

**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release



**Stephanie A. Mitchell**

**Principal at Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School**

### Office of Communications

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**Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Anita Huggins**  
Deputy Superintendent

**Vanessa Denney, M.Ed.**  
Interim Executive Director of  
Communications

## **Stephanie Mitchell selected to lead Matilda F. Dunston Elementary**

**Charleston, SC** – The Charleston County School District (CCSD) is excited to announce and welcome Stephanie Mitchell as principal at Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School effective July 1, 2023. Mitchell has served as principal at Hanahan Elementary School in the Berkeley County School District (BCSD) for the last four years. Current Dunston Elementary Principal Cheryl Savage is retiring at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year.

Mitchell began her career as a first grade teacher at Boulder Bluff Elementary School in 2000. After seven years at Boulder Bluff, she took her talents to Hanahan Elementary School, where she taught first and second grade over the next five years. While at Hanahan, Mitchell used small group instruction in reading and math to provide differentiated instruction to all students, as well as developed second grade common assessments based on state standards. She also served as a member of her grade level professional learning community (PLC) and as team lead for the school's vertical team PLC.

Having demonstrated outstanding leadership at the classroom level, Mitchell was selected as a BCSD district evaluator in 2012. For the next two years, Mitchell collaborated with administrators to determine teachers' needs and assisted with developing and monitoring professional growth plans and diagnostic assistance plans. She also trained teachers and staff on effective classroom management, goals-based evaluation, and effective mentoring, as well as assisted teachers with the development of long-range plans and unit work samples.

Mitchell moved into administration in 2014, serving as an assistant principal at both Westview Primary and Hanahan Elementary. In December 2019, Mitchell was promoted to principal at Hanahan Elementary School. While at Hanahan, Mitchell cultivated strong student and parent relationships to help positively resolve concerns and affect behavior and academic performance. She also implemented check-in/check-out behavior plans for students and served as instructional liaison to ensure the implementation of standards-based lessons, district initiatives, and research-based instructional strategies. Additionally, under her leadership, Hanahan Elementary maintained high staff morale and parent satisfaction during and after the COVID-19 pandemic based on state and employee engagement surveys.

"We are very excited to welcome Stephanie Mitchell to the Charleston County School District," said Dr. Jennifer Swearingen, Interim Associate Superintendent of the Elementary Learning Community. "As an innovative and student-focused leader, I am excited for the energy and leadership she will bring to the students and staff at Dunston Elementary School. We extend our appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Savage for her leadership at Dunston over the last several years and wish her well in her retirement."

Mitchell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Education Leadership from The Citadel.

For more information, contact the 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 of 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 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.