



**Ashley River Creative Arts
Elementary School**

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Media Release

Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary earns Arts Schools Network Exemplary School Designation

West Ashley, S.C. - The Arts Schools Network Board of Directors recently named Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School (ARCAES) an Exemplary School in recognition of its commitment to excellence. The five-year designation is awarded for 2024-2029.

Arts Schools Network (ASN), the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools, awards Exemplary School designations to members that follow [*A Guide to Assessing Your Arts School*](#) in strategically evaluating their school's purpose, operations, and educational programs. The *Guide* is a collaborative effort by ASN and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Pre-collegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS). ASN will honor the school at an awards ceremony during the ASN 2024 Annual Conference, in Washington, DC. The conference theme is Arts at the Forefront of Change and will be hosted by the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

"We are proud to achieve this designation," said Principal Timothy Sullivan. "As we look to the future, Ashley River will continue to be an arts integrated model school for our county and state, and efforts will be made to elevate our current practices to ensure teaching and learning through and with the arts remains at the forefront of what we do."

ARCAES is a constituent magnet arts-based integrated school with a neighborhood attendance zone located in the West Ashley. Founded in 1984, ARCAES has educated thousands of children through its innovative arts-integrated curriculum by connecting academics with the arts providing students with the opportunity to enhance their imaginative and inventive learning potential.

"This national designation will allow us to partner with arts schools across the country and expand our networks by sharing best practices, innovative teaching strategies, and diverse learning experiences for our students," added Sullivan. "We are grateful to the Charleston County School District and their steadfast

support of our school's mission and vision. The school is also thankful for partnerships with its Parent Teacher Association, Arts in the Basic Curriculum Institute, and Engaging Creative Minds.”

Dedicated to excellence and leadership in arts education, Arts Schools Network, a non-profit association founded in 1981, provides arts school leaders, innovative partners and members of arts education institutions with quality resources, support and networking opportunities.

For more information, contact Principal Timothy Sullivan at (843) 763-1555.

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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.