the sixth year in a row the Raptors made the top-10 on this list (AMHS was number one in the country in 2019 and number two 2020 through 2022).

"This recognition is an honor that represents the hard work and dedication that not only the students put into their work, but the amazing effort of the teachers as well," explained Zachary Butler, the school's rising student body president (Class of 2025). "It is an honor we are proud to receive, and I believe that if we continue all of our hard work, we can only grow from here."

The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on nearly 25,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 17,660 schools were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.

Academic Magnet is the fourth-best magnet high school in the nation as well.

"I am so proud to be a part of this amazing learning community," said AMHS English teacher Mary Catherine Lankford. "This ranking reflects the hard work of our academically gifted population and the determination of our faculty and staff as they strive to create positive yet rigorous classroom experiences. These scores are a reason for celebration as are the many other contributions our students have made in community service, in athletics, and in local, state, and national competitions. I am excited to celebrate our national ranking, and I look forward to being part of our continued growth and success in the future."

Four Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools made the top-25 of the 2024 U.S. News and World Report rankings for South Carolina: Academic Magnet (1), Charleston County School of the Arts (3), Wando High School (6), and James Island Charter High School (25).

For more information, contact CCSD's Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.