



Belle Hall Elementary School

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher
Chief Academic Officer

Michelle Simmons
Associate Superintendent of
Elementary Learning Community

Kevin Conklin
Principal

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Contact:
Kevin Conklin, 843-849-2841

Media Release

Belle Hall recognized as 2021 National Blue Ribbon School

First CCSD school in four years to receive honor

Mount Pleasant, SC – Belle Hall Elementary School is proud to announce they have earned a prestigious distinction; they are one of five schools in South Carolina named 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Belle Hall is the first school in Charleston County School District (CCSD) to receive this award in four years (Buist Academy in 2017).

The U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools (NBRS) earlier this morning.

The NBRS Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. Now in its 39th year, the NBRS Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Schools are eligible for nomination after five years.

"The entire Belle Hall Elementary School community takes great pride in this prestigious recognition," said Principal Kevin Conklin. "For over three decades, the teachers, parents, staff, and community members have collaborated to create this extraordinary environment for students. Over the years, we've upheld our reputation of 'Rigor and Relationships,' which features high expectations and support for all learners bolstered by adults working together closely every day."

Conklin added they are starting to plan for on-going celebrations this school year to highlight this prestigious accomplishment.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. The National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing an entry or flying overhead is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

"It takes a lot to make a school exceptional," added Instructional Coach Patricia Caddell. "It is no easy task. Belle Hall is an excellent school due to its inviting school climate, cohesive staff, community involvement, strong leadership, and rigorous curriculum. This is seen on a daily basis year end and year out."

Belle Hall Elementary started serving students in Mount Pleasant in 1990; the school's current enrollment is approximately 650.

For more information, contact Kevin Conklin at (843) 849-2841 or CCSD's Division of Strategy and Communication 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.