



Charleston County School District
Office of Communications
 75 Calhoun St.,
 Charleston, SC 29401
 (843) 937-6300

Media Release



Future Teacher Highlight – Jose Perez-Tanner

Charleston, SC (October 10, 2025) – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud of the work being done to build an internal teacher pipeline. Elevate Charleston is one such program where CCSD works with high school students interested in becoming teachers. Those students go through an internship process during their junior and senior years to get real-world experience in the classroom. The end result is a commitment to become a CCSD teacher once they graduate from college.

CCSD is excited to feature our amazing future educators through a special Future Teacher Highlight series. This spotlight will celebrate high school students currently serving as classroom interns and planning to pursue a career in teaching.

Meet Jennifer Jose Perez-Tanner. He is in twelfth Grade at R.B. Stall High School. Perez-Tanner is currently interning in US history for juniors and seniors at R.B Stall High School under the leadership of teacher Megan Orchard.

Getting to Know You

- What inspired you to want to become a teacher?

I want to be someone who can make an impact on students. I want to be a teacher that is good at his job. I was really inspired by Mr.Q last year when I was his intern and with him I discovered how much I really loved being a teacher and its great being able to help people.

- Do you remember a specific teacher or classroom moment that helped shape your decision to pursue teaching? Please describe it.

I remember I was in Ms.Murphy's classroom I was in her teacher cadet class and we watched a movie called Dead Poets Society and when we watched it there was this one character called Neil and in the movie he struggles with self expression and being social



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Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools
 Andy Pruitt, Director of Communications

but during the film he becomes more social but in the end he ends up killing himself and when I saw the movie and the impact his teacher had on his life it really made me think about how I wish for all my teachers to be, because Neil might have died but he did something he never did before he truly acted as himself and what inspired me about the film was his teacher might not have had the best ending with his student but he had the best result he made Neil felt safe enough to finally chase his dreams and that's what I love about the film.

- What subject or grade level do you hope to teach in the future, and why?

US History and 11th or 12th grade I would like to teach a more mature but still impressionable grade.

Classroom Experience

- What has been the most meaningful part of your internship experience so far?

Being able to learn I feel like that is the biggest thing because I know that to be a teacher you teach students but you also have to learn that and perfect it so I think it takes time but my internship can help me learn.

- What is one thing you've learned during your internship that surprised or inspired you?

One thing that surprised me was Ms. Orchards work ethic, I love her work ethic the way she is able to get her job done and be able to get it done quickly while being on time. She has really helped me understand a bit more about teaching than what I thought and really is just the best at explaining why her teaching methods can be useful for students and she is all for understanding students which really benefits me on how I view teaching.

- How has working with students changed or strengthened your desire to become a teacher?

It strengthened my desire to teach and after my first attempt at teaching or even interning I really liked it and I feel like I am able to explain and break things down for people to understand subject matter.

Looking Ahead

- What are your plans after high school (college, major, career goals)?

To become a teacher and hopefully help people with whatever subject I teach, go to a good college if I can and hope to do my best.

- How do you hope to make a difference as a future educator?

To be not only a teacher of my students but also be a voice for them and help guide students to their dreams.

- In your own words, why is teaching important?



Teaching is important because it's not just a job it's a responsibility and that's what makes it different, the fact that it is more than just a job is what makes it important because that means that the job is worth something, the fact that there is extra hours and there is sometimes difficulties with what your teaching is the whole reason you do it. Teaching is like a way of making an impact just in a less seen way sometimes.

Optional Extras

- Is there a quote, motto, or message you live by or that reflects your passion for teaching?

"Be curious, not judgmental"-Walt Whitman

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.

