



James Island Charter High
School

Tim Thorn
Principal

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Contact:
Tim Thorn 843-762-2754

Media Release

JICHHS earns title of National Banner Unified Champion School

Charleston, SC – James Island Charter High School (JICHHS) recently earned the distinguished title of "National Banner Unified Champion School" by the Special Olympics, showcasing its dedication to fostering inclusion through the fulfillment of 10 standards of excellence.

As the first "National Banner" high school in Charleston County School District (CCSD), JICHHS is a model school of inclusivity. The school has distinguished itself as one of only three high schools across South Carolina to achieve this prestigious recognition. This accomplishment places JICHHS among just two percent of Unified Champion Schools nationwide.

The evidence submitted demonstrated adherence to rigorous standards of inclusive excellence which was assessed by a coalition of leaders from Special Olympics. These standards encompass a variety of schoolwide initiatives, including unified sports, inclusive youth leadership, whole-school engagement, and sustainability.

"James Island Charter High School staff and students have cultivated a culture of genuine acceptance and inclusion throughout the entire school community," said Barry Coats, President, and CEO of Special Olympics South Carolina. "The school's concerted efforts have laid the groundwork for advancing our collective mission of nurturing a 'Unified Generation' of young individuals who embrace diversity and champion real social progress."

The official recognition ceremony took place on February 23, 2024, marking a significant milestone for JICHHS. In this celebratory event, leaders from the school community commemorated their achievements and reaffirmed their commitment to fostering an environment of inclusion, unity, and acceptance.

For more information, contact Principal Tom Thorn at (843) 762-2754.

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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

1000 Ft. Johnson Road • Charleston, SC 29412 • tel. (843) 762-2754 • fax. (843) 762-5228 •
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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.