



Thomas C. Cario Middle School
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Media Release

Cario's Mock Trial Team Finishes in Top Eight at State Competition

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The **Thomas C. Cario Middle School** Mock Trial team advanced to the state Mock Trial competition, sponsored by the South Carolina Bar Association, and finished in the top eight. Cario was the only middle school from the Charleston County School District (CCSD) to qualify for the state competition. Twenty-three teams competed in Conway, SC, and Cario was one of the top two schools from the regional competition to advance to the final round.

Cario won the Civility Award at the regional competition. This award is considered the top award because it is voted on by the other teams, not by the judges or the juries before whom the students argue their case. This award is given to the team that exemplifies kindness, courtesy, and professionalism at the competition.

"I am so proud of our students for winning this award," said Gerilyn Graham Leland 8th Grade SC History Teacher and the team's teacher monitor. "Although we did not win the state Title, we held our own against some mighty powerful mock trial teams from the upstate. I could not have done this without the help of our volunteer attorney coaches and the support of our parents and our administration. As they say, it takes a village!"

These sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students met twice a week for several weeks, learning how to speak in front of an audience, how to use evidence to argue a point, and how to do all of that civilly.

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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.