

For Immediate Release

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Media Release



Cynthia Smalls

Executive Principal of Memminger Elementary School

Office of Communications

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Memminger welcomes Cindy Smalls as Executive Principal

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) welcomes Cindy Smalls as Executive Principal at Memminger Elementary School. Smalls is a retired elementary school administrator with 48 years of experience in education. Throughout her career, she has served as a teacher-leader, principal, and principal mentor at numerous schools throughout the district.

Smalls began serving students and families in CCSD as a special education and math educator at North Charleston High School and St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School, respectively, prior to moving into a school-based leadership as lead teacher at E.B. Ellington Elementary School in 1997. During her time at Ellington, Smalls worked with teachers to support the planning and implementation of effective instructional practices while also assisting teachers with data analysis to make data-informed decisions about teaching and learning.

A natural leader, Smalls was promoted to principal at C.C. Blaney Elementary School, a rural Title 1 school in Hollywood, S.C., in 2002. Over the next five years, Smalls utilized her transformational leadership skills to support high-quality teaching and learning in all classrooms. This effort led to the school receiving numerous awards and recognitions for meeting federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as a part of the No Child Left Behind Act and Closing the Achievement Gap in South Carolina.

In 2007, Smalls joined the staff at Mary Ford Elementary School [now Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Center] as principal where she led teachers,

staff, and students to a historical increase in the school's rating from Unsatisfactory to Below Average in one year and from Below Average to Average in three. It wasn't long before Smalls was tapped to employ her skills at the district level as an instructional coordinator in 2010. In this role, she provided instructional support to various schools, participated in Teacher Collaborative team (TCT) meetings to plan and facilitate targeted quality instructional practices, and provided school and district-based math professional development to teachers.

Following years of successfully training and supporting teachers, Smalls took on an even greater leadership role as the district's primary intervention coordinator housed in the Literacy-Based Learning Division. In her capacity as intervention coordinator, Smalls worked directly with school intervention teams to ensure fidelity of Primary Grade Academy (PGA) intervention services based on the Response to Intervention (RTI) process. She also planned and conducted quarterly professional development for Master Reading Teachers (MRT) and Associate Reading Teachers (ART) and monitored PGA test results and school-wide literacy plans.

Since 2017, Smalls has supported the district in various capacities including serving as an interim assistant principal and principal mentor at a variety of elementary schools (North Charleston, Stono Park, Oakland, Stiles Point, North Charleston Creative Arts, Minnie Hughes, Harbor View, Murray-LaSaine) and as a program coordinator and data analyst for the EPIC Summer Camp programs.

"I have had the honor and privilege of working with Mrs. Smalls throughout my career in the district at both the school and central office level," said Dr. Jennifer Swearingen, Associate Superintendent of the Elementary Learning Community. "She is an outstanding, poised professional with a proven track record of success through high-quality coaching, mentoring, and data-driven decision-making focused on improving outcomes for all students. I look forward to supporting her leadership at Memminger alongside Mrs. Wash this year."

Smalls earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a minor in Mathematics from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, N.C. She also holds a Master of Education in Special Education, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master's +30 in Mathematics from The Citadel. In addition to her degrees, Smalls obtained her reading recovery certification from Clemson University and a grant writing certificate from the University of South Carolina. She also holds an elementary administration and superintendent certification and was selected as a Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards Program Showcase School.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications 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 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 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.