



**Mount Pleasant Academy**  
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## Media Release

### **National Principal Appreciation Month - Everything Kim Jackson and her team do at MPA is about what is right for students**

**Charleston, SC (October 8, 2025)** - A native of Mount Pleasant, [Kim Jackson, principal of Mount Pleasant Academy](#) (MPA), always had a goal of coming back home and serving families as an educator in her own hometown. She did just that, and for the last nine years, at Mount Pleasant Academy, specifically.

“For so long, we as a society have spent so much time looking at schools in one way,” said Jackson. “It was important to me to be part of the service and leadership in East Cooper schools. For me, it was making sure that in the Mount Pleasant area, people saw leadership that looked like me. I grew up in a time when there were very few, if any, African American leaders in my schools. It was really important to me for kids to see schools that look like them and like me.”

Jackson said that this was important to her because everyone has something to give and something to be a part of.

“It is important for every child and everyone in our community to feel represented,” explained Jackson. “I wanted to mirror the community.”

Jackson has a passion for educating elementary-aged children. She spent 18 years teaching third graders. What continues to drive her is to see the growth in students.

“It is the breadth of work that we get to see with kids that I love,” Jackson added.

What drew Jackson to the MPA community is the love the students, staff, and families have for each other. She said the diversity at the school is special.

“Being able to see people who are different but still love each other is what keeps me here,” said Jackson. “The kindness that grows from the type of culture makes me want to develop it even more.”

DeVeaux Carter, a veteran kindergarten teacher at MPA, acknowledged that Jackson had big shoes to fill when she stepped into the role as principal. Carter said she has connected to the school community beautifully.

"Mrs. Jackson walked right in with loving arms, and I will never forget her telling us that it was her dream to be a principal of a school like Mount Pleasant Academy," said Carter. "When she walked into that first faculty meeting, we all just stood up and clapped for her because we knew she was going to be awesome. The first thing she asked us was, 'What can I do for you? What can I do to make you successful? What can I do to make this whole school successful?' If you need something, all you have to do is go ask Mrs. Jackson for it. She has got your back, and that is important."

Servant leadership trickles down from the top, and that's why Jackson believes in being on the front lines. You can find her in the bus loop, working the front office, or taking a lunchroom duty shift.

"When I am part of the work, it brings us together as a staff, and therefore helps us to do the best work," said Jackson. "We have to keep moving and make sure to support all students. Our students come to us with such a wide range of experiences and knowledge that we have to make sure we continue to push those kids. We make sure every student has exactly what they need, every day."

Carter said Jackson regularly checks in with students and staff to get a temperature check on her own performance. She seeks feedback and constructive criticism.

"I love that because we're all constantly learning," said Carter. "She motivates the staff by setting goals and expectations high. She knows we are doing our job, and what that does for me as a teacher is it gives me the confidence to do my job to the best of my ability, also knowing she is always there to help. No question is too big or small. That makes for a very stress-free environment."

For Jackson, the reward of being a school leader is the hugs and the kind words from the students.

"It is the best thing in the absolute world," Jackson said. "Having kids who actually want to speak to me and not walk by is huge."

Elizabeth Espitiader is a fifth grader who adores her principal.

"She is kind and she really cares about us," Espitiader explained. "She tries to understand how kids are feeling or what they're going through. She is a good communicator, too."

Graham Quirin, also a fifth grader, has been at MPA since kindergarten and knows Jackson well. He described her as a fun principal who does a great job.

"Mrs. Jackson is very nice and funny," said Quirin. "It is very fun to have her as a principal. She hosts fun activities before big tests. I also get to hang out with her after school because my mom is a teacher here, and I have enjoyed getting to know her. She also helps our student council make good decisions for our school. I couldn't imagine MPA without her. Everybody just appreciates her so much."

This year's theme at MPA is "Anchored in Excellence," and Jackson fully believes that every child has excellence in them.

"Our goal is to find that and to help them cultivate that," she added. "We do it through the content standards and rules, but the truth is I am trying to help and child find out who they are and help them refine that. That's how we get through life - is the be the best version of ourselves every day. Not just knowing our times tables. That's my goal every single day."

Carter appreciates Jackson's leadership and admires her connection with students.

"If anyone in the community needs anything, she is there to give it to them," said Carter. "She makes sure that all students from all academic levels are poured into. She wants to make sure that each child is reached at their level and pushed to their potential, regardless of what it is going to take. To me, that's the mark of a wonderful principal. These kids love her, and they know she wants the best for them."

Jackson said she couldn't do it without her amazing staff.

"They are tough and strong and dedicated to these kids," said Jackson. "When they challenge me, it is because it is right for children. Everything we do is about what is right for these kids, and we have an amazing team of teachers that bring that out of me and each other, every single day."

Carter said Mrs. Jackson is the whole package.

"She just has it," explained Carter. "She is loving and caring to not just the students, but to the staff. She cares. She is there when we need her, and she has created a loving atmosphere, and she takes pride in that. As she should."

For more information, please 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.