



Charles Pinckney Elementary  
School

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## Media Release

### **Charles Pinckney takes 2025 CCSD Battle of the Books crown**

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Superintendent of Schools

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Deputy Superintendent

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Associate Superintendent of the  
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**Tiffany Henderson**  
Principal

**Charleston, SC** — Students from Charles Pinckney Elementary School emerged victorious in the sixth annual and record-breaking Charleston County School District (CCSD) Battle of the Books. Twenty-two schools participated (the most ever) in this year's literary quiz bowl, answering questions from 20 books from this year's South Carolina Children's Book Awards nominee list.

Following five rounds of bracketed competition, THE Team from Pinckney defeated the Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School Remarkable Readers in the finals. Pinckney's THE team was awarded the Wendy Taylor Memorial Traveling Trophy and now has district bragging rights for the year.

Jennifer Thrift, the Pinckney's teacher-librarian, is THE Team's coach. "The boys were truly inspiring," Thrift confirmed. "They motivated and supported each other while preparing for the competition, and their teamwork shined throughout the event. Their dedication and perseverance were remarkable, and I couldn't be prouder of their hard work."

Thrift and members of THE Team were honored during the district's Committee of Whole Meeting on Monday, March 10, 2025.

CCSD's Battle of the Books is for fourth and fifth grade students. The purpose is to encourage students to read high-quality books and have fun while competing with peers, and it serves as the kick-off to Read Across America Week in the district.

"The competition was fierce, the fans were intense, and the students' love of reading was evident," said Christy James, CCSD's Library Media Services Coordinator and Textbook Coordinator. "It was incredible to see the Burke Auditorium filled with readers, their families, and supporters."

The district's Battle of the Books competition started in 2019 with only nine schools.

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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.