



Charleston County School District
Office of Communications
 75 Calhoun St.,
 Charleston, SC 29401
 (843) 937-6303

Media Release



Nate Nelson
 Interim Principal of Simmons-Pinckney Middle School

CCSD Welcomes Founding Principal Nathan Nelson Back to Lead Simmons-Pinckney as Interim Principal

Charleston, SC (April 17, 2026) - Charleston County School District is proud to welcome Nathan Nelson as Interim Principal of Simmons-Pinckney Middle School, effective July 1. His history with the school and deep roots in the Charleston community uniquely position him for this role.

Mr. Nelson returns to Simmons-Pinckney as its founding principal, having led the school during its formative years. Under his leadership, Simmons-Pinckney experienced significant academic growth, including being removed from the state's priority list within the same year it was identified and improving its state report card rating from "Unsatisfactory" to "Average" within its first three years.

During his tenure, Mr. Nelson built a school model centered on personalized learning and strong instructional practices. He led the implementation of a blended learning environment, expanded access to fine arts and STEAM programming, and introduced opportunities such as project-based learning, AVID cohorts, and 1:1 technology to better meet the needs of every student. These efforts resulted in national recognition for Simmons-Pinckney as an AVID Emerging Site and for its progress in personalized learning.

With more than 13 years of experience in education, Mr. Nelson brings a diverse and well-rounded background to this role. In addition to his work as a principal and assistant principal, he has served as an educational consultant supporting school and district leaders, a classroom teacher, and a leader in arts education. He holds a Master of Science in Educational Leadership and Supervision and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education.

A Charleston native, Mr. Nelson is currently in his fourth year as the Principal of Allegro Charter School of Music, where he has shown strong instructional leadership and a commitment to academic excellence. Under his guidance, Allegro's middle school has received a "Good" rating on the South Carolina State Report Card, while the high school has achieved an "Excellent"

rating. These accomplishments reflect the effective systems, focused instruction, and collaborative culture that he has fostered at the school.

Mr. Nelson's career reflects a deep commitment to service and community. He is a United States Army veteran and former law enforcement officer, experiences that have shaped his leadership approach and his focus on safety, structure, and strong relationships within schools.

In addition, Mr. Nelson brings extensive experience in the arts as an educator and leader, including his work with Lowcountry Voices. His background in music and arts education has helped expand access to creative opportunities for students and will strongly support the continued growth of the Linard McCloud Cultural Arts Collective and the expanded arts experiences at Simmons-Pinckney.

Known for his focus on instructional leadership, teacher development, and building strong school communities, Mr. Nelson has consistently supported both student achievement and staff growth. His leadership emphasizes collaboration, high expectations, and a commitment to student success.

"We are honored to welcome Mr. Nelson back to Simmons-Pinckney," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "He understands this school, he understands this community, and he brings the experience, vision, and heart needed to continue moving this work forward. His leadership will provide stability while continuing to build on the strong foundation already in place."

Mr. Nelson's return comes at an important time as Simmons-Pinckney continues to grow as part of the Peninsula Promise. His familiarity with the school's history, combined with his forward-thinking approach to teaching and learning, will help ensure continuity while accelerating student progress.

Charleston County School District looks forward to the leadership, experience, and commitment that Nate Nelson will bring as he steps into this role and continues to support the students, staff, and families of Simmons-Pinckney Middle School.

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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.