

SPOTLIGHT ONE

2023-2024 Points of Pride Edition

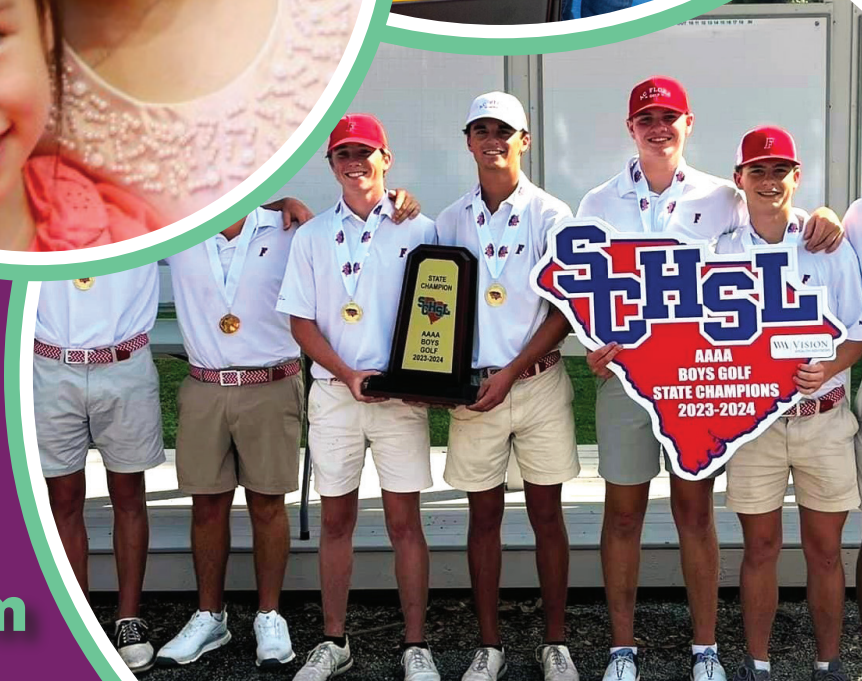
A Publication of Richland County School District One



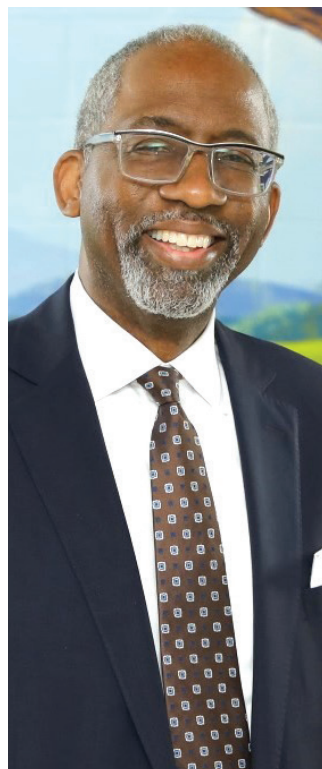
RICHLAND ONE

ENGAGE • EDUCATE • EMPOWER

#TeamOne #OneTeam



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



The Points of Pride highlighted in this edition of Spotlight One reflect just a fraction of the numerous accomplishments made by Richland One students, staff, schools and departments during the 2023-2024 school year.

We continue to see the power that being focused on our mission and being consistent in our work have in producing amazing outcomes for our students and for our district overall. We anticipate even greater outcomes as we begin implementing our new five-year Strategic Plan.

Thank you to our parents and community partners for your ongoing support as we engage, educate and empower our students to achieve their potential and dreams.

The 2024-2025 school year promises to be another successful school year for the Richland One team ... let's get it started! **#TeamOne #OneTeam**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Witherspoon".

Craig Witherspoon, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Richland County School District One

2023-2024 DISTRICT HONORS, AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

- National and International Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 36 Consecutive Years
- Partnership District Award and Partnership School Award (Columbia High School) from the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University
- 48 Richland One Schools Named Among America's Healthiest Schools – More Award Recipients than Any Other School District in South Carolina
- First South Carolina School Named a Visible Learning+ Certified School: Hopkins Elementary School
- South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE) Superintendent of the Year: Dr. Craig Witherspoon

Superintendent's Book Club Challenge



Dr. Witherspoon kept his promise to let the top readers slime him if elementary and middle school students district-wide met the 2024 Superintendent's Book Challenge goal to read for 1.5 million minutes between February 12 and March 28. Students far exceeded that goal by reading for **6,010,907** minutes!

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024!



Along with navigating the normal challenges and adjustments that come along with transitioning from middle school to high school, the members of the Richland One Class of 2024 began their freshman year learning from home while schools were still closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With support from their families, teachers, principals and others, they stayed focused and persevered. Congratulations and best wishes to all of our Class of 2024 graduates!

- 1,334 Graduates
- 181 Richland One Academic All-Stars
- 138 Honor Graduates
- 5 National Merit Scholarship Finalists
- Collectively Earned Over \$69 Million in Scholarships
- 21 Dual-Enrollment Students Earned Certificates and/or Associate Degrees from Midlands Technical College

SENIOR WALKS

Before they walked across the stage to receive their high school diplomas, several Richland One graduating seniors returned to their elementary and middle schools where they were congratulated, applauded and shown lots of love by students and staff, including some of their former teachers.



POINTS OF PRIDE – BY THE NUMBERS

528

Students completed career and technical education (CTE) programs of study within the 16 national career clusters.

3

New BLAST (Building Lasting Aerospace and STEM Trajectories) magnet programs were launched at Watkins-Nance Elementary, W.A. Perry Middle and Columbia High schools.



52

Students had perfect scores in math, science or both subject areas on the Spring 2023 SC READY state assessments.



Benjamin Brown of Dreher High School was a Quadruple CTE Completer, completing four CTE programs – accounting, banking services, business finance and general management. He was also named the overall CTE Student of the Year.

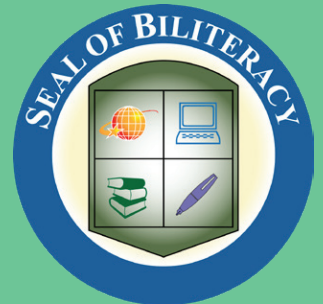
181

Richland One Academic All-Stars



87

Students earned South Carolina Seals of Biliteracy by meeting proficiency requirements in English and at least one other world language – the highest-ever number of Richland One students earning Seals of Biliteracy in a single school year.



246

Richland One Junior Academic All-Stars

2

High schools (Dreher and A.C. Flora) were ranked among the “Best High Schools” in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

5

Dreher High School seniors were named National Merit Scholarship finalists.



242

Elementary, middle and high school students were honored as Richland One Rising Stars for demonstrating extraordinary improvement in academics, attendance, behavior, character, community service and/or overcoming obstacles.



POINTS OF PRIDE – BY THE NUMBERS

313

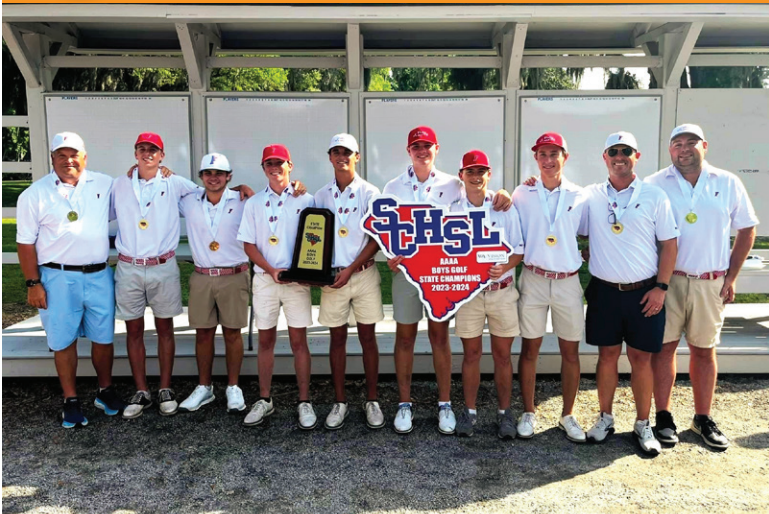
Richland One visual and performing arts students and programs received honors and awards.



The W.J. Keenan High School Marching Raider Rubber Band performed in the 2024 Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Band members are pictured performing at the 2024 Superintendent's State of the District Address.

6

State championship titles won in golf and track & field



The A.C. Flora High school boys golf team won the 2024 Class 4A state championship. The win marked the 18th state championship for A.C. Flora's golf program and the sixth for Head Coach Robert Dargan, who was named the 2024 Boys Golf Coach of the Year by the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association.

Terriana Gray of A.C. Flora High School was named the Richland County Girls Basketball Player of the Year.



Caleb Pearson of C.A. Johnson High School was named the Richland County High School Football Player of the Year.



66

Students completed the Richland One Teacher Cadet Program.

A.C. Flora High School was named a National Banner Unified Champion School by the Special Olympics.

POINTS OF PRIDE



SC Work-Based Learning Student of the Year

Tyler Clark of Columbia High School was named the 2024 South Carolina Work-Based Learning Student of the Year. The award is presented by the South Carolina Department of Education and the Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA). Tyler is the first Midlands student in recent history to receive the state award. He is a diesel engine technology program Completer at Heyward Career and Technology Center, and he interned for two years with the City of Columbia as part of the “One City: Future Ready” program.



National School to Watch

Hand Middle School was designated as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. The prestigious distinction reflects Hand's emphasis on strong academics, sensitivity to young adolescents' needs and interests, and commitment to providing all students with equal access to a high-quality education.

Prisma Health Ambulance Donation

Prisma Health donated a decommissioned ambulance to support the health sciences magnet program at C.A. Johnson High School and help kickstart the program's EMT (emergency medical technician) career pathway. Prisma Health is a longtime Richland One partner.



STAFF POINTS OF PRIDE

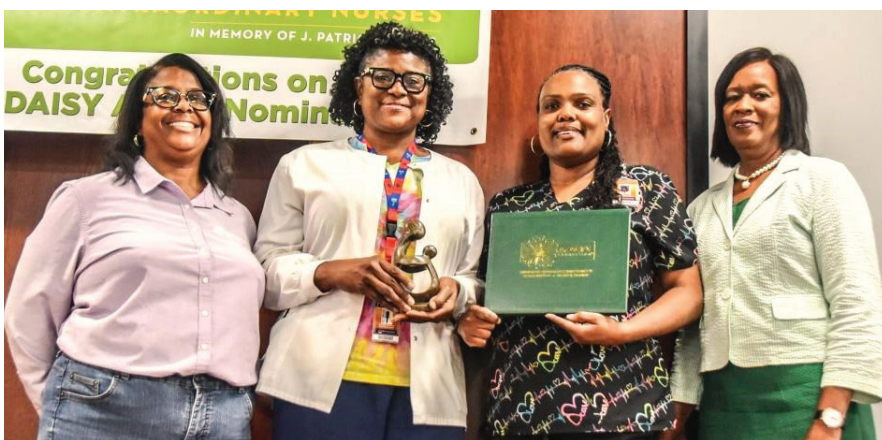


SCABSE Assistant Principal of the Year

Dr. Lisa Payton-Johnson, assistant principal at W.A. Perry Middle School, was named the 2023 Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year by the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE). Dr. Payton-Johnson has been an assistant principal at W.A. Perry for 14 years.

CTE School Counselor of the Year

Kevin Kirkley, school counseling chairman at Dreher High School, was named the 2024 Midlands Region Career and Technical Education (CTE) School Counselor of the Year by the Midlands Education and Business Alliance (MEBA). The award recognizes school counselors who show outstanding achievement in serving and supporting CTE students, faculty and parents.



DAISY Award Recipients

Two Richland One school nurses – Jacqueline Pitt of Crayton Middle School and Suzonne Williams of John P. Thomas Elementary School (both pictured in the center) – were named recipients of the district's first DAISY Awards. The DAISY Awards program, which is run by the DAISY Foundation, recognizes nurses for their compassionate care in their field of service. Richland One is the first school district in South Carolina and the second in the United States to offer the award to school nurses.



Kavon Barger

A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School
Richland One Teacher of the Year



Cheslyn Jackson

Office of Financial Services
Richland One Classified Employee of the Year



Hannah Eck

Meadowfield Elementary School
Richland One Induction Teacher of the Year



Rachel Fobare

Lower Richland High School
Health Educational Professional of the Year
SC Association for the Advancement of Health Education



Stephen Duerr

Rosewood Elementary School
Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year
SC Association for Physical Education and Sport



Dr. Marva Coates

Richland One Adult Education
Adult Education Director of the Year
SC Association of School Administrators



Chris Payne

Satchel Ford Elementary School
Champion of the Mission Honoree
Special Olympics South Carolina



Stephanie Long

Watkins-Nance Elementary School
Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year
South Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol



Elizabeth Link

Dreher High School
Daniel J. Antion High School Teacher of the Year
American Chemical Society – South Carolina Section



Wallis Bond

Brockman Elementary School
Finalist – Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

For more of our Points of Pride,
go to www.RichlandOne.org.



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Notice of Non-Discrimination

Richland County School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age or other protected characteristics in its programs or activities.

2024-2025 Key Dates

First Day of School for Students	August 8
Labor Day Holiday	September 2
Election Day Holiday	November 5
Thanksgiving Break	November 25-29
Winter Break	December 23-January 3 (Students return January 7)
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	January 20
Student/Staff Holiday	February 17
Spring Break	April 14-21
Memorial Day Holiday	May 26
Last Day of School for Students (early dismissal)	May 28

To view the full 2023-2024 Academic Calendar,
go to www.RichlandOne.org.

