

For Immediate Release

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Media Release



Ashley Dorsey

Principal at James B. Edwards Elementary School

Office of Communications

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Laurel Hill principal to lead James B. Edwards Elementary beginning 2023-2024 school year

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is excited to announce and welcome Ashley Dorsey as principal at James B. Edwards Elementary School (JBE) effective July 1, 2023. Dorsey has served as principal at Laurel Hill Primary School in Mt. Pleasant for the last six years. Current James B. Edwards Principal Robin Fountain is relocating out of state at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year.

Dorsey began her career in 2004 as a fifth grade talent development teacher at Tuckaseegee Elementary in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. While at Tuckaseegee, Dorsey served as grade level chair, PTA Secretary, advised two student organizations, and developed and coordinated effective academic improvement programs and remedial reading lessons for after school district programs. In 2006, Dorsey joined CCSD as an upper elementary teacher at Sullivan's Island Elementary School (SIES). While in this position, she served as grade level chair, as well as on various school teams including the leadership team, safety team, student council association, school improvement council, partial magnet neighborhood planning team, wellness team, and as the school's instructional resource teacher and Director of Camp Intervention.

Six years later, Dorsey was promoted to Partial Magnet Coordinator at SIES with the responsibility of providing high quality inquiry-based science experiments to students in all grade levels and recruiting students for the partial magnet program. She also worked to develop partnerships with science, math, and environmental agencies to enrich curriculum. It wasn't long before Dorsey successfully obtained the assistant principal position at Stiles Point Elementary School on James Island in 2013. During her time at Stiles Point, Dorsey focused on implementing the school's academic goals, assisted with hiring for vacant positions, participated in budget and allocation planning, managed the proactive positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) model, and participated in teacher observations and the administration of student assessments.

With an outstanding track record of leadership, innovation, and success, Dorsey was selected to serve as principal at one of the district's only National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited schools at the time, Laurel Hill Primary School, in 2017. Over the last six years, Dorsey has advanced Laurel Hill's academic performance in both reading and math through the implementation of curricula and standards with fidelity coupled with direct support for her students and staff. Additionally, she has created opportunities for positive parent engagement including class picnics, positive postcards, and mystery readers, as well as maintained an open-door policy for students and teachers to promote communication and a positive, nurturing educational environment. Valuing collaboration and teamwork, Dorsey conducted weekly leadership meetings with administrative staff to analyze data, determine ways to best support teachers, and make adjustments to budget and academic plans as needed. She also facilitated personalized learning community (PLC) meetings and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) meetings with staff, as well as teacher data conferences in order to help maintain the school's competitive academic performance while supporting the needs of all learners and providing ongoing opportunities for relationship building and idea sharing throughout the building.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Dorsey to the James B. Edwards community," said Dr. Jennifer Swearingen, Interim Associate Superintendent of the Elementary Learning Community. "We know the students and staff will be in excellent hands with a leader of Mrs. Dorsey's caliber. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Fountain for her incredible six years of service and leadership at JBE, and wish her well in her next chapter."

Dorsey holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Clemson University and a K-12 Academically-Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Certification from the University of Virginia. She also holds a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from The Citadel. Dorsey was also a participant in Charleston County's 2014-2015 Principals for Tomorrow Program.

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.