

Proof Positive

August 15, 2017 | Board of Trustees Meeting
LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

2016–2017 Midlands High School Bowling League Boys Champions



Students from Lexington District One competed at the national level this summer after qualifying in a new sport. Representing River Bluff High, Gilbert High's **Brandon J. Blankenship**, Lexington High's **Logan T. Dixon** and RBHS's **Nathan S. Barnes**, **Austin K. Jones**, **Brett O. Neeley**, **Ryan A. Paradise**, **Sean R. Pollworth** and **Samuel D. Sexton** won the 2016–2017 Midlands High School Bowling League Boys Championship.

RBHS bested four other bowling teams from South Carolina with a combined pin count of 11,214, more than 800 pins above the second-place team, to win the regular season league championship. The students then won the end-of-the-year tournament to send them to the national level.

Blankenship averaged 202 pins a game with Jones and Pollworth right behind him with an average score of 195.

At the U.S. High School Bowling National Championship, held June 24–25, the team finished 25th out of 41 teams. Jones bowled just a couple of pins shy of a top 100 individual finish.

Coached by RBHS Mathematics Teacher Andrew Wardyn, the team won its second league championship this year and is part of the effort to grow bowling into an official high school league sport. Winning the Midlands High School Bowling League Championship is the highest state award a team can win at this time.

2016–2017 Midlands High School Bowling League Girls Champions

Winners of the 2016–2017 Midlands High School Bowling League Girls Championship represented White Knoll High and include Carolina Springs Middle's **Kassandra R. Sacco**, Gilbert High's **Savannah N. Dudney** and White Knoll High's **Marguerite L. Azzara**, **Jenny L. Nankoua Yongue** and **Madison G. Zitkus**.

Competing against three other high school bowling teams, WKHS finished with a combined pin count of 8,522 during the regular season, 954 pins more than the second-place team. Dudney led the team with an average score of 172.5, with Azzara following with an average of 160.5.

Coached by WKHS English Teacher Amy Blackburn, the team qualified for nationals by winning the regular season and end-of-the-year tournament, but decided not to compete due to a prior scheduling conflict. More South Carolina schools are forming bowling teams, but winning the Midlands High School Bowling League Championship is the highest state award a team can win at this time.



2017 American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State Governor and Lieutenant Governor

From among 650-plus student delegates across South Carolina, two Lexington District One River Bluff High seniors, **Laura-Louise Rice** and **Sydney A. Torbett**, were chosen to represent this year's Palmetto Girls State attendees as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

Delegates last elected a governor and lieutenant governor from the same high school in the 1980s.

During the 71st session of the American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State held at Presbyterian College on June 11–17, 2017, organizers packed the week with leadership training, hands-on learning about state and local government, and panels of guest speakers who are experts in their field.

Delegates created policies and campaign platforms, gave passionate speeches in support of their causes.



2017 South Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education Career Guidance Award Recipient

Career Specialist **Michele D. Lucas** won a state honor for her tireless support of students at Lexington Technology Center.

Lucas received the Career Guidance Award from the South Carolina Association of Career and Technology Education. According to the organization, the award recognizes people who go above and beyond to advocate for career and technology education, as well as helping students identify their strengths and talents to develop achievable academic and career goals.

Part of LTC's staff since 2009, Lucas works with students as they begin their area of study at LTC and explore career clusters through interest inventories, coordinating field studies, as well as promoting job shadowing and apprenticeships. She organizes job fairs, assists LTC instructors and students in identifying industry contacts, and coordinates the Work-Based Learning program at LTC, which includes workshops on soft skills, résumé writing and interview prep.



South Carolina Association for Pupil Transportation 2017 Humanitarian of the Year

A statewide bus driver organization recently honored Transportation Coordinator George L. Blackwell with one of its top honors. During the South Carolina Association for Pupil Transportation Annual Conference on July 18, he was named the 2017 Humanitarian of the Year.

Director of Transportation William A. Kurts nominated Blackwell for the award, describing his years of dedication, compassion and service to school children. Kurts says Blackwell always greets bus drivers with a smile and "truly goes the extra mile" to ensure student safety.

Before joining Lexington District One, Blackwell worked for the South Carolina Highway Patrol and was assigned to the South Carolina Department of Education as safety coordinator.



Apple Distinguished Educator

Meghan Blackburn joins a group of tech-savvy educators who are taking their classrooms to the next level with Apple tools. Blackburn works as an autism resource teacher at Lexington Middle and an instructional assistive technology facilitator for the district's Special Services Office.

The Apple Distinguished Educators program invited Blackburn to participate in its 2017 class after reviewing her application, which included a video of Blackburn describing how she uses Apple technology to help her students practice valuable social skills they need in middle school.

As an Apple Distinguished Educator, Blackburn will share her knowledge and experience by advising other educators, authoring lessons and courses, and advocating for proper use of classroom technology. She will also collaborate with other Apple Distinguished Educators to improve teaching worldwide.

Blackburn joined LMS in 2012.

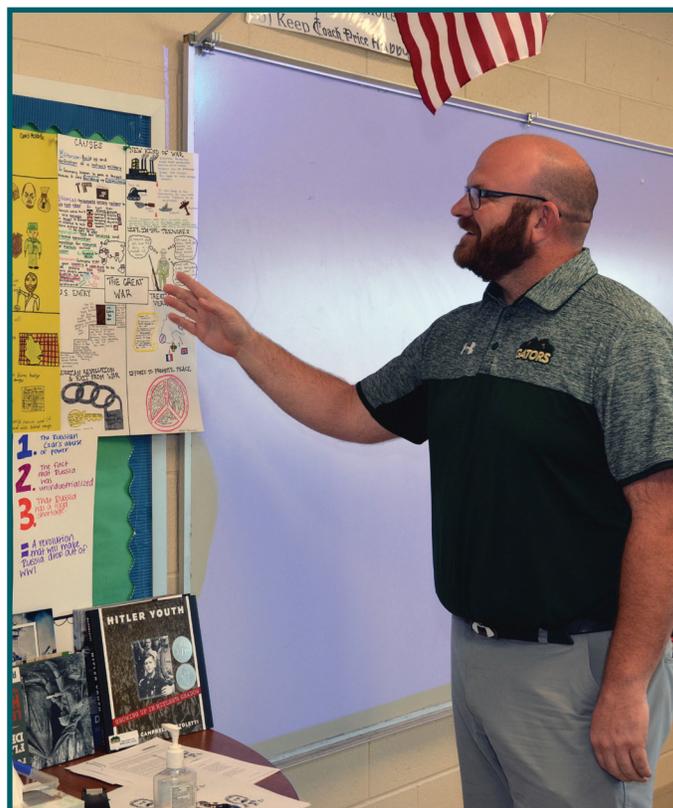
National Society of Daughters of Colonial Wars Outstanding American History Teacher of the Year Runner-Up

Meadow Glen Middle's **W. Derrick Price** finished second in a national competition for the country's most outstanding history teacher.

After being named State History Teacher of the Year by the South Carolina Daughters of Colonial Wars in February, Price competed at the national level for the National Society of Daughters of Colonial Wars Outstanding American History Teacher of the Year award.

The award recognizes educators who exemplify and promote patriotism and interest in American history and American heritage.

Price's classroom at MGMS buzzes with activity during each lesson as he deviates from traditional lectures to portraying historical figures. He encourages students to dig deep to analyze historical events. Price also invites guest speakers to talk about their role in some of those events.





New York University Steinhardt Programs in Music Education and Music Technology 2017 IMPACT Conference Presenter

Pelion High Fine Arts Department Head and Chorus Teacher **David G. Stephenson, Ph.D.** shared his knowledge of music education during a prestigious conference this summer. The New York University Steinhardt Programs in Music Education and Music Technology invited Stephenson to present at the 2017 IMPACT Conference on August 3.

During his presentation, “Making Music Appreciation Meaningful and Engaging: Pedagogical Approaches That Work,” Stephenson focused on solutions and strategies to make music appreciation courses enjoyable.

Stephenson jointly presented the topic with PHS Band Director Otto J. Hage at the South Carolina Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference in February. The presentation was then reviewed and approved for the IMPACT Conference.

Dynamic Learning Project Participants

Four Lexington District One middle schools joined an exclusive pilot program organized by industry leaders Google, Digital Promise and EdTechTeam.

Carolina Springs Middle Principal **Brice L.S. Cockfield, Ed.D.** and Digital Learning Coach **P. Jared Johnson**; Gilbert Middle Principal **Benjamin D. Ricard, Ed.D.** and Digital Learning Coach **Jennifer L. Byrd**; Pelion Middle Principal **Jeffrey A. Matthews** and Digital Learning Coach **Laura D. Beckham**; and White Knoll Middle Principal **Guy A. Smith**, Assistant Principal **E. Darlene Jackson** and Digital Learning Coach **Suzanne Brooks** attended a week-long institute, held July 17–21 at Google’s headquarters in California.



CSMS, GMS, PMS and WKMS are four of 50 schools chosen to participate in this program and will receive continued mentoring and professional development focused on using technology in powerful and effective ways.

Goals of the Dynamic Learning Project include streamlining existing structures for efficiency, empowering teachers to understand and use best practices for technology-based projects, improving the public’s understanding of these projects, and giving all students the opportunity to learn through research and technology.

Embedded coaching and training sessions at the schools promote teacher confidence in using technology effectively to address classroom challenges. With improved methods in place, students will be better able to use technology to experience new things, solve problems with critical thinking skills and remain engaged in learning.



Multiple schools recognized for ‘Green Steps’

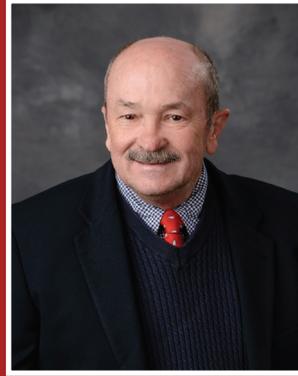
Six Lexington District One schools received recognition from Sonoco Recycling for taking steps to reduce waste, restore the local environment and live greener. Schools with at least one model project were named Green Steps Schools, while schools with at least six model projects, two in each of the categories of conserve, protect and restore, earned the additional title of Certified Green Steps Schools.

Gilbert Elementary also won the 2017 South Carolina Overall Green Steps School of the Year for exceptional “green” efforts. Students led seven projects during the 2016–2017 school year, ranging from recycling ink cartridges and cell phones to composting organic scraps for indoor worm bins and outdoor garden bins. They also created videos they used to educate their school family about they could recycle at home.

The district’s Green Steps Schools include Deerfield Elementary, represented by **Janet H. Malone**; Meadow Glen Elementary, led by **Jeanne K. McKinney**; and Meadow Glen Middle, led by **Melody J. Shafer**.

Certified Green Steps Schools include Gilbert Elementary, led by **Judy M. Whitesell**; Pleasant Hill Elementary, led by **M. Lumi Ciorcea, Anna S. Degtyareva and Maura A. Farley**; and River Bluff High, led by **Amy P. Price**.

Schools recycled plastic bags to make mats for homeless individuals, planted gardens, made art projects out of recycled materials, collected batteries for recycling, picked up trash in the communities surrounding the schools and made solar ovens out of pizza boxes.



South Carolina School Boards Association Boardmanship Institute Level 2 Completers

Three members of the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees recently completed Level 2 of the South Carolina School Boards Association's Boardmanship Institute.

Michael E. Anderson, Anne Marie Green and Grady V. Harmon Jr. reached Level 2 during the 2016–2017 school year. Level 6 is the highest recognition in the Boardmanship Institute.

Since 1982, the Boardmanship Institute has offered leadership-focused curriculum for board members on state and educational issues. Board members earn points for participating in statewide conferences and on-site training in their district, and the six levels are based on points accrued annually.



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Lexington County School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, genetic information or age in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in its programs and activities.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints. The Chief Human Resources Officer Michael L. Stacey handles inquiries/complaints regarding Title IX, inquiries/complaints regarding Title II with respect to employees and/or public access to buildings and grounds, and inquiries/complaints involving the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Inquiries/complaints regarding IDEA for students K–12 go to the Director of Special Services Wendy Balough, Ed.D. Inquiries/complaints regarding Section 504 for students K–12 go to the Director of School Counseling and Advisement Zan Tracy Pender. Inquiries/complaints regarding Title II implementation go to the Coordinator of Title II Part A Dianne Steelman.

Contact these people if you have questions regarding these issues at 100 Tarrar Springs Road, Lexington, SC 29072 and telephone number 803-821-1000.