



Charleston County School District
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Media Release



Sean Bishton
 Principal of St. John's High School

Globally Experienced Educator Sean Bishton Returns to Charleston to Lead St. John's High School

Charleston, SC (May 6, 2026) - Charleston County School District (CCSD) is pleased to announce that Sean Bishton has been named principal of St. John's High School, effective July 1, 2026, marking a return to Charleston County, where he previously served as a middle school math coach supporting instruction and student achievement across multiple schools.

Mr. Bishton brings more than 30 years of experience in education. A native of South Africa, he brings a global perspective to his work, shaped by leadership roles at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

"We are excited to welcome Mr. Bishton back to Charleston County," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "He brings a depth of experience, a strong instructional focus, and a genuine commitment to building relationships with students, staff, and families. His leadership has consistently resulted in stronger outcomes for students, and I am confident he will build on the proud tradition of St. John's High School."

Mr. Bishton currently serves as principal of Pelion High School, where he has led measurable gains in student achievement across all four core content areas and helped improve the school's report card rating through a focused, data-driven approach. He has expanded access to advanced coursework, strengthened fine arts and extracurricular programs, and established a Freshman Academy to better support students transitioning into high school.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Bishton served as principal of Muller Road Middle School, where he led significant academic growth, including a 30% increase in English Language Arts scores and a 10% increase in math achievement. The school earned national and state recognition during his tenure, including designation as a National School to Watch and an AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction.



In addition to his work in South Carolina, Mr. Bishton brings a global perspective shaped by his early leadership roles in South Africa, where he served as a deputy headmaster and teacher. In these roles, he supported school operations, developed curriculum, led staff development, and coordinated student programs and extracurricular activities, experiences that continue to influence his focus on strong school culture, leadership development, and student engagement.

He began his career in the classroom and has served students in a variety of roles, including teacher, instructional coach, and administrator. His experience in Charleston County earlier in his career, through supporting curriculum implementation, professional development, and data-driven instruction, provides a strong foundation as he returns to serve the St. John's community.

Mr. Bishton will work closely with Executive Associate and St. John's High School leader Vanessa Denney to ensure a strong and thoughtful transition for students, staff, and families. Their collaboration will support continuity, strengthen school leadership, and build on the relationships and momentum already in place within the St. John's community.

Mr. Bishton holds a Bachelor of Primary Education from the University of Cape Town, a Master of Education from Francis Marion University, and an Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Capella University. He is also a National Board Certified educator and has received numerous honors for his leadership and impact.

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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.