



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Monday, March 23, 2026 Board Recognitions Honor Academics, Athletics, and the 212 Degree Award Winner

Charleston, SC (March 24, 2026) - Health Science students from Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies were recognized at the Board of Trustees Meeting for earning the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant credential through the National Healthcareer Association (NHA). Litzzy Rivera Reyes, Kamora Green, and Sanaai Spillers are part of the first cohort of students in district history to earn the recognition. To qualify for certification, students completed the rigorous Health Science curriculum at Cooper River, committed to independent study of the NHA curriculum beyond the school day, and participated in an intensive internship program with Roper Hospital.

This milestone would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the Cooper River Health Science Department. School leaders credit Linda Smith, Natasha Bratton, and Kelly Kelleher for their commitment to student success and excellence in healthcare education.

Military Magnet Academy Girls' Basketball Team

Also making history was the Military Magnet Academy (MMA) Girls Basketball team. The dynasty has already been established; they are just adding to it. The Eagles rolled to their second straight South Carolina High School League A state title earlier this month with a 70-21 victory over Great Falls at Colonial Life Arena in Columbia.

MMA, which finished the year with a 26-4 record, has now won the state title five times in the last six years, extending its Charleston County School District record for the most state titles by a basketball program (boys or girls).

Eighth-grader Mariah Brown led the way with 25 points, while freshman Kaleah Brown-King added 11 points and seven rebounds. The team's lone senior, Da'Nariyah Williams, contributed with 10 points and eight rebounds.

The championship run was especially impressive, given that the team graduated six seniors from last year's title squad.

Williams, who averaged 16.4 points and 10.5 rebounds per game this season and was named the state's 1-A player of the year, provided leadership both on and off the court.

212 Degree Award Winner

Freddie Rodaste of Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School is the most impactful and effective Day Porter/Custodian the school has seen. For that, he is the district's newest 212 Degree Award Winner. According to Principal Timothy Sullivan, nobody works harder, nobody cares more about doing a great job, nobody responds to calls quicker, and nobody is more pleasant than Mr. Rodaste.

No day is a typical day. Rodaste has killed snakes, wrestled alligators, captured raccoons, and eliminated any rodents or reptiles that have entered the school. The floors, walls, and bathrooms are spotless, and he begins every day making sure the grounds are safe and free of any debris.

In Principal Sullivan's first year at Ashley River, Rodaste was awarded the Day Porter of the Year for his exceptional talents. Instead of bestowing the award on Rodaste year after year, it was suggested that the award be called "The Freddie." Griswold

Last year, Rodaste fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming an American citizen. He got a 100% on the exam and frequently quizzes Sullivan on the Bill of Rights, the number of US Representatives in Congress, and the number of people who signed the Declaration of Independence. Freddie is very proud to be an American citizen, proud of his Filipino heritage, and the proudest Day Porter on the planet.

"There is no one in CCSD who epitomizes the extra degree more than Freddie Rodaste," added Principal Sullivan.

For more information, 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.