



Lucy Beckham High School

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Media Release

Lucy Beckham's Coast Guard JROTC boasts a year of firsts

Mount Pleasant, SC – In October 2021 Lucy Garrett Beckham High School (LBHS) commissioned the LBHS Coast Guard JROTC program. Administrators thought they were in for a slow and steady build. However, after only one year the cadets went all in and hit the fast-forward button to make a name for themselves.

The program has six competitive teams: Color Guard, 10 Meter Air Rifle, Drill, RAIDER (athletic competitions), Academic, and Drones. The teams compete on the local level against high school JROTC units from Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties during the school year and also have the opportunity to earn spots at the national level.

"Our cadets have exceeded expectations and to say we are proud of their accomplishments is an understatement," said Principal Anna Dassing. "They have not only embraced the tenets of our Coast Guard JROTC around leadership and service, they have taken it to another level by committing themselves to the highest levels and doing the hard work to get there. Exemplary leadership comes from the top and we are thankful to the US Coast Guard and our instructors for their support, commitment, and dedication to making LBHS CGJROTC the best it can be."

The Academic Team qualified to represent LBHS at the National JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl in Washington, D.C. from June 23-27, 2023. Only the top 3 percent of all 3,500 high school JROTC units worldwide were represented at this prestigious event. With a field of 105 schools, 400 of the sharpest minds convened at the Catholic University of America to battle it out through quiz-bowl style competition throughout the weekend. The team was awarded the George C. Marshall Foundation Leadership and Academic Award for academic achievement in reaching the competition in the top three percent of all JORTC programs in the country.

Participation by the LBHS CGJROTC Academic Team at this event marked the first time that any Coast Guard JROTC unit had ever participated in JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl. Being the only Coast Guard JROTC team present, LBHS competed admirably against Marine Corps teams. Members of this team include:

Team Captain Isabella Prevuznak, Sarah Adams, Cayden Edwards, JohnThomas Carver Anderson.

In May, the Color Guard Team competed in the National Drill Team Championships in Daytona Beach, FL. The team performed their personal best score and gained experience at the highest level of competition that will pay off in the many years to come. The cadets were: Jordan Ivey, Team Captain; Sarah Adams, Isabella Prevuznak, and Declan Holmes.

This school year was the first full year of competition for LBHS's young 10 Meter Air Rifle Team. In their first competition at the Wando Warrior Challenge in November, the team came in fourth out of 15 teams. Cadet Anderson, took the highest score in the standing position out of all beginning shooters. The second competition at the Fierce Fox Meet was held at Ashley Ridge High School in January and the team finished in fifth place of 15 teams.

Also important to note is that this small band of cadets also completed over 400 hours of community service and looks forward to breaking the 500-hour mark this coming school year.

"I want to put these accomplishments into perspective," said ROTC leader LTJG Ron Blake. "We are a unit that is only two years old, and 80 percent of our cadets were freshmen and sophomores this year. Both the color guard and academic teams were made up of three freshmen and one sophomore. Our young teams put up impressive numbers this year against some of the best schools in the Lowcountry and in the United States. We are looking forward to bringing the Lucy Beckham Bengals into the spotlight once again in August when we start the 2023 - 2024 school year."

For more information, contact Principal Anna Dassing at (843) 953-2900.

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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.