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Media Release

Academic Magnet receives elite recognition from U.S. News & World Report

Office of Strategy and
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*AMHS named #2 high school in country; Charleston County
School of the Arts and Wando in top three of state rankings*

Charleston, SC — Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) staff, students, and families are celebrating another impressive honor from the U.S. News & World Report today. The national publication named AMHS the second-best high school in the country according to their annual Best High School [rankings](#). This honor comes a year after the Raptors were recognized as the [top](#) high school in the nation.

“It is again a great honor to celebrate the achievements and the dedication of our students, faculty, staff, and Raptor community,” said Principal Catherine Spencer. “With an eye always on academics, service, and leadership excellence, Academic Magnet High School truly deserves this extraordinary national recognition as well as other collective and individual accolades. We are very proud of our continued shared commitment and the future of AMHS is indeed very bright!”

The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on more than 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors: college readiness, math and reading proficiency, math and reading performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth, and graduation rate.

“While this announcement is a huge honor, it comes to me as no surprise,” explained Catherine Yackey, a math teacher at AMHS. “The students are the heart and soul of the school, and our heart and soul thrive! Our students are not just smart; they are caring, loyal, and powerful. With a small amount of motivation, they can do anything they put their minds to.”

Academic Magnet is the second-best magnet high school in the nation in this year’s rankings as well.

“The student body of Academic Magnet is exceedingly proud to uphold our high standard of education,” added Felix von Asten, a junior who is a Mentor Coordinator this year (and will serve as an Ambassador Coordinator next year).

"We thank the incredible staff and parents of our school that have allowed and continue to allow Academic Magnet High School to be a place where students achieve great things."

Charleston County School District has the top three high schools in the state according to the U.S. News Best High School 2020 rankings: Academic Magnet, Charleston County School of the Arts, and Wando High School (in that order according to the list).

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

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) 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.