



**St. John's High School**  
**Jermaine Joyner, Principal**  
 1518 Main Road  
 Johns Island, SC 29455  
 (843) 559-6200

# Media Release

## National Medal of Honor Center for Leadership Starts Junior Fellowship Program at St. John's

**Johns Island (July 17, 2025)** - The National Medal of Honor Center for Leadership (NMOHCFL) launched its inaugural Junior Fellowship Program with a five-day leadership and service boot camp hosted at St. John's High School in Charleston County, July 14–18, 2025. This groundbreaking initiative brings together 27 students from the school to engage in immersive leadership development, character education, and community service, all grounded in the values of the Medal of Honor.

The boot camp features appearances and mentorship from two Medal of Honor recipients:

- [Staff Sergeant Clinton L. Romesha](#) (Operation Enduring Freedom)
- [Master Sergeant Earl D. Plumlee](#) (Operation Enduring Freedom)

Students participate in robust workshops, team-building activities, and reflective exercises focused on courage, sacrifice, integrity, and patriotism. The on-site experience marks the beginning of a nine-month fellowship journey running from August 2025 through April 2026. Throughout the academic year, Junior Fellows will engage in monthly leadership challenges, virtual meetups, mentorship, and community service projects that allow them to apply their learning in real-world settings.

"This fellowship is a transformative, hands-on learning experience that we believe will have a deep impact on everyone involved—the Fellows as they discover the kind of leaders the world needs them to be, our Medal of Honor Recipients as they help shape the next generation, and the broader community as it is strengthened by the power of values-based leadership in action," said Justin Habash, NMOHCFL's Senior Vice President of Leadership Programs.

The fellowship will culminate in April 2026 with a capstone presentation and celebration, highlighting each participant's leadership journey and their impact in the community.

"This partnership is a powerful example of what can happen when we bring together education, character, and community," added Principal Jermaine Joyner. "We are honored to be the first host of this prestigious program and look forward to seeing the impact on our students and beyond."

The students are thankful to be a part of the program and have been inspired by the opportunity to meet living Medal of Honor recipients.

"It's an honor to learn from real heroes," said Sanaa Rhoades, a rising junior at St. John's. "They've sacrificed so much for our country, and now they're giving us their time to help us become better leaders. That means a lot to me, and I know it means a lot to my friends and classmates as well."

The National Medal of Honor Center for Leadership's mission is to inspire, develop, empower, and challenge leaders through the values embodied by our country's Medal of Honor recipients. With leadership education opportunities that include fellowship programs and onsite trainings, as well as a nationwide digital educational platform and audience-curated visitor experiences, Americans of all ages, backgrounds, and locations will learn the leadership values of courage, sacrifice, citizenship, integrity, commitment, and patriotism—values that inspire individuals to transform lives, shape the future, and carry forward the best traditions of what it means to be an American.

For more information about the Junior Fellowship Program or the National Medal of Honor Center for Leadership, visit [www.mohcenterforleadership.org](http://www.mohcenterforleadership.org).

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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 51,000 students in 90 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.