

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

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Kevin Smith
Principal of Baptist Hill Middle School

CCSD to Split Baptist Hill Middle and High Schools in Hollywood; Veteran Kevin Smith Appointed to Middle School Principalship

Hollywood, SC - Charleston County School District (CCSD) is delighted to announce that Kevin Smith, a seasoned and highly respected school leader, has been appointed principal of Baptist Hill Middle School, effective July 1, 2025. With a proven track record of building strong school communities, improving academic outcomes, and fostering student success, Smith is the ideal choice to lead this new chapter for middle school students in Hollywood, Ravenel, and Edisto Island.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the newly established Baptist Hill Middle School students and the Hollywood community," said Smith. "I look forward to working alongside dedicated educators, families, and stakeholders to create an environment where every student can grow, thrive, and reach their fullest potential."

The restructuring of Baptist Hill, which has long served grades 6-12 under one roof, will see the school formally split into separate middle and high schools. Jason Drayton will continue leading Baptist Hill High School, while Smith will take on the challenge of shaping and guiding the standalone middle school into a thriving educational environment.

"There is no one better suited in our district to guide this exciting new opportunity for middle school students than Kevin Smith," said Anita Huggins, Superintendent

of Schools. "His deep understanding of middle school education, his experience in launching and merging schools, and his ability to build meaningful community partnerships make him the perfect fit for this role."

Smith, a Charleston native, CCSD graduate, and proud parent of two CCSD graduates, has spent more than two decades making a lasting impact in the district. He currently serves as principal of C.E. Williams Middle School - South Campus, where he has led the school since its opening in 2020. Prior to that, he spent eight years as principal of C.E. Williams Middle where he played a key role in merging the school with West Ashley Middle and helping it earn the prestigious "Schools to Watch" designation from the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

Before taking the helm at C.E. Williams, Smith served as an assistant principal at Charleston County School of the Arts and Morningside Middle School where he developed academic improvement initiatives, strengthened behavioral support programs, and revitalized community engagement efforts. His experience also includes serving as site director for the Making Middle Grades Work initiative, overseeing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) implementation, and helping reestablish the school's parent-teacher association (PTA) — all of which contributed to meaningful progress in student achievement and school culture.

Smith's career began in 2001 as a visual arts teacher at Brentwood Middle School, where he quickly became a leader in cross-curricular instruction, student mentoring, and program development. His commitment to empowering young people extends beyond the classroom—before becoming an educator, he worked with the Boy Scouts of America, building partnerships and expanding opportunities for students in underserved communities.

In addition to his Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts from Winthrop University, Smith holds both a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and an Educational Specialist degree in School Leadership from The Citadel. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Clemson University.

With his visionary leadership, passion for student success, and strong ties to the Charleston community, Smith is ready to take Baptist Hill Middle School forward.

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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.