



**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### **Vision To Learn donates over 175 glasses to students at Dunston**

**Matilda F. Dunston**  
Elementary School

**Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Luke Clamp, Ed.D.**  
Deputy Superintendent

**Jennifer Swearingen, Ph.D.**  
Associate Superintendent of the  
Elementary Learning Community

**Stephanie Mitchell**  
Principal

**North Charleston, S.C.** - At an action-filled event featuring representatives from the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Football Club, Vision To Learn, [more than 175 students at Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School](#) received new prescription eyeglasses. Nicole Tepper and former Panthers Pro Bowler Mike Rucker joined Panthers mascot Sir Purr, Charlotte FC mascot Sir Minty, and the TopCats Cheerleaders to help kids try on their new glasses for the first time in a hail of confetti and music.

The event also celebrated the announcement of a long-term partnership with The David & Nicole Tepper Foundation that will help tens of thousands of students in Charleston County School District and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools get eye care – at no cost to children or their families. With this partnership, the David & Nicole Tepper Foundation has committed \$1.5 million over five years to help school children in the Carolinas access critical eye care, exams, and prescription glasses.

"It's been amazing seeing every student at Dunston Elementary get vision care from Vision To Learn, but today was even better - watching the students try on their glasses for the first time with the help of the Panthers and Charlotte FC," said Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School Principal Stephanie Mitchell. "I know it's a day our kids will never forget, and I know these glasses will help our kids achieve their dreams through education."

Vision To Learn operates the most comprehensive and cost-effective school-based program for children's eye care in the Carolinas. Since its 2019 launch in Charlotte, Vision To Learn has helped nearly 30,000 children in Charleston and Dorchester counties alone, including providing nearly 10,000 with eye exams and 8,000 with glasses. The David & Nicole Tepper Foundation has supported Vision To Learn's work in the Carolinas since 2019.

About one in four children need glasses, but in many low-income communities, children often go without access to eye care. In South Carolina, an estimated 200,000 students lack the glasses they need.

For more information, contact Principal Stephanie Mitchell at (843) 745-7109.

