Academic Magnet High School
Barrett Reese, Principal
5109-A West Enterprise Street
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 746-1300

Media Release

Academic Magnet High School Graduate Named 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholar

North Charleston, SC (October 29, 2026) - Maddy Jolly, a 2026 graduate of Academic Magnet High School (AMHS), has been named a 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholar by the U.S. Department of Education, earning one of the nation's highest honors for graduating high school seniors.

Jolly is among just 161 students nationwide selected for the prestigious recognition and one of only 20 students recognized specifically for excellence in Career and Technical Education (CTE). She is now a freshman at Clemson University Honors College studying Engineering.

Established in 1964 by executive order of the President, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognizes some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors for their accomplishments in academic achievement, leadership, character, and service to their schools and communities.

The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize exceptional achievement in the arts and again in 2015 to honor students demonstrating outstanding ability and accomplishment in career and technical education.

Jolly applied for the program during her senior year at Academic Magnet High School and was recently notified of her selection as a member of the 2026 class.

"This is an extraordinary achievement, and we could not be prouder of Maddy," said Principal Barrett Reese. "To be recognized among just 161 students across the entire country, and as one of only 20 Career and Technical Education Scholars, speaks volumes about her dedication, talent, and commitment to excellence. Maddy represents the very best of what we hope for every graduate: a young person prepared to pursue her passions, embrace opportunities, and make a meaningful impact on the world. We celebrate this remarkable accomplishment alongside her family, teachers, and the entire Academic Magnet community."

Each year, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognizes students through three pathways: general academic achievement, excellence in the arts, and accomplishment in career and technical education. Scholars are selected through a rigorous process that considers their achievements and contributions both inside and outside the classroom.

As a member of the 2026 class, Jolly joins an exceptional group of young leaders whose accomplishments reflect the promise and potential of the nation's next generation. Presidential Scholars receive a Presidential Scholars Medallion in recognition of their achievement.

For more information about the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program and to view the complete list of 2026 honorees, visit the U.S. Department of Education's announcement.

For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

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 50,000 students in 88 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.