



#### Northwoods Middle School

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Cynthia Ambrose**  
Deputy Superintendent of Learning  
Services

**Joseph Williams, Ed.D.**  
Executive Director of Middle  
School Learning Community

**Colleen Knauer**  
Principal

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact:**  
Colleen Knauer 843-856-4595

## Media Release

### **Northwoods Middle Receives \$20,000 Grant from Project Lead The Way**

**North Charleston, SC** – Northwoods Middle School (NMS) is excited to announce it has earned a \$20,000 grant from Project Lead The Way (PLTW), which will allow students to have more access to computer science courses. In turn, that will give scholars at NMS an advantage in their education and future careers.

This opportunity is made possible through a partnership between Verizon and PLTW. PLTW is a nonprofit organization that provides transformative learning experiences for K-12 students and teachers through K-12 pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. Northwoods joins more than 10,500 schools across the U.S. in offering PLTW programs to students.

NMS is also one of 72 schools across the country receiving part of a \$3 million grant made possible by a [partnership between Verizon and PLTW](#). This is an expansion of an initial \$5 million partnership that began in 2014 between the two organizations to increase students' access to computer science curriculum and help students develop the in-demand knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the rapidly advancing, technology-based economy.

"We currently offer Keyboarding and Digital Literacy," NMS Principal Colleen Knauer stated. "PLTW in middle school will allow for our students to not just sit behind a computer, but explore the possibilities for the future and hopefully find an interest in something they want to pursue. We are excited to provide the students of Northwoods this opportunity for the first time and can't wait to see where PLTW takes them."

PLTW Gateway's computer science units – [App Creators](#) and [Computer Science for Innovators and Makers](#) – are part of PLTW's K-12 Computer Science pathway and are built on PLTW's hands-on, project-based instructional approach. The units provide an opportunity for students to experience computer science in a relevant and engaging way, empowering them to solve real-world problems using the powerful ideas behind computational thinking, learn digital citizenship, and strengthen their critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills. The program sets them up for further computer science learning via PLTW's four-year Computer Science program in high school.

“Project Lead The Way is committed to preparing our nation’s next generation of problem–solvers and innovators,” said PLTW President and CEO Vince Bertram. “In partnership with Verizon, we are significantly increasing the number of students who have access to high-quality computer science education and will be prepared for these growing career opportunities.”

The PLTW/Verizon grant of \$20,000 will be disbursed over a two-year period to offset startup costs associated with implementing the units. Grant funds will also support teacher professional development and provide for classroom equipment including tablets and software.

For more about how NMS will use the grant, contact Principal Knauer at (843) 764-2212.

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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 that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 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.

#### **About PLTW**

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW's teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. More than 10,500 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit [pltw.org](http://pltw.org).