



**Murray-LaSaine Montessori
School**

Anita W. Huggins M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Jennifer Swearingen, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Superintendent of
the Elementary Learning Community

Meredith Wallace
Principal

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Contact:
Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Murray-LaSaine's Julie McElroy receives state's top honor for registered nurses

James Island, S.C. - Julie McElroy, the school nurse at Murray-LaSaine Montessori School, was named the South Carolina Registered Nurse of the Year for promoting a positive culture of health at the school. McElroy will go on to compete at the national level.

McElroy attributes her successes to the support that she has been given by Charleston County School District (CCSD) Nursing Services, her administrators, coworkers, school community and family.

"School nurses do amazing things every day all over the state," said McElroy. "The things I have been able to accomplish have only been possible because of all of the people and supports that I have available to me. Teamwork really does make the dream work."

McElroy is a dedicated registered nurse with 19 years of diverse nursing experience in a variety of populations, specialties and age groups. She joined CCSD in 2014. She values communication, education, and preventive health strategies with a patient-centered team approach.

"CCSD is proud to have Julie McElroy represent the state of South Carolina for nursing excellence," said Ellen Nitz, CCSD's Director of Nursing Services. "She epitomizes best practices in school nursing no matter the task. She recognizes that working with her community enables her to help reap maximum benefits for overall school health."

McElroy is a member of the National Association of School Nurses and the South Carolina Association of School Nurses. She serves as a mentor to new team hires and hosts nursing students from Charleston Southern University and Trident Technical College annually in the fall and spring semesters.

McElroy encourages a healthy lifestyle by example. She is the lead chairperson for her Wellness Team at Murray-LaSaine and won the 2022-2023 Boeing-MUSC Wellness Award with the highest number of points ever earned.

According to Principal Meredith Wallace, McElroy is creative and develops fun activities for the staff and students.

"Julie contributes to our collective mission of educating the whole child by ensuring our health, wellness, and safety needs are met," said Wallace. "She does this in a variety of ways. Whether she is joining a line dance at field day, handing out water bottle stickers at our trunk or treat, organizing our run club, or stocking our staff smoothie bar, she is always thinking of how we can be better, healthier versions of ourselves."

She promotes preventative health care through fitness and other activities.

"As part of her quest to improve mental health, she helped create a 'Zen Den' for staff and a 'Calm Down Corner' for students that has a 200-gallon aquarium with seating, books, and sensory items to help manage stress," explained Nitz. "Julie ensures that all members of the cardiac emergency response team know what to do in an emergency situation. She has trained 90 percent of her staff on Stop the Bleed and provided hands-on education on applying a tourniquet. Julie is highly regarded by her school, families, and nursing peers."

For more information, contact Principal Meredith Wallace at (843) 762-2765.

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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.