BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BCSD BEACON

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Congratulations Class of 2025!

Beaufort County School District is proud to announce the remarkable accomplishments of its graduating class of 2025. With a total of 1,530 graduates, this year's cohort is set to make significant strides in various fields.

College Destinations
Graduates are heading to prestigious institutions across the nation, including:

- Duke University
- Harvard University
- Yale University
- Columbia University
- Emory University
- Belmont University
- University of Florida
- Ohio State University
- Middlebury College
- Clemson University
- University of South Carolina
- University of South Carolina Beaufort
- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- Georgia Southern University
- College of Charleston
- South Carolina State University
- University of South Carolina Upstate
- Lander University
- Benedict College

Scholarship Success
The achievements of this class extend beyond college admissions. Students have collectively received an impressive **$35,179,567** in scholarships, highlighting their hard work and dedication.

Career Pathways
Among the graduates, 220 students will be entering the workforce directly, embarking on various career pathways that will contribute to the local economy. Some of these pathways include welding, cosmetology, and firefighting among many others.

Military Commitment
The class also boasts 71 graduates who have chosen to enlist in the military, demonstrating their commitment to serving the country.

Academic Honors
In addition to college and career readiness, the District celebrates the academic excellence of its students:

- 1 National Merit Finalist
- 64 AP Capstone students
- 35 IB Diplomas
- 20 Associate Degrees
- 53 College Certificates from Technical College of the Lowcountry

Beaufort County School District congratulates the Class of 2025 on their outstanding achievements and wishes them success in their future endeavors.











Graduating into Healthcare

Thirteen seniors from four Beaufort County School District high schools were recently honored at a special graduation ceremony for completing Beaufort Memorial Hospital's PATH program. This marks the first year of the District's partnership with the hospital, giving students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and healthcare certifications while still in high school.

Since January, students spent two mornings a week at the Beaufort Memorial campus training to become Certified Patient Care Technicians (PCTs) or Clinical Medical Assistants. Their hard work has not only earned them credentials but also opened doors to immediate job opportunities and future careers in the medical field.

Several graduates plan to begin working right away, with five already hired at Beaufort Memorial. Others will continue their education in nursing, biology, or pre-med programs at colleges including Anderson University, Claflin University, and the College of Charleston.

Students expressed pride in their accomplishments and gratitude for the program's impact, noting how it provided valuable skills, confidence, and a strong foundation for their futures in healthcare.



High School Dual Enrollment Grads





Several Beaufort County School District high school students are celebrating a major academic milestone—graduating from the Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) with associate degrees and professional certifications while still in high school.

These remarkable achievements are made possible through a partnership between BCSD and TCL that provides dual enrollment opportunities to qualified students. Students are able to take college-level courses taught by TCL instructors.

Balancing high school and college coursework is no small feat, but these students have shown tremendous dedication and are leaving with a significant head start—whether they're entering the workforce or continuing their education.





The district is incredibly proud of their hard work and the bright futures that lie ahead for these members of the Class of 2025.

SCAN ME! »

BCSD 2025–26 Teachers and Support Staff of the Year

Beaufort County School District celebrated its 2025–26 Teachers and Support Staff of the Year with surprise announcement inviting family and friends to help celebrate.

Chosen by their peers, these honorees were recognized for their dedication, impact, and commitment to students and schools.

Teachers are eligible for District Teacher of the Year next fall, while support staff honorees—ranging from nurses to office managers—are in the running for District Support Staff of the Year. **To see the full list of honorees, scan the QR code below:**

SCAN ME! »

Mossy Oaks Home to BCSD Induction Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Cass, a first-grade teacher at Mossy Oaks Elementary, was recently surprised with the honor of being named Beaufort County School District's Induction Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes her exceptional work and dedication in her first year in the classroom.

"There are moments when you doubt yourself, but then the kids walk in and remind you why you're here," Miss Cass shared through tears of joy. "I know I'm meant to teach."

Her colleagues and mentor praised her for building strong relationships with students, delivering thoughtful and engaging lessons, and bringing warmth and positivity to the school.

"She's caring, organized, and truly dedicated to her students," said her mentor. "She absolutely deserves this recognition."
Miss Cass is now a contender for the South Carolina State Induction Teacher of the Year.



Back to School Expo

Beaufort County School District's Back to School Expo will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at Battery Creek High School, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event presents the opportunity for parents, students, educators, and community members to connect with education, health, and community business partners in person.

The expo will also offer a free boxed lunch for all participants, door prizes, and school supplies for students.

Scan the QR code below to register for this event!

BACK TO SCHOOL EXPO

SCAN ME! »



March STOM

March's character trait was "self-control."

The March student of the month for Northern Beaufort County was Makhi Fripp, a seventh-grade student at Lady's Island Middle School.

He was nominated by Dr. Karen Parker, his English, Homeroom, and Advisory teacher for his remarkable self-control, resilience, and positive attitude.

Makhi shows exceptional maturity by never showing frustration. Instead, he handles adversity with grace, seeks support when needed, and works hard to build trusting relationships with staff. His ability to persevere and remain composed under pressure makes him a role model for his peers and a deserving recipient of this honor.



April STOM

April's character trait was "forgiveness."

The April student of the month for Northern Beaufort County was Destiny Simmons, a seventh-grade student at Lady's Island Middle School.

Destiny is described as a universally respected and beloved member of the school community—by both staff and peers.

Destiny's ability to empathize and forgive was especially evident during a difficult moment involving another student. Though visibly upset, she chose not to respond with anger or resentment. Instead, she showed maturity and kindness, later reassuring the student that all was forgiven. This is just one example of Destiny's thoughtful and compassionate nature.

Her balance of playfulness and emotional strength makes her a role model throughout the school.



May STOM

May's character trait was "Responsibility/Cooperation.

The May student of the month for Northern Beaufort County was Bryan Parker, a eighth-grade student at Beaufort Middle School.

Bryan Parker consistently exemplifies responsibility and cooperation through his dedication to both academics and extracurricular activities. A focused and well-mannered student, Bryan follows directions carefully and takes pride in completing tasks with precision. As a band member and lead actor in Newsies Jr. at Beaufort Middle School, he demonstrates strong leadership and commitment to his roles.

His teachers commend his punctuality, excellent attendance, and articulate communication. Bryan's diligence and positive attitude make him a standout student and a deserving candidate for May's student of the month.

Beaufort High School JROTC Wins Sword of Excellence

For the first time ever Beaufort High School's Air Force JROTC unit has received the prestigious Sword of Excellence for Outstanding Small Unit, awarded by the Aryan Space Forces Association. This honor, presented during the unit's annual awards ceremony, recognizes them as the top small JROTC unit in South Carolina for programs with fewer than 150 cadets.

The award reflects the cadets' daily hard work, leadership, and commitment to excellence in running the corps. The Sword of Excellence is a traveling trophy that Beaufort High will proudly display for the year, along with a $500 grant to support and strengthen the program. The unit's success is credited to outstanding community service, school involvement, and participation in various competitions across Charleston and Beaufort.

Instructors and cadets alike are praised for their teamwork, dedication, and positive spirit, inspiring others toward careers in the military, public service, or civilian fields. The ceremony also featured medals presented by local veteran organizations to recognize exceptional leadership and service among cadets. This award stands as a proud testament to Beaufort High's JROTC program's impact and excellence.





School Wellness Efforts Pay Off

Healthy habits have paid off in a big way for Beaufort Elementary School, which has been named the grand prize winner of this year's MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness Challenge. The school earned a $2,000 award for its outstanding commitment to promoting health and wellness among students and staff.

Throughout the school year, Beaufort Elementary participated in a variety of wellness initiatives, including the installation of an adaptive climbing wall and a sensory path, a staff wellness challenge with over 40 participants, and a flourishing school garden used for hands-on nutrition lessons. These activities encouraged healthier lifestyles and active engagement across the school community.

Beaufort Elementary also stood out for mentoring another school in the District, helping guide their wellness efforts—a collaboration that led to additional District-wide recognition.

School leaders emphasized the importance of teaching students healthy habits early, not only to benefit their own futures but also to inspire wellness throughout their families and the wider community.





SCASA Honors Alice Walton with 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award

The South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) annually honors up to three veteran education leaders with its Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, Ms. Alice Walton, Chief Administrative & Human Resources Officer for Beaufort County School District, is a proud recipient.

For over a decade, Ms. Walton has led key initiatives like the Substitute Blitz, Job Fair, International Nights, salary compensation study, and the district's COVID-19 response. Her leadership ensures the district hires and supports educators effectively across all areas.

Beyond her expertise, she challenges those around her to perform their best—a true mark of exceptional leadership.

Beaufort County School District congratulates Ms. Walton on this well-deserved honor recognizing her lifelong dedication and impact.

WE'RE HIRING!

Are you an exceptional educator ready to make a difference? Beaufort County School District is searching for the best and brightest educators for the 2025-2026 school year!

✨ Why BCSD?
- ✅ One of the top-paying school districts in South Carolina
- ✅ A supportive community dedicated to student success
- ✅ Opportunities to grow your career in education leadership

Don't miss this opportunity to join a district that values its educators and students. Apply today and take the next step in your teaching career!

We can't wait to meet you and share why BCSD is the best place to teach and grow.

Want to Apply? Scan the QR code to view current job listings.

SCAN ME! »

New Principals at five Beaufort County Schools

Beaufort County School District is pleased to announce new principals for the 2025-2026 school year at five schools.

Michelle de Bruin, formerly Assistant Principal at Beaufort Elementary, will assume the Principal role, succeeding Michelle Sackman, who has transitioned to the District Office. De Bruin brings extensive district experience and plans to enhance STEM initiatives and family engagement.

At Coosa Elementary, Kelly Goudy will take over as Principal, replacing Melissa Pender, who now serves as a District Executive Director. Goudy offers strong leadership experience and is pursuing a doctorate in educational innovation.

Dr. Elandee Thompson, previously Principal of Beaufort Middle, will become Principal at Battery Creek High School, succeeding Denise Lessard, who has moved to the District Office's student services division. Thompson has 28 years of experience in BCSD as both teacher and administrator and holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction.

Freda McCanick, Assistant Principal at Whale Branch Early College High School, will step into the Principal role following Dr. Sonji Leach's move to the District Office. McCanick has a solid background in literacy and educational leadership.

At Bluffton Elementary, Dr. Brandi Bullock will replace Paula Brown, who is retiring after 28 years with BCSD. Bullock served as the District's Director of Teaching and Learning and brings broad experience in instructional leadership and school administration.