



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

Media Release

Two Standout Educators in CCSD Share Special Connection

Mount Pleasant, SC (May 5, 2026) - During the 2005-2006 school year, Alex Langdale was a senior at Wando High School, taking Wildlife Biology. While Alex (now Sirles) wasn't extremely interested in science, she did appreciate her teacher, Diane Krishon.

"She pushed me outside of my comfort zone because science wasn't my strong suit," explained Sirles. "That's why I find it so intriguing that she is so memorable, because it wasn't my [favorite subject], but it stood out because of how she approached it with me."

Krishon clearly had a lasting impact on Sirles, because two decades later, Sirles is using some of those same approaches in her own third-grade classroom at Belle Hall Elementary School. In fact, one could say Krishon's influence is a reason why her former student is Belle Hall's current Teacher of the Year.

"I learned how to love teaching and set high expectations for my kids," Sirles said. "Mrs. Krishon expected us to listen and get our work done, but in a loving way. That's what I learned through her, and tried to carry on into my internship, my field experience, and even now, teaching."

The connection does not end there between the two educators - Krishon is Wando's current Teacher of the Year. Another staff member at the high school, PE teacher Cole Condon, saw the list of 2026 school Teachers of the Year in Charleston County School District and put the names and faces together. She relayed that information to Principal Chas Coker, who informed the Office of Communications, and, after a series of emails, Krishon and Sirles were connected again.

"This is really sweet - I am trying not to cry," Krishon explained during the joint interview. "I am so proud of you, Alex. I don't remember what I did in class, but I am glad she remembers it well and fondly."

"I think it's so cool that someone picked up on that [connection of me being a student in her classroom]," added Sirles. "I would have seen you at the gala next year and said, 'Oh, hey - you taught me.' This is so cool to be reconnected like this. This doesn't happen very often."

Krishon mentioned that after learning about this story, she pulled out the 2006 *Legend* yearbook from Wando, found Alex's picture, and reminisced about that class.

"I had the best time just bringing up those memories," Krishon reflected. "It does not seem like it's been 20 years. But, they were just the sweetest, kindest, funniest, and most interactive kids."

Well, they're not kids anymore. But I kept going through the pages, and I had the best time bringing some of those memories back."

Krishon also taught Sirles' brother, husband, and many people she is close to.

"I've brought this story up to a lot of my friends who I am still friends with from high school, and everyone remembers Mrs. Krishon," added Sirles. "Your impact is making a huge difference."

Sirles, who is in her 15th year of teaching (ninth at Belle Hall), is embracing her role as a leader, and maybe a small celebrity, in the community.

"My husband doesn't like to go to the grocery store with me," joked Sirles. "He says we are there just to get one thing, and then we end up stopping for five different people. You just don't realize how close a community it is until you are out of the building. There is something about hearing your name being called across a parking lot."

Krishon actually didn't start her career in education - she pursued a degree in wildlife at the University of Georgia and worked in the Forest Service for six months. But she felt a calling to teach, went to graduate school, and became a science teacher in the Pee Dee region, then landed at Wando in the early 2000's, where she has become a fixture in the community.

"I see a lot of my former students out and about," Krishon explained. "They'll have little kids [of their own], and they will call me Mrs. Krishon. I think the bottom line is, you have to like kids to do this job. But I love [teaching high school] because there is this fierce independence, but still a little nervousness and real curiosity about the world and their next step - I just love seeing that transition."

While Sirles teaches elementary-aged students, she agreed with Krishon's take. In fact, they agreed about almost everything related to the profession. And this unique connection they now share, and this one-of-a-kind story, highlight what they mean to each other and the area they serve - together, just in different locations.

"You have a reputation in the community," said Sirles. "I set my standard high. I want not only to make the kids in my classroom proud, but also the other teachers at my school, the teachers I have grown up with, their parents, their siblings, coaches - it goes further than what we are doing inside the four walls of our classroom."

"Clearly, it makes you feel good to be recognized," Krishon added, "It is a boost, a real morale boost - not to be forgotten."

###

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.



Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools
Andy Pruitt, Director of Communications