



Wando High School

For Immediate Release
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Media Release

Wando's yearbook was named the 2024 Blue and Gold Yearbook Staff Excellence recipient

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

Luke Clamp, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent

Sherry M. Eppelsheimer, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent of the
High School Learning Community

Chas Coker
Principal

Mount Pleasant, SC - Wando High School's yearbook, *Legend*, continues to shine at the national level. The students' work in the award-winning publication led to a record haul (of awards). Wando's *Legend* received the 2024 Blue and Gold Yearbook Staff Excellence Award, the highest honor given by the organization. This marks the third year in a row *Legend* has received this award.

The Blue and Gold Staff Excellence Award is the international journalism organization's highest honor given to a yearbook staff. *Legend* earned the award because the Warriors received the most individual honors in Quill and Scroll's annual Yearbook Excellence Contest for schools with 1,000 or more students.

In addition, *Legend* finished in first place for Writing overall and second place overall for Photography.

With her five photography awards in this contest, senior Gabriella Mortellaro has won the most awards ever by a student on *Legend's* staff. Mortellaro broke a record that stood for seven years.

"To be honored with the news of breaking this record feels amazing," Mortellaro said. "The past three years in student media, I've always come in every day working as hard as I could so this could one day be a reality. Now that I have the record, it only makes me want to work harder and put even more energy into everything I do, especially in the future."

"The *Legend* staff members continue to exert their excellence on a national level, and they've made our school proud for the third year in a row," yearbook adviser Phillip Caston said. "And for Gabbi to set the new record makes the accomplishment extraordinarily special this time. She has had an astounding and prolific career unlike anything we've seen at Wando, and the best part is that she isn't finished producing work for our student media."

Individual awards:

1st Place, Academic Photo - Senior Gabriella Mortellaro
1st Place, Student Life Story - Graduate Olivia Cyr
2nd Place, Theme Photo - Senior Gabriella Mortellaro
2nd Place, Personality Profile - Graduate Caroline Bierman
2nd Place, Sports Feature Story - Senior Charlotte Praete
2nd Place, Performing Arts Story - Junior Ava Kaplan
2nd Place, Beginning Writer Portfolio - Junior Haylee Langdon
3rd Place, Personality Profile - Senior Maria Gonzalez
3rd Place, Theme Photo - Senior Gabriella Mortellaro
3rd Place, Club Photo - Senior Gabriella Mortellaro
3rd Place, Portrait Photo - Senior Gabriella Mortellaro
3rd Place, News Story - Graduate Olivia Cyr
Honorable Mention, Academics Story - Senior Meghan Zimmerman
Honorable Mention, Academics Story - Junior Ava Kaplan

For more information, contact Phillip Caston at phillip_caston@charleston.k12.sc.u

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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.

