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Media Release

Division of Strategy and
Communications

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Cathie Middleton
Interim Principal at Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary

Cathie Middleton to join Whitesides as interim principal for 2021-22 school year

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is excited to announce and welcome long-time CCSD educator Cathie Middleton as interim principal at Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School. Middleton joins Whitesides from the Department of Capital Programs where she has been serving as an interim assistant principal on special assignment since August 2019. Current Whitesides Principal Cindy Perez is set to retire at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year.

Middleton began her career in 1976 as a teacher at McDonald Road Elementary School in Georgetown County. Over the next eight years, Middleton would instruct third, fifth, and sixth grades and serve as a Title I reading teacher.

In 1983, Middleton joined the CCSD family at James B. Edwards Elementary School in Mount Pleasant as a gifted and talented and fourth grade teacher. After a decade of serving in the classroom, Middleton shifted her talents to become a Title I consultant before returning to the classroom in 1997 as lead teacher at North Charleston Elementary School.

Middleton entered school administration a few years later taking on the role of assistant principal at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School (ARCA). During her eleven year tenure as assistant principal, Middleton also served as interim principal at Oakland Elementary School for a period of time in 2000.

In 2012, Middleton was promoted to co-principal at Ashley River and program director at North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School. She served in these roles for two years before becoming principal of ARCA, followed by Interim Director of CCSD's Elementary Learning Community in 2017.

In her role as Interim Director of the Elementary Learning Community, Middleton supervised 17 schools where she conducted principal evaluations, participated in system-level data analysis, as well as professional development planning. Upon fulfillment of her interim role, Middleton began service in Operations as a liaison between Learning Services and Capital Programs to support the planning, construction, and furnishing of new buildings, schools, facilities, and other Capital Programs projects.

Middleton earned a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Secondary Education from Winthrop University. She also holds a master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Carolina at Coastal Carolina and a master's degree plus 30 in Elementary Administration and Supervision from The Citadel.

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally-accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.