

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

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Andrea Gadsden
Principal of Simmons-Pinckney Middle School

Andrea Gadsden Named Principal of Simmons-Pinckney Middle School

Charleston, SC - Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce that Andrea Gadsden has been selected as the next principal of Simmons-Pinckney Middle School, effective July 1, 2025.

Gadsden has served the Jerry Zucker Middle School community for more than a decade as an assistant principal and brings with her nearly 20 years of experience as an educator and school leader. A highly respected figure among students, staff, and families, she is known for her intentional leadership, deep commitment to middle school success, and strong focus on building systems that support both academic growth and school culture.

During her tenure at Zucker, Gadsden led a wide range of initiatives that have contributed to the school's progress and identity. She created "Zucker 101," a student onboarding experience that blends expectations, social and emotional learning (SEL) strategies, and community-building practices. She has overseen assessments, staff evaluation, instructional materials, summer leadership retreats, and key transition supports for both rising and exiting students.

While serving the students and community of Zucker Middle School, Gadsden consistently collaborated with local business leaders and service members to create meaningful opportunities and learning experiences for students. Gadsden has also taken on district-level leadership roles, including mentoring new assistant principals and supporting CCSD cohort programs focused on responsive practices and instructional leadership. Additionally, Gadsden was selected to participate in

and successfully completed the South Carolina Department of Education's *Building Instructional Capacity* cohort and the *Developing Aspiring Principals Program*. She is also an alum of CCSD's 2023-24 Assistant Principal Institute Cohort.

"Andrea brings a unique blend of experience, school pride, and strategic thinking to this role," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "She understands the needs of middle schoolers and is ready to lead with vision, care, and consistency."

Gadsden began her CCSD career in education in Charleston County at Haut Gap Middle School as a teacher and later assistant principal. She holds a Master of Education in Secondary Educational Leadership from The Citadel and a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from Francis Marion University. Her leadership has long been rooted in collaboration, student advocacy, and a belief that positive school culture begins with shared responsibility.

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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.