



James Simons Montessori School

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Media Release

Greene Among Dozens of Educators Retiring This Year

School counselor leaving James Simons after 40 years of service

Charleston, SC - Angie Greene, school counselor at James Simons Montessori School, is among dozens of Charleston County School District (CCSD) employees who will retire this year. Her 40-year tenure at James Simons is a testament to her dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment. She has left no stone unturned in her career, having served as a second grade teacher, a reading recovery teacher, a reading interventionist, and a school counselor.

The Winthrop University political science major didn't set out to be an educator, but while looking back on her 40-year career, she said it was always meant to be.

When Greene arrived at James Simons, Charleston was not the city we know it as today, and neither was the school. James Simons was a Title 1 school with 100 percent African American students. The late Nathaniel Washington, the school's principal at the time, hired her.

"He was such a lovely man," said Greene. "Mr. Washington and his staff took me under their wing and nurtured me. I knew this was the school I was supposed to be in. I always felt comfortable here. I was surrounded by people from different cultures, and they were people I could learn things from."

The demographics of the school and the surrounding community have changed, but what makes the school so special has not. That's why, Greene said, she stayed.

"James Simons is where I matured in life and in my career," explained Greene. "It is where my career continued to evolve, and I am happy to be ending it here as a school counselor."

Now, Greene is the one who is considered the nurturer. Current school principal Elizabeth Dillenkoffer said whenever a new teacher needs information about a student or a family, they always know they can count on Greene to know the details and back story of the family.

It's not just students who stop by Greene's office. Staff will often stop by her office to vent, chat, or just for a laugh.

"She always listens and tries to help you out - no matter your age," said student support specialist Gayle Pickney. "She cares about everybody, and we feel it."

Greene is considered the "problem solver" in the building.

"Ms. Greene knows who to call and when, and the best way to get in touch with many of our families," added Dillenkoffer. "Often, when talking about a student, Ms. Greene will add, 'I taught her momma or daddy.' I love hearing her stories about how the school has changed over the years."

Quenetta White, Executive Director of the district's Elementary Learning Community, had the pleasure of working with Greene for five years at James Simons, from 2012 to 2017. White said that during that time, she proved to be one of the most exceptional school counselors she's ever had the privilege of working alongside.

"Ms. Greene led engaging classroom lessons, facilitated impactful small groups, and provided unwavering support to parents," said white. "She collaborated seamlessly with both support staff and teachers, always demonstrating a deep commitment to the school community. Her presence at James Simons is well-known and deeply valued - everyone knows and respects Ms. Greene."

White said that Greene consistently went above and beyond to support students, families, and the school as a whole. She said that whether it was organizing events, offering guidance, or fostering connections with community partners, Greene always gave generously of her time, talent, and network to ensure every initiative was a success.

"Ms. Greene is truly a dynamic and inspiring individual who has left a lasting impact on the entire school community, added White.

Green said she looks forward to traveling more often and catching her breath.

"As much as I will miss it, it is time to pass the torch," said Greene. "I enjoyed my career. I wouldn't have done it for 40 years if I didn't. I was always content here. I had wonderful principals and colleagues, and I am grateful for the experience."

Dillenkoffer is appreciative of Greene's service at James Simons.

"We will miss Ms. Greene terribly, but wish her well on her world travels," said Dillenkoffer.

CCSD will be celebrating all retirees at a reception later this month, and the district is forever grateful for the service of those like Greene who dedicate their lives to serving children, no matter the capacity. Congratulations to all CCSD employees who have proudly served the district!

For more information, contact Principal Dillenkoffer at (843) 724-7763.

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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.