Barnwell County School District

770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, South Carolina 29812
Phone: 803-541-1300
www.bcsd.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette Recognizes Barnwell County Student Justin Kinard at Statehouse for Statewide Art Achievement

Barnwell County School District is proud to celebrate Justin Kinard, a student at Kelly Edwards Elementary School, who was recognized at the South Carolina Statehouse on April 2, 2026, for his outstanding achievement in the statewide Governor's Art Contest on Litter Prevention.

Justin was honored by Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette during a special ceremony highlighting student finalists from across the state. Hosted in partnership with PalmettoPride, the annual contest invites elementary students to creatively promote environmental stewardship through art. Also at the Statehouse to congratulate Justin were Senator Brad Hutto and Representative Lonnie Hosey, who joined in recognizing his accomplishment.


The Lieutenant Governor presents Justin Kinard with his award.

Each year, students from across South Carolina participate in the Governor's Art Contest, illustrating the theme *"Litter Trashes Everyone."* Through their artwork, students encourage residents of all ages to appreciate the natural beauty of the state and take responsibility for keeping roadways, waterways, and communities clean.

Justin was named a semifinalist at the state level, representing not only Barnwell County but also one of twelve counties in PalmettoPride's Lowcountry region, which includes Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, and Orangeburg counties.

In addition to his recognition at the Statehouse, Justin was further honored locally during the April 14, 2026, meeting of the Barnwell County Council, where he was presented with an official resolution in recognition of his accomplishment and his representation of the community on a statewide stage.

Justin's parents, Johnny and Erica Kinard, shared that they are extremely proud of him, noting that he has made history as the first-ever Barnwell County student to receive this award.

"Justin's achievement is something our entire community can take pride in," said Superintendent Dr. Crissie Stapleton. "His creativity and message serve as a reminder that our students are not only talented, but also thoughtful leaders who care deeply about the world around them. We are incredibly proud of the example he is setting for others."

Justin's artwork stood among the top entries in a statewide field, reflecting both artistic talent and a strong understanding of the importance of environmental responsibility.

Barnwell County School District congratulates Justin Kinard on this outstanding accomplishment and extends appreciation to PalmettoPride and Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette for their continued support in recognizing and uplifting student voices across South Carolina.

For more information regarding BCSD news releases, contact:
Barnwell County School District Superintendent Office
Phone: (803) 541-3590
Email: cstapleton@bcsd.net