



**Morningside Middle School**

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## Media Release

### **Morningside selected for Palmetto AI Pathways pilot program**

**North Charleston, S.C** - Morningside Middle School was selected to participate in the Palmetto AI Pathways Pilot Program for the 2025-2026 school year. In partnership with the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness (SC Competes), IT-oLogy, and the University of South Carolina (USC), this program will provide an exciting opportunity for students to explore robotics, technology, and the transformative impact of AI across various industries.

"Morningside Middle School is very proud to represent Charleston County in this initiative," said Principal George White. "Our scholars will greatly benefit from this opportunity to access cutting-edge technology that will put them at the forefront of tomorrow's global society."

The Palmetto AI Pathways will bring hands-on robotics and technology education to 10 schools across South Carolina, grades sixth through ninth, within the following year. Students will have the unique opportunity to interact with the SC Competes robotic dog, Palmetto Automated Learner (PAL) and engage in hands-on lessons with IT-oLogy curriculum, fostering not only an interest in coding and robotics, but learning about the diverse careers across all SC industries that critical technologies, particularly AI, will impact. Representatives from USC will join the visits, offering insights into the importance of STEM education and career opportunities through discussions with students actively pursuing technology-related careers.

"The mission of the Liberty Hill K12 STEM Initiative is to initiate and deliver high-quality STEM programs that will provide all students with rigorous and relevant academic and technical education to prepare them for the high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage STEM occupations of the 21st century global economy," said Antoinette Green, STEM Career Specialist with the Liberty Hill K12 STEM Initiative. "My role as the STEM Career Specialist is to expose students and pique their interests in various technology industries. The Palmetto AI Pathways Pilot

Program will provide students with hands-on experience with the latest in robotics and artificial intelligence. Our ultimate goal is to provide students with the skills to become career and college ready for their future.”

SC Competes, IT-oLogY, and USC will begin scheduling these 10 school visits over the next academic year (2025-2026), with sights set on growing the program in subsequent years to be accessible to even more schools.

“We are excited to see the reaction from our schools across South Carolina,” said Susie Shannon, President and CEO of SC Competes. “We are ready to get to work on this first cohort of pilot schools and be able to bring the Palmetto AI Pathways program to many more schools in the coming years.”

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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.