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Media Release

Cario's Scheaffer named CCSD's 2025 Teacher of the Year

Office of
Communications

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Charleston, SC - Katie Scheaffer, a science teacher at Thomas C. Cario Middle School, was named the Charleston County School District's (CCSD) 2025 Teacher of the Year. Guided by CCSD's motto, "Students are the heart of our work," as District Teacher of the Year, Scheaffer said she would collaborate with teachers across the district to develop strategies that draw students into the classroom each day.

The announcement came via a surprise visit from Superintendent Anita Huggins and a caravan of District officials. Selected from over 80 school-based Teachers of the Year, [Scheaffer](#) will help lead the CCSD Teacher of the Year Roundtable and Forum during the 2025-2026 school year.

Scheaffer follows 2024 honoree [McKenna Hakanson of North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School](#).

Just a few weeks ago, Scheaffer and four other finalists were selected through a multi-step process that began with a review of their applications by the outgoing Teacher of the Year Roundtable. Once the finalists were chosen, each of the five teachers gave a tour of their school to a panel of judges, provided a model lesson to be critiqued, and participated in a thorough interview process.

"The teacher is in the best position to unlock countless possibilities for students, including their most extraordinary superpower, a love of learning," said Scheaffer. "Collectively, with other teachers in CCSD, I want to ensure that our classroom seats are filled with the students who may one day be the ones who make significant contributions to our world."

In the classroom, Scheaffer creates an environment that is warm, welcoming, and conducive to learning for all. Her instruction is relevant, meaningful, and fun, connecting lessons to students' lives and experiences. By incorporating guest speakers, organizing field trips, and designing inquiry-based learning experiences, she inspires curiosity and engagement.

"Mrs. Scheaffer is an extraordinary sixth-grade science teacher who doesn't just teach facts — she ignites curiosity, nurtures kindness, and turns every lesson into

an exciting adventure,” said Principal Bryan Coleman. “Her passion inspires young minds to explore the world with wonder and confidence.”

Scheaffer holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a minor in Spanish from Covenant College, and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. Before joining Cario, she taught at College Park Middle School from 2001 to 2019.

Other finalists for the 2025 CCSD Teacher of the Year included [Carissa Carr](#) (Oakland Elementary School and Stono Park Elementary School), [Crystal Herron](#) (Charleston Charter School for Math and Science), [Megan Kee](#) (West Ashley High School), and [Eric Wilkinson](#) (Wando High School).

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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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.