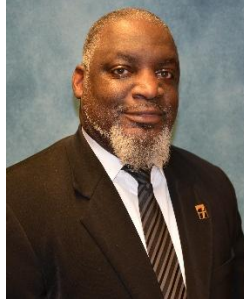




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Media Release



Jermaine Joyner
 Principal of Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies

Honoring Vanessa Brown's Service; Jermaine Joyner Named Principal of Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies

Charleston, SC (March 18, 2026) - Charleston County School District (CCSD) announced today that Vanessa Brown, principal of the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (CRCAS), will retire effective June 30, 2026, following a distinguished career serving students and families across the district. Jermaine Joyner has been selected as the next principal of CRCAS and will begin in the role on July 1, 2026.

Brown has dedicated decades to public education in Charleston County, serving as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for her steady leadership, commitment to students, and dedication to supporting educators and building strong relationships with families and community partners.

As principal of the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies, Brown helped strengthen the center's role as a regional hub for career and technical education, expanding opportunities for students to explore career pathways, gain hands-on experience, and earn industry-recognized credentials aligned with high-demand workforce fields.

"Ms. Brown has dedicated her career to serving students and supporting educators across Charleston County," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "Her leadership at the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies has helped expand opportunities for students to explore meaningful career pathways while building strong partnerships with schools and industry leaders. We are grateful for her years of service and the lasting impact she has made on our district."

Joyner currently serves as principal of St. John's High School, where he has led significant improvements in student outcomes. Under his leadership, the school's College and Career Readiness rate increased from 62.1 percent to 96.2 percent, while the four-year graduation rate



rose from 87.4 percent to 92.5 percent. He also expanded dual enrollment opportunities and introduced new academic and extracurricular programs designed to increase access and engagement for students.

A graduate of North Charleston High School, Joyner began his career in CCSD as a student concern specialist before becoming a middle school social studies teacher. Over the years, he has served in several leadership roles across the district, including assistant principal, instructional leader, and principal, building a reputation for strong instructional leadership and a deep commitment to student success.

“Mr. Joyner is a dedicated educator and leader who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to helping students succeed both academically and professionally,” said Huggins. “His experience leading schools, strengthening student outcomes, and expanding career-connected learning opportunities makes him well-positioned to lead the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies into its next chapter.”

Joyner said he looks forward to continuing the center’s mission of preparing students for the workforce while building on the strong foundation established under Brown’s leadership.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies,” Joyner said. “This center plays a vital role in helping students gain real-world skills and industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields. I look forward to working alongside our partner schools, educators, and industry leaders to expand opportunities that prepare students for success in college, career, and life.”

The district will recognize Brown’s many contributions to Charleston County School District and the Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies in the coming months as she concludes her remarkable career in education.

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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.