

CHARLESTON'S INDEPENDENT

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

WWW.CHARLESTONSCHOOLDIRECTORY.COM

FROM PRE-SCHOOL
TO GRAD SCHOOL

Learn from
the Best

These
Schoolhouses
ROCK!

(And Have Class, Too!)

Prepare for
Success

OUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL
CHECKLIST



WEBSTER UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Webster University Degree Programs ... all about choices.



MASTER'S DEGREES:

- Master of Business Administration • Master of Health Administration • 1-Year MBA (*online*)

MASTER OF ARTS:

- Counseling • Business and Organizational Security Management
- Human Resources Development • Human Resources Management
- Information Technology Management • Management and Leadership
Procurement and Acquisitions Management

BACHELOR'S DEGREE (COMPLETION):

- Management • Psychology • Nursing - RN to BSN (*online only*)

Webster UNIVERSITY

Webster is the only Tier 1, private, nonprofit university with campus locations around the world including metropolitan areas, military bases, online and corporate locations — plus traditional, American-style campuses in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Charleston Metropolitan & Joint Base Charleston Campuses

4105 Faber Place Dr., North Charleston, 29405

843-760-1324 • webster.edu/charleston

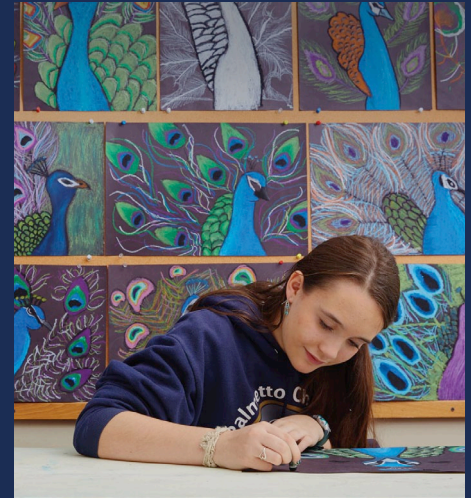
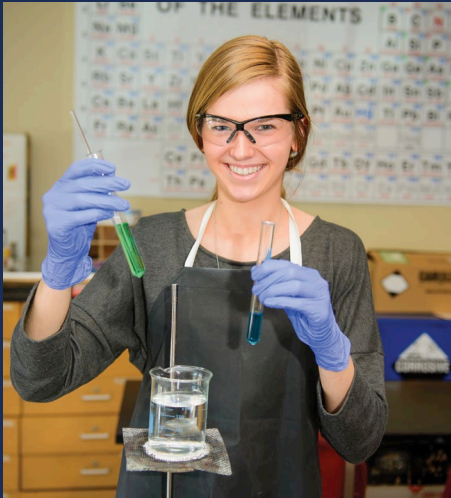


PALMETTO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

PRESCHOOL - 12TH GRADE

Contact us today for more information: admissions@palmettochristianacademy.org

Educating... Equipping... Inspiring Students for Christ



Discover an exceptional education at Palmetto Christian Academy!

- *Educating* future generations: Celebrating 25 years of partnering with Christian families in the Charleston area
- *Equipping* students for success: Class of 2015 earned more than 2.3 million dollars in scholarships
- *Inspiring* athletic achievement: 19 state championships in five different sports since 2005



Voted Best Private School
in Mount Pleasant!

*Best Of Winners
2 Years in a Row!*



Voted Best Private School
in Mount Pleasant!



361 Egypt Road, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

843.881.9967

admissions@palmettochristianacademy.org
www.palmettochristianacademy.org





A MEMBER OF

THE LEADING HOTELS
OF THE WORLD®

Grand Opening Preview Offer Exclusively for Charleston Area Residents!

We would like our neighbors to share in the excitement of our grand opening. Book a stay with us during the month of September 2016 and receive 25% off the nightly guestroom rate along with breakfast for two. Experience Charleston from a new perspective.



Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina

20 Patriots Point Road. Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 843.856.0028

CharlestonHarborResort.com  CharlestonHarborResort  CHSResort  CharlestonHarborResort

CHARLESTON "BUY FROM THE BEST FOR LESS!"™



Looking for the best deal on just about everything? Top TEN PERCENT lets you Buy From The Best For Less!™ Not only will you find the absolute lowest prices on things you are already buying, you will also be able to buy them from the top-rated businesses in the area! Visit us at:

www.TopTenPercent.com

Each Franchised Location is Independently Owned and Operated.



WHAT'S TOP TEN PERCENT?

TTP harnesses the power of mobile marketing to instantly connect consumers to product and service discounts from top-rated Charleston area businesses at the point of purchase. Businesses are first nominated by consumer members and evaluated against our selection criteria before being chosen as TTP Award Winners. These best-in-class businesses benefit from the recognition they receive from TTP's endorsement and they are "digitally" connected to loyal, repeat buyers at the feasible discount price point.



FOR YOUR FREE LIFETIME CHARTER MEMBERSHIP VISIT:

www.TopTenPercent.com

Use Promo Code: 10796

THANKS for VOTING us BEST in MOUNT PLEASANT



4 Years In A Row!



**BOX AND JESSIE
IN THE MORNING**
6AM to 10AM

LAURA LEE
10AM to 3PM

CRITIC
3PM to 7PM

WOLF
7PM to 12AM

[f /1055thebridge](https://www.facebook.com/1055thebridge) [@TheBridgeat1055](https://twitter.com/TheBridgeat1055)

Tune in on the radio, or online at:
[1055thebridge .com](http://1055thebridge.com)

Start the Year Off Right

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

AS THE SUMMER BEGINS TO wind down, you may find yourself scrambling to get your children ready for a brand-new school year. To make your life easier, we've put together a list of ways to ensure that your child starts off on the right foot.

Doctor visits: First things first – make an appointment with your pediatrician for immunization updates and physicals, especially for your athletes. The last thing you want is to be scrambling for an available time slot with 60 other families who also waited until the last minute. It's best to complete your medical checkups at least six weeks before school begins.

Back to school shopping: It's time to go shopping. Make sure to grab special items such as graphing calculators and language dictionaries, along with all your basics. Let your kids pick out a few things, too. You'll

also need to purchase new uniforms and donate anything that no longer fits. Rainy summer days are great for closet cleaning.

Make a fool-proof schedule: Life is about to get crazy. If you don't have one already, get a really good planner and put it to good use. Make sure your older children have a planner, too; it's a lifesaver.

Triple-check summer homework: It happens every year. That dreaded moment, just days before the school year starts, where your child comes to you with puppy eyes to inform you that she needs three books to complete her summer homework – which was assigned back in May. This year, be on top of the game and ask her (every hour, if need be) if she has summer reading.

Be camera ready: You know you're going to take countless pictures of your kids on their first day. It's tradition. So make sure you've got fresh batteries in the camera, a full charge on your smartphone and plenty of tissues. 🍷

FACT:

It takes four weeks to go from egg, larva, pupa to adult.



BALANCED LEARNING® WAY:

And in one magic moment, a scientist is born.

SEE BALANCED LEARNING IN ACTION. CALL FOR MORE INFO TODAY!

Infants – Private Pre-K and After School

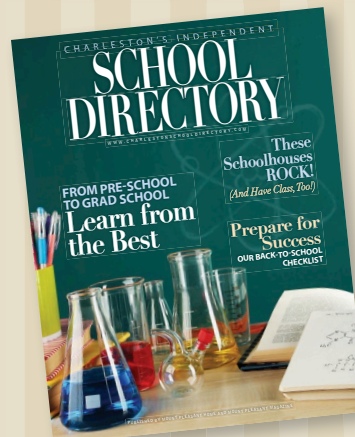
Primrose School of Mount Pleasant

2674 Brickside Lane | Mount Pleasant, SC 29466
843.972.2604 | PrimroseMountPleasant.com

© 2014 Primrose Schools. All rights reserved. Primrose Schools is a registered trademark of Primrose Schools. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. www.primroseschools.com

READ ONLINE NOW!

Charleston's ONLY SCHOOL DIRECTORY



SCHOOL DIRECTORIES:
Independent Schools
Charter Schools
Colleges

FEATURES:
Back-to-School Checklist
De-stressing Your Kids plus More..

Access online at
www.CharlestonSchoolDirectory.com

For distribution or advertising information
843-881-1481 ext. 200 or
Publisher@MountPleasantMagazine.com

GO WITH GARRETT'S
GOLF CARS & SPECIALTY VEHICLES



NEW AND
PRE OWNED SALES

RENTALS

SERVICE

PARTS AND
REPAIRS

CUSTOMIZATION

594 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

843.881.8894

Serving SC Since 1992

Greenville - Columbia - Charleston



www.gowithgarretts.com

\$29 INITIAL VISIT*
Includes consultation,
exam and adjustment.



WHAT LIFE DOES TO YOUR BODY, WE UNDO.

Let our licensed chiropractors relieve your everyday aches and pains in a way that works for everyday life.

NO APPOINTMENTS
NO INSURANCE
OPEN EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS

Towne Centre

1113 Market Center Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 884-2690

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday: Closed



RELIEF. ON SO MANY LEVELS.™

*Value: \$39. See clinic for clinic for chiropractor(s) name and license info. Clinics managed and/or owned by franchisee or Prof. Corps. Restrictions may apply to Medicare eligible patients. Individual patient results may vary. © 2016 The Joint Corp.



Eddie Bush

Acoustics • Electrics • Basses
Ukuleles • Drums
Lessons



Snap the tag above with a smart phone for more information.

423 W.
Coleman Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant
843.884.1346

www.ShemGuitars.com



Back to School

DE-STRESS YOURSELF AND YOUR KIDS

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THE NEW school year is almost here. But if you start early and progress gradually, your kids will feel better about themselves and your quality of life will be much-improved. The key is to put the right strategies in place.

Get organized – Do this well in advance so there's no rushing at the last minute to buy supplies, books and uniforms or to fill out paperwork.

BY DEBBIE MARTINEZ

Develop a command center – Set it up in a convenient location. Encourage the kids to write down on a white board the things they need at least three days in advance. Establish an out box for each child. As they unpack their book bags, they can put any papers you need to read or sign in the in box, and, in the morning, they can take whatever is in their out box. Post a calendar so they see what their activities are and any special items they need for that day. Children thrive on structure; they will have the security of knowing where to look for information, and they will learn responsibility.

A safe, stress-free area – Create a place where your child knows he or she can have quiet time. It can be a corner of their room that you set up with big pillows, a blanket, coloring books, crayons and music. Make sure it's an unplug zone, with no computers or phones.

Set an example – Your point of view regarding stress invariably become theirs. Your mood sets the mood of your children.

Talk positively – Talk with your kids about the upcoming school year, and ask them which after-school activities

they would like to participate in. Don't overschedule them. Acknowledge their nervousness and brainstorm ways to ease it. Keep the focus on the positive and not about how the previous year went. Keep communication open by making yourself available to listen, not necessarily to talk. If they start to get anxious, redirect their thoughts to the fun they had over the summer.

School mode – About two weeks before the first day of school, talk with your kids and make sure everything is in place. Let them know that school mode begins during the last week of summer vacation. This means going to bed at the set school time. During that week, talk with them about your expectations, explain what the command center is all about and make a cheat sheet with their schedule, locker combination, teachers' names and room numbers.



Photo by Rick Walo.

Debbie Martinez urges parents to put the right strategies in place for the new school year.

Once school starts, establish a nighttime routine of packing lunches, getting school clothes out, setting the alarm clock and putting the backpack by the door. In the morning, don't throw open the bedroom door and yell "Time to get up." Give the kids a few minutes of cuddle time before you turn on the light. Make them a healthy breakfast and send them out the door with a bottle of water. Staying hydrated means less fatigue and a better mood and memory. After school, give them play and quiet time and a structured time and environment in which to do their homework.

And last, but certainly not least, it is never too early to teach your children to think positively and to laugh as often as they can. Except, of course, in class. 🐼

Debbie Martinez is a divorce coach with a private practice in Mount Pleasant. Learn more at www.transformationthruidivorce.com.

Don't be Bugged by Head Lice

WHY DOES HEAD LICE sound like such a frightening couple of words? When my sister was in kindergarten and I was in fourth grade, she came down with a case of head lice, and, when my mother arrived in the parking lot of my school to pick me up, my little sister jumped out of the car and shouted with glee that she didn't have to go to school because she had headlights!

BY AMY MERCER

I was mortified, not by her mispronunciation but by the fact that she had this gross affliction. I prided myself on my long, blond hair and was terrified by the idea that if I got anywhere near my sister, I, too, would have bugs crawling through my hair.

Experts say head lice or “nits” are a nuisance, not a serious disease or a sign of poor hygiene. Education is the key to managing a breakout of lice, and the Charleston County School

District Health Services Department offers a downloadable document called “Head Lice Help” on its website. (www.ccsdschools.com/0134/documents/Lice.pdf)

SIGNS OF HEAD LICE:

- Frequent head scratching;
- Redness behind ears or on the back of the neck.

Head lice are most common among preschool and elementary school age children and their household members and caretakers. They are primarily transmitted by direct head-to-head contact and sharing of personal

grooming items such as brushes, headphones, hair accessories, helmets and hats. Once a family member is identified with head lice, all household members should be checked. The American Academy of Pediatricians does not recommend excessive environmental cleaning, such as home pesticides. However, “washing pillow cases and treating natural bristle hair care items that may have been in contact with the hair of anyone found to have head lice are reasonable measures.”

HOW TO GET RID OF HEAD LICE:

- Use a special shampoo (most lice shampoos need to be used a second time, seven to 10 days after the first treatment, to make sure new lice that hatched are killed;
- Nits can be removed using a fine tooth comb;
- In some areas, lice have developed resistance to over-the-counter medications and may require prescription medication.



In May 2015, the American Academy of Pediatrics updated

its report on head lice. The current recommendation says a healthy child should not be restricted from attending school because of head lice or nits (eggs): “Pediatricians are encouraged to educate schools and communities that no-nit policies are unjust and should be abandoned. Children can finish the school day, be treated and return to school.”

The worst part about head lice is the inconvenience factor. I was lucky that I avoided my sister's case of “headlights,” but, with two boys still in elementary and middle school, my luck may run out. As parents, all we can do is arm ourselves with information and a good comb. 🪄

Directory of Independent Schools

Addlestone Hebrew Academy

1639 Wallenberg Blvd.
Charleston, S.C. 29407
Phone: 843-571-1105
Fax: 843-571-6116
www.Addlestone.org
Email: info@addlestone.org
Grades: K-8

Ashley Hall

172 Rutledge Ave.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-722-4088
Fax: 843-720-2868
www.AshleyHall.org
Email: Enrollment@AshleyHall.org
Grades: Pre-K Coed • 1-12 (All girls)

Bishop England High School

363 Seven Farms Drive
Charleston, S.C. 29492
Phone: 843-849-9599
Fax: 843-849-7849
www.BEHS.com
Email: kbrownell@behs.com
Grades: 9-12

Blessed Sacrament

7 St. Teresa Drive
Charleston, S.C. 29407
Phone: 843-766-2128
Fax: 843-766-2154
www.scbss.org
Email: awilson@scbss.org
Grades: PK-8

Capers Preparatory Christian Academy

1941 Bees Ferry Road
Charleston, S.C. 29414
Phone: 843-225-2892
www.caperspreparatorychristianacademy.com
Grades: K4-8

Cathedral Academy

3790 Ashley Phosphate Road
North Charleston, S.C. 29418
Phone: 843-760-1192
Fax: 843-760-1197

www.CathedralAcademy.com
Email: contact@CathedralAcademy.com
Grades: PK-12

Charles Towne Montessori

56 Leinbach Drive
Charleston, S.C. 29407
Phone: 843-571-1140
Fax: 843-556-0493
www.Charlestownemontessori.org
Email: CTMSorg@aol.com
Ages: 15 months to 12 years

The Charleston Catholic School

888-A King St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-577-4495
www.CharlestonCatholic.com
Email: charlestoncatholic@charlestoncatholic.org
Grades: PK-8

Charleston Christian School

2234 Plainview Road
Charleston, S.C. 29414
Phone: 843-556-4480
www.CharlestonChristian.org
Email: info@charlestonchristian.org
Grades: K-8

Charleston Collegiate School

2024 Academy Drive
Johns Island, S.C. 29455
Phone: 843-559-5506
Fax: 843-559-6172
www.CharlestonCollegiate.org
Email: tfrank@charlestoncollegiate.org
Grades: K-12

Charleston Day School

15 Archdale St.
Charleston, S.C. 29401
Phone: 843-377-0315
Fax: 843-720-2143
www.CharlestonDaySchool.org
Grades: 1-8

Christ Our King-Stella Maris School

1183 Russell Drive

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-884-4721
Fax: 843-971-7850
www.COKSM.org
Email: frontoffice@coksm.org
Grades: PK-8

Coastal Christian Preparatory School

681 McCants Drive
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-884-3663
Fax: 843-884-9608
www.CoastalChristian.org
Email: info@coastalchristian.org
Grades: PK-12

Divine Redeemer Catholic School

1104 Fort Drive
Hanahan, S.C. 29410
Phone: 843-553-1521
Fax: 843-553-7109
www.divineredeemerschool.com
Email: secretary@divineredeemerschool.com
Grades: K3-8

Dorchester Academy

234 Academy Road
St. George, S.C. 29477
Phone: 843-563-9511
Fax: 843-563-4764
www.DorchesterAcademy.org
Email: gruberst@dorchesteracademy.org
Grades: PK-12

Faith Christian School

337 Farming Road
Summerville, S.C. 29483
Phone: 843-873-8464
Fax: 866-923-6806
www.FaithChristianSC.com
Email: admin@FaithChristian.com
Grades: PK-12

First Baptist Church School

48 Meeting St.
Charleston, S.C. 29401
Phone: 843-722-6646
Fax: 843-720-2510

www.FBSchool.org
 Email: admissions@FBSchool.org
 Grades: K2-12

James Island Christian School

15 Crosscreek Drive
 Charleston, S.C. 29412
 Phone: 843-795-1762
 Fax: 843-762-1619
 www.JICS.org
 Email: JICS@JICS.org
 Grades: K2-12

Mason Preparatory School

56 Halsey Blvd.
 Charleston, S.C. 29401
 Phone: 843-723-0664
 Fax: 843-805-7796
 www.MasonPrep.org
 Email: kornyal@masonprep.org
 Grades: 1-8

Nativity School

1125 Pittsford Circle
 Charleston, S.C. 29412
 Phone: 843-795-3975
 Fax: 843-795-7575
 www.nativity-school.com
 Email: info@nativity-school.com
 Grades: K-8

Northside Christian School

7800 Northside Drive
 North Charleston, S.C. 29420
 Phone: 843-797-2693
 Fax: 843-797-7402
 www.NorthsideCharleston.com
 Email: cbeach@northsideministries.com
 Grades: K3-12

Northwood Academy

2263 Otranto Road
 North Charleston, S.C. 29406
 Phone: 843-764-2284
 Fax: 843-764-2273
 www.NorthwoodAcademy.com
 Email: admissions@northwoodacademy.com
 Grade: K4-12

Palmetto Christian Academy

361 Egypt Road
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
 Phone: 843-881-9967
 Fax: 843-881-4662
 www.PalmettoChristianAcademy.org
 Email: admin@PalmettoChristianAcademy.org
 Grades: PK-12

Pinewood Preparatory School

1114 Orangeburg Road
 Summerville, S.C. 29483
 Phone: 843-873-1643
 Fax: 843-821-4257
 www.PinewoodPrep.com
 Grades: K4-12

Porter-Gaud School

300 Albermale Road
 Charleston, S.C. 29407
 Phone: 843-556-3620
 Fax: 843-766-3945
 www.PorterGaud.edu
 Email: ehurtes@portergaud.edu
 Grades: K-12

Ridge Christian Academy

2168 Ridge Church Road
 Summerville, S.C. 29483
 Phone: 843-873-9856
 Fax: 843-873-0511
 www.RidgeChristian.info
 Grades: PK-12

Riverpointe Christian Academy

2508 Ashley River Road
 Charleston, S.C. 29414
 Phone: 843-763-1600
 www.RiverpointeChristian.com
 Grades: PK-12

St. John Catholic School

3921 St. John Ave.
 North Charleston, S.C. 29405
 Phone: 843-744-3901
 Fax: 843-744-3689
 www.SaintJohnCatholicSC.org
 Grades: K4-8

Summerville Catholic Academy

226 Black Oak Blvd.
 Summerville, S.C. 29485
 Phone: 843-873-9310
 Fax: 843-873-5709
 www.SummervilleCatholic.org
 Email: SCSchool@AWOD.com
 Grades: K4-8

The Oaks Christian School

505 Gahagan Road
 Summerville, S.C. 29485
 Phone: 843-875-7667
 Fax: 843-871-2629
 www.OaksChristianSchool.org
 Email: infor@OaksChristianSchool.org
 Grades: PK-8

Trident Academy

1455 Wakendaw Road
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29465
 Phone: 843-884-7046
 Fax: 843-884-8320
 www.TridentAcademy.com
 Email: admissions@tridentacademy.com
 Grades: K-12

Trinity Classical Academy

4218 Buck Creek Court
 North Charleston, S.C. 29420
 Phone: 843-873-9901
 www.TCAsummerville.com
 Email: anjicasterday@gmail.com
 Grades: 1-8

University School of the Lowcountry

690 Coleman Blvd.
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
 Phone: 843-884-0902
 Fax: 843-884-0905
 www.USLowcountry.org
 Grades: 3-12
 Special Program Emphasis

Vision Christian Academy

760 Travelers Blvd.
 Summerville, S.C. 29481
 Phone: 843-830-3793
 Grades: 9-12

A SMALL SCHOOL EXPLORING A BIG WORLD

For results
For learning by doing

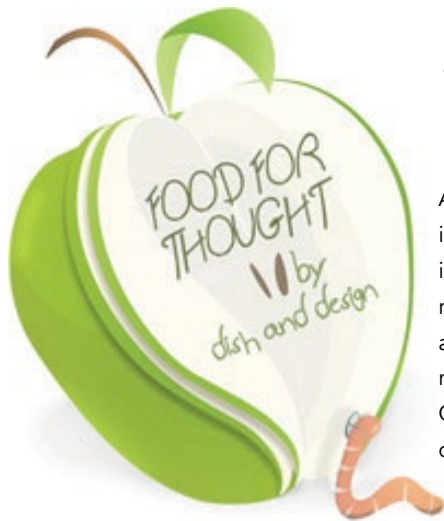


For the study of global languages
For the human touch

Located in Mount Pleasant and serving the metro Charleston area,
University School of the Lowcountry (USL)
is an independent, non-sectarian, progressive school for high-achieving students in grades 3 - 12.
USL seeks to develop self-confident, passionate,
and empathetic learners who will make a positive difference in the world.



690 Coleman Blvd., Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 | www.uslowcountry.org | 843.884.0902



ATTENTION GROWN-UPS!

REMEMBER SCHOOL LUNCHES WHEN YOU WERE A KID?
WELL, THESE ARE NOTHING LIKE THOSE!

At **Food for Thought**, our school lunches are crafted with **fresh** top-notch ingredients, using **local** and **organic** items as much as possible. Each meal is tailored to your child's preferences and allergy restrictions. As if that isn't enough, lunches are **delivered** directly to the classroom in recycled or biodegradable packaging. Ordering a healthy alternative couldn't be any easier!



Just log onto www.foodforthoughtcharleston.com
and see for yourself or call **843.330.2223**

Catering to Charleston
and surrounding areas since 1999.

www.dishanddesign.com
843.971.6701



dish & design
catering and events

Corporate Private Wedding Social

Beyond Their Own Backyards

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

FOR THE STUDENTS AT THE University School of the Lowcountry, the words “field trip” do not bring to mind slack afternoons of playing card games on a rowdy bus. Instead, leaving the campus is an opportunity to experience the real world and to learn from it.

Jason Kreutner, founder and headmaster of University School of the Lowcountry, designed a school that would foster curiosity not just within the building’s walls but everywhere.

“I like learning all the time,” Kreutner said. “I’ve been on 270 field trips since the school opened in 2007. We call them ‘Learning Outside the Classroom,’ and each student goes on 30 trips per year.”

For example, students recently took a trip to a nuclear power plant located in Georgia, which is designed just like a plant SCE&G is building in South Carolina. The project could cost \$15 billion – because America has not built new nuclear plants in over 30 years, it was likely that they would be more expensive than expected. According to Kreutner, USL students now understand that this amount is ultimately reflected in monthly electricity bills because the cost of the plant is paid for by SCE&G customers.

“By putting these places and these experiences into their collective knowledge, they inevitably better understand the world around them and become better citizens,” he said.

Though University School of the Lowcountry shares a campus with Hibben United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant, the two are not affiliated, and exploration of many different faiths and cultures is important to USL. Kreutner pointed out that the students visited Ebenezer AME Church in November 2015. USL students also met Rev.

Clementa Pinckney and toured Mother Emanuel AME a few years before, and this provided a poignant insight into the tragic events of June 2015. The school’s curriculum, in Kreutner’s words, emphasizes the importance of empathy as well as a moral responsibility to others.

“We also went to two Native American reservations in the last couple of years,” he pointed out, reminiscing about the school’s trip to the mountains of western North Carolina for a chance to meet members of the Cherokee tribe and to the Everglades to see the Miccosukee tribe.

On a more practical note, field trips help students discover career paths they hadn’t initially thought about. All USL students undertake a job shadow experience,

each year starting in the third grade.

“Kids discover opportunities that they did not know existed,” said Kreutner.

Of course, preparation for the real world takes more than just knowing what job you want, and USL students visit the polls every Election Day to

administer exit polls and make election predictions. Not only are the kids interested, the adults who come out to vote are cheered by the notion that youngsters are learning about citizenship and democracy.

And how do the faculty and staff of University School of the Lowcountry decide what trip would most benefit students? According to Kreutner, it’s often a trip that kids would not take with their own families.

“For example, the political polls or the inner workings of a hospital,” he elaborated. “You can go with your parents, but it’s not a family type of destination or a vacation. These are often the most important places for us to visit.”

To learn more, visit www.uslowcountry.org or call 843-884-0902.

Photo courtesy of University School of the Lowcountry.



Challenging the Intellect

PORTER-GAUD SCHOOL

THE HALLMARK OF A VIBRANT educational atmosphere is one in which not only the students but the teachers and administrators feel challenged, inspired and engaged. Such is the case at Porter-Gaud School, one of the Southeast's leading independent schools, located in downtown Charleston.

Porter-Gaud was founded in 1867 as Porter Military Academy by Dr. Anthony Toomer Porter, an Episcopalian priest from a Georgetown rice family, according to current headmaster DuBose Egleston. Porter Military Academy merged with Gaud School in the mid-60s to become Porter-Gaud as we know it today, and it has continued to do its part inspiring the hearts and minds of young men and women for the real world.

"I've been here since first grade. They nourish us as young children and give us the right amount of freedom later," commented Cole Walter, a senior who is planning a year of work in China, funded by the U.S. State Department, before pursuing a degree in International Comparative Studies at Duke University. Walter is learning Chinese – he already speaks French and a generous amount of Spanish – and looks forward to fostering his understanding of world languages.

However, Walter isn't just a bookworm; thanks to the head of the Service Department, Gretchen Tate, whom Walter called his "role model," he's been inspired to take charge of the People in Need Project, which covers everything from meeting basic physical needs to environmental stewardship.

As one might expect, a versatile experience is encouraged at Porter-Gaud. Witness fifth grader Anna Lehman, who was basking in the post-show glow of her

recent role in "The Lion King" as mother lion Nala on the day we met. But it isn't just singing and musical theater that occupies Lehman's time – she also plays the piano and shoots hoops on the basketball court.

"I believe Porter-Gaud has made me more well-rounded," she mused. "I've learned about so many different things here."

Speaking of different, Computer Science Chair Doug Bergman's passion for pushing the boundaries of technology in the classroom is evident. Far from the stereotypical techie introvert, Bergman socialized with me for a good while about why he's doing things differently at Porter-Gaud – and how every student is a contender

for doing everything from coding to creating a popular video game.

"If you look inside my classroom, it's not nerdville," he explained. "I have soccer players, cheerleaders and football captains who all happen to be great computer scientists!"

Bergman said that six young ladies won awards this year from the National Council of Women in

Technology and pointed out that the program boasts winners almost every year.

"It's a hard program," he said, "but they end up wanting to put forth the effort."

Egleston, head of school since 2009, emphasized the importance of supporting his faculty and staff for the purpose of sustaining Porter-Gaud's mission and its creative, inspiring environment.

"I give my faculty what they need without micromanaging them," he remarked. "I can't step in and do their job – but when I do my job well, they can do theirs."

And, clearly, the students can do theirs. 🍍

To learn more, visit www.portergaud.edu or call 843-556-3620.



Photos courtesy of Porter-Gaud.

Shaping Hearts and Character

PALMETTO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

FOR 25 YEARS, PALMETTO Christian Academy has built a program that produces young people who are engaged and contributing. Christian service, distinctive academics and excellence in fine arts and athletics are hallmarks of this private school. The 2016-2017 school year ushers in an exciting era for PCA, including a 25th anniversary celebration, new leadership and a campus expansion.

The recent announcement of a new, state-of-the-art Student

BY KALENE MCCORT

Life
Center

– complete with a gymnasium and a science and technology wing – has parents, faculty and students excited about the future at PCA. Adding to that enthusiasm, PCA families will celebrate the school’s 25th anniversary with a new headmaster, J.D. Zubia, who comes from a strong background in both the corporate world and education. Zubia is thrilled to be leading an impressive faculty that strives to shape the hearts and character of its students.

“I am looking forward to working with an accomplished group of professionals who love their school, their families, their community and Christian education,” said Zubia. “These are people who wake up in the morning excited about what they are doing, how they are doing it and where they are doing it. The partnership between PCA and East Cooper Baptist Church is remarkable – it is like something I have not seen before.”

The tightknit group of educators and parents that built Palmetto Christian Academy into the bustling college preparatory school that it is today is getting a welcomed addition in Zubia. His passion for the job is evident in the excitement he expresses when it comes to joining the PCA

family. As a teen, Zubia found great purpose in teaching the youth at his local church. While he would later spend two decades in the medical field, he ultimately felt God’s calling into Christian education.

“The most rewarding aspect of education is having a small part in helping children find their way in life,” said Zubia. “For me, it is even more rewarding to help kids find their giftedness and where that fits into God’s big picture.”

One of the factors that drew Zubia to PCA was the fact that emphasis is not only placed heavily on a rigorous curriculum but also on the extracurricular activities that foster growth for students.

“Kids all have unique talents, gifts, personalities and experiences, and all of those things are supposed to work together to produce good and productive citizens who benefit their communities,” said Zubia. “We are producing students who will serve this community, whether now as volunteers during crises or later as local business owners or community leaders.”

As the school prepares to celebrate a silver anniversary, it’s a time of reflection and thanksgiving for the many milestones already reached, while planning and investing in the next 25 years and beyond.

“We are going to have a grand, year-long celebration of God’s goodness and grace, of our alumni’s success, of our parents and grandparents’ support, of our church’s faithfulness, and, of course, of our PCA staff’s unwavering commitment to Christian education,” said Zubia. “PCA is doing noble work not only for God’s kingdom but also for the Mount Pleasant community.”

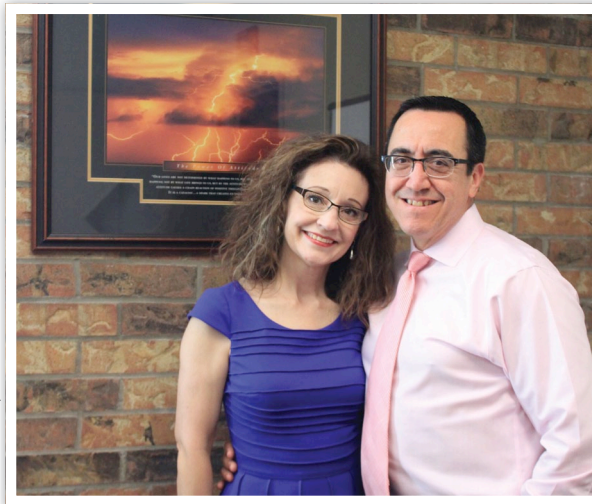


Photo courtesy of J.D. Zubia.

J.D. Zubia with his wife Selina.

Palmetto Christian Academy is located at 361 Egypt Road in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.palmettochristianacademy.org or call 843-881-9967.

Opening Doors

CAPERS PREPARATORY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

IMAGINE WALKING INTO A CLASSROOM that resembles the traditional, idyllic schoolhouses of the past – where a handful of rapt pupils are listening to a teacher deliver a lesson on which the foundation of learning is built. This is the vision that Dr. Fayrine Brown transformed into Capers Preparatory Christian Academy, an independent, nonprofit institution located West of the Ashley. Capers Prep welcomes students between grades K4 and 12 to a “back to basics” environment, bringing to mind the old rhyme about

BY DENISE K. JAMES

may not.”

Originally from Texas, Dr. Brown relocated to

“This year we visited Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Red Hills of Colorado and Bear Country U.S.A. ...”

Charleston in 1978 and noted the need for smaller schools and meeting the individual abilities of students.



Photo by Carminski Latten.

Capers students, left to right: Blake Gerald, Zadian Holmes, Jenesis Ravenel, Tayla Brown, Tiana Ravenel, Isreal Sharper and Jayden Washington.

“readin’, ritin, and ‘rithmatic” – and making education fun and engaging as well.

“We teach traditional skills – mathematics, reading, handwriting and cursive,” Dr. Brown commented. “We’ve found that basic skills fit all children, whereas technology

Though she spent years teaching public school, Dr. Brown dreamed of the day she could see her ideal school realized, and, in 2003, Capers Prep became a reality. Meanwhile, the students who have attended in those last 13 years have flourished.

Photo courtesy of Capers Prep.



Recent Capers graduate Kristina Venning, left, with Dr. Fayrine Brown.

“After not doing well at my previous school, I looked for something that would be more personal. For me, the smaller classes helped me focus,” said recent Capers Prep graduate Kristina Venning, who completed her bachelor’s in Biology at Francis Marion University and a post-bachelor’s in Histotechnology at MUSC before finding work in a laboratory focusing on skin cancer.

“Dr. Brown makes sure each student is doing the best she or he can,” she concluded.

Beyond the foundation of reading, writing and math, students at Capers Prep experience a variety of other invigorating courses such as karate, ballet and even Mandarin Chinese. Interestingly, none of these are considered “electives” – students must participate to

“Capers Prep differs from other schools because we operate outside of the box. ...”

complete the school curriculum. The school building is home to a complete library and science lab, plus a technology lab donated by the Posey Foundation of Texas and outfitted with 10 HP computers, iPads and more. And then there’s the traveling.

“This year we visited Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Red Hills of Colorado and Bear Country U.S.A, and the year before we went across the country, from South Carolina to San Francisco,” Dr. Brown reported. “Next year we’re doing the New England states, then Hawaii in 2018. They’ve been as far as the Bahamas.”

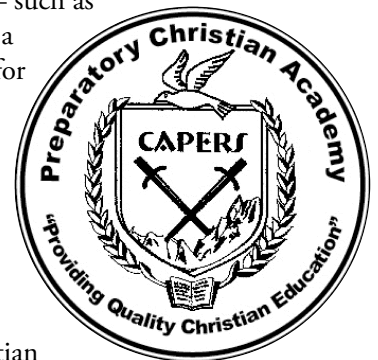
Yes, taking trips outside of the Lowcountry – at least a few per year, often with Freeman Tours, owned by Perry Freeman – is an important aspect of the curriculum. But it’s not just a leisurely vacation; Dr. Brown and her faculty turn each voyage into a learning opportunity.

“On the smaller trips – such as to the Riverbanks Zoo or a Carolina Panthers game, for example – students enjoy the chance to care for the animals or learn about professional sports,” she explained.

Approximately 50 students currently attend Capers Preparatory Christian Academy, with six teachers and seven volunteers assisting Dr. Brown in perpetuating the distinctive goals for the school and maintaining accreditation from the South Carolina Independent School Association. The faculty and staff strive to keep the environment “family based,” and most of the parents stumble upon Capers Prep through word of mouth. As for funding, the school operates as a 501(c)(3) and garners most of it through donations and scholarships.

“Capers Prep differs from other schools because we operate outside of the box,” Dr. Brown mused. “We’re opening doors for these students.”

To learn more, visit www.caperspreparatorychristianacademy.com or call 843-225-2892.





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASSES OF 2015 AND 2016 ON THEIR COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES!

- Anderson University
- Appalachian State University
- Auburn University
- Bard College
- Brevard College
- Charleston Southern University
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- Drexel University
- Eckerd College
- Elon University
- Furman University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Georgia Southern University
- High Point University
- Mercer University-Honors
- Miami University
- Mississippi State University
- Newberry College
- North Carolina State University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Presbyterian College
- Purdue University
- Roanoke College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Union College
- University of Alabama
- University of Arkansas
- University of California
- University of Colorado
- University of Denver
- University of Georgia
- University of Kentucky
- University of Louisiana Lafayette
- University of New Orleans
- University of Miami
- University of Minnesota Twin Cities
- University of Mississippi
- University of Oregon
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Winthrop University



PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

CREATIVITY AND THE ARTS

LEADERSHIP THROUGH OUTDOOR EDUCATION



CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE

2024 Academy Drive • Johns Island, SC 29455
 Phone: (843) 559-5506 • charlestoncollegiate.org

Bridging School to the Real World

CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Charleston Collegiate School is one of the area's best-kept secrets. Nestled in a quiet setting, its curriculum is one-of-a-kind in the Lowcountry.

What sets Charleston Collegiate apart is its curriculum built around project-based learning – working together through hands-on activities and creative thinking. The end goal is making sure students understand the real world in relation to the things they learn in the classroom. They are empowered to become actively invested in their education.

Bridging the connection from school to the real world enhances learning at CCS. For example, an on-site micro-farm allows students in the early grades to grow food that is not only served with lunch on campus but also sold at local farmers markets. In middle school, students focus on careers through job shadowing, guest speakers and internships. Entrepreneurship is emphasized in the upper school, where students are required to construct a business plan which they present at a competition sponsored by YES Carolina.

According to Head of School Hacker Burr, every senior graduating from CCS is accepted to a four-year college.

Because of its physical setting, students can interact with the physical world. The 30-acre campus includes a forest, nature trails and an outdoor classroom. The school offers basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, tennis, soccer, golf, volleyball, baseball and archery teams.

With a 25-percent minority population, CCS is the most diverse co-ed, non-sectarian, pre-K-12 independent school in the Southeast. Need-based and academic scholarships are offered, thanks to private donors. And with the convenience of the school's own bus service, students come to CCS from all over the Charleston area.

“Our students are learning some of the most important real-world skills that we could ever teach,” Burr commented. 🐾

To learn more, visit www.charlestoncollegiate.org or call 843-559-5506.

Personalized Learning Plans

TRIDENT ACADEMY

T Trident Academy is a K-12 school that specializes in individual, multisensory and research-based teaching methods. The school's aim is to help improve the classroom experience for children with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADHD or Asperger-like attributes.

It began 45 years ago as a Saturday-only learning program in a local church. Today, Trident Academy is one of 13 schools in the United States accredited by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham. It boasts a safe, nurturing and focused atmosphere where students, regardless of their learning difference, can thrive.

BY ALYSSA ZAPINSKI

The school has many different ways to ensure its students receive the right amount of attention and assistance. Each class has 12 or fewer students, which allows teachers to incorporate their intensive individualized approach. The main goal for each student is to learn how to function independently and eventually transition into a more traditional school environment.

Classroom studies often are expanded by field trips that complement what students are currently learning. This could be anywhere from the South Carolina Aquarium to the Post Office. Older students have the opportunity to take overnight field trips to places such as Green River Preserve and the Barrier Island program at Camp St. Christopher.

Every student learns differently, and Trident Academy doesn't hesitate to create personalized learning plans that outline each child's unique method of learning and growing. It doesn't stop in the classroom, either. Trident Academy has an after-school program, Homework Haven, which helps students finish their daily homework and engage in useful study skills.

The summer is often a time when children forget most of what they learned during the school year, but Trident Academy calls itself a "hub of learning" all year long, offering Academic Therapy, Summer Enrichment, Orton-Gillingham training and Multisensory Math training. 🌱

To learn more, visit www.tridentacademy.com or call 843-884-7046.

The **secret** behind teaching students who learn differently is to **teach differently.**



TRIDENT ACADEMY
Where Bright Minds Find Bright Futures

Trident Academy
has educated students
with learning differences
since 1972.

Now accepting applications
for grades K-12

843.884.7046 | TridentAcademy.com



LISTEN UP!

HEARING CARE IS HEALTH CARE.

It's not something you find in a retail store.

If you're having hearing concerns and need proper treatment, see a board certified Doctor of Audiology – not a salesman for hearing products. At Advanced Hearing Care, we can help you with changes in your hearing by offering affordable, customized treatment options that will meet your lifestyle and your budget.

Dr. Mary Anne Larkin, Au.D. • **Dr. Casey Adkins, Au.D.**

843.606.5658

900 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 101
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
www.advhearing.com



**Advanced
Hearing
Care**



Voted Best of Mt. Pleasant
three years running!

Summer's here...
...but school is just around the corner!



*Children's Clothing
Shoes • Accessories • Gifts*

280 W. Coleman Blvd.
Mount Pleasant
843.881.1741

www.southernbelleschildren.com



Southern Belles
*"a children's clothier"
& shoes too!*



SEND LINK TO A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER. READ ONLINE AT

www.charlestonschooldirectory.com

Fostering A Passion For Learning

CHARLES TOWNE MONTESSORI

Allowing children to take responsibility and pride in their own learning process is a cornerstone of the traditional Montessori education, and Charles Towne Montessori is offering Lowcountry families exactly that opportunity. Founded in 1972, and the only AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) recognized school in South Carolina, Charles Towne Montessori focuses on children from toddlers to 12-year-olds, instilling independence and industriousness for the world beyond.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

“The responsibility we give kids is tough, but they embrace it and end up owning it,” remarked Marketing Director Arlene LeBoeuf. “Education begins at age 3 in the primary classroom.”

The school is divided into three age groups: toddler, for kids 15 months up to 3 years old; primary, for kids from 3 to 6; and elementary, for kids from 6 to 12. According to headmaster Kevin O’Loughlin, the mixed age groups “encourage initiative and responsibility.”

“Our students come to visit after graduating and tell us they

are doing exceptionally well in their academic environments,” he said. “Many end up at prestigious institutions such as the School of the Arts or Palmetto Scholars Academy.”

O’Loughlin, who has been at Charles Towne since 2003, noted that the decade he spent teaching in the classroom has enriched his role as headmaster. Both he and LeBoeuf stated that the lead teachers – all Montessori certified – have rigorous training and extensive experience, enhancing the education of the approximately 100 students who attend.

And yet, the students are the masters of their education at Charles Towne Montessori – a truth apparent to any parent or visitor who observes the cheerful campus, flanked with student-created flower gardens and projects of every sort.

“When students leave Charles Towne Montessori, they carry a love of learning as well as the capabilities and work ethic that will allow them success in life,” O’Loughlin said.

To learn more, visit www.charlestownemontessori.org or call 843-571-1140.



*"Where your child
loves learning"*

15 MONTHS - 6TH GRADE



56 Leinbach Dr,
Charleston, SC 29407

www.charlestownemontessori.org

843.571.1140

*Let Me Guide You
on Your Path to Your
New Beginning...*

DIVORCE AND RELATIONSHIP COACH



Transformation thru Divorce



DEBBIE MARTINEZ

Divorce and Relationship Coach

305.984.5121

debbie@transformationthrudivorce.com

www.transformationthrudivorce.com



Living in the Now, Preparing for the Future

For many of us, our goals in life remain constant: financial independence and providing for family. Striking a balance between saving for goals, such as education and retirement, and allocating money for daily expenses can be challenging. But you can do it.

Learn how you can redefine your savings approach toward education and retirement.

Call or visit any of our financial advisors in the East Cooper area. To find an Edward Jones office near you, visit www.edwardjones.com.



Phillip Cingolani, AAMS®
Mt Pleasant Towne Centre
1304 Theater Drive Suite E-1
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
843-849-7467



Donna O Mathias, AAMS®
620-B Longpoint Road
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
843-216-9753



Ross K Evans, AAMS®
966 Houston Northcutt Ste J
Mt Pleasant, SC 29464
843-881-3697



Dimi Matouchev, CFP®, AAMS®
1517-C Palm Boulevard
Isle Of Palms, SC 29451
843-886-9229

Edward Jones®

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC

Connecting Students Through Education

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

It didn't take long for the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, established in 1948, to realize that a school would enhance their mission. Today, Blessed Sacrament Catholic School is committed to promoting spiritual, intellectual and physical growth for K3 through 8th grade students.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

The students who attend BSCS – about 70 percent are of the Catholic faith – feel welcomed, challenged and supported by a caring faculty and staff, according to Kathleen Ferri, assistant director of stewardship and development. Ferri noted that the longer a student remains at BSCS, the higher their standardized test scores tend to be. For example, 6th grade students test on 7th grade levels for language and social studies and on 8th grade levels for science, while 8th grade students test at almost 12th grade level in every subject.

“The numbers just go up from there,” Ferri exclaimed. “We also offer a gifted program for our second through seventh grade students. Many of our graduates end up at

James Island Charter, Academic Magnet, Bishop England and School of the Arts.”

Ferri said that although a Catholic education can seem financially difficult for some families, the staff of BSCS works hard to make the dream possible with financial assistance. School fundraisers create scholarships for students who need them, while parishioners who heartily believe in the cause are apt to donate time and funds for the good of families who seek an education from BSCS.

“I knew the reputation of this school and wanted to be part of it,” commented current headmaster Katharine Murphy, a native of New York with an extensive background in Catholic education. “I believe it's our friendliness and family-like atmosphere that draws students.”

“There aren't many things that connect people, but going to a Catholic school is one of those things,” Ferri remarked.

To learn more about Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, www.scbss.org or 843-766-2128.

*Engaging the Mind...Challenging the Body...Enlightening the Soul...
Helping students reach their God-given potential since 1948.*



We engage students with a traditional Catholic school curriculum that is enhanced with Spanish, PE and movement-based learning, Computer, Art, Music and Library.



We are conveniently located in the heart of West Ashley near Avondale.

843.766.2128

kferri@scbss.org
7 Saint Teresa Drive, Charleston, SC 29407

Serving children grades K3 through 8.

Directory of Charter Schools – Charleston County

Allegro Charter School of Music

120 Broad St.
Charleston, S.C. 29401
Phone: 843-297-8033
Fax: 843-207-4701
AllegroCharterSchool.org
Grades: 6-9 (growing to 12)

Carolina Voyager Charter School

30 Race St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-203-3891
Fax: 843-718-2903
CarolinaVoyagerCharterSchool.org
Grades: K-8

Charleston Charter School for Math and Science

1002 King St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-720-3085
Fax: 843-720-3196
CharlestonMathScience.org
Grades: 6-12

Charleston Development Academy

233 Line St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-722-2689
Fax: 843-722-2694
DevelopmentAcademy.ccsdschools.com
Grade: preK-8

East Cooper Montessori Charter School

1120 Rifle Range Road
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-216-2883
Fax: 843-216-8880
EastCooper.ccsdschools.com
Grades: 1-8

Greg Mathis Charter High School

2872 Azalea Drive
North Charleston, S.C. 29405
Phone: 843-557-1611
Fax: 843-747-5810
ccsdschools.com/Schools/K12/greg_mathis_hs.php

James Island Charter High School

1000 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, S.C. 29412
Phone: 843-762-2754
Fax: 843-762-5228
Grades: 9-12
Jichs.ccsdschools.com

Orange Grove Elementary Charter

1225 Orange Branch Road
Charleston, S.C.
Phone: 843-763-1520
Fax: 843-769-2245
http://ogecs.ccsdschools.com/
Grades preK-5

Pattison's Academy For Comprehensive Education

2014 Bees Ferry Road
Charleston, S.C.
Phone: 843-556-1070
Fax: 843-556-6742
http://pattisonsacademy.org/

South Carolina Charter Schools in the Lowcountry

*All residents of South Carolina are eligible to attend a South Carolina Charter School

Coastal Leadership Academy 3710 Palmetto Pointe Blvd. Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29588

Phone: 843-788-9898
Fax: 843-294-0228
CoastalLeadershipAcademy.org
Grades: 9-12

Palmetto Scholars Academy

7499 Dorchester Road
North Charleston, S.C. 29418
Phone: 843-300-4118
Fax: 843-300-4123
PalmettoScholarsAcademy.org
Grades: 6-12

Lowcountry Leadership Charter School

5139-A Gibson Road
Hollywood, S.C. 29449
Phone: 843-889-5527
Fax: 843-889-5529
LowcountryLeadership.org
Grades: K5-12

SOUTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

Provost Academy South Carolina

Office Location
200 Arbor Lake Drive, Suite 301
Columbia, S.C. 29223
Phone: 877-619-7272
SC.ProvostAcademy.com
Grades: 9-12

South Carolina Calvert Academy

Office Location
3700 Forest Drive, Suite 406
Columbia, S.C. 29204
SouthCarolinaCalvertAcademy.com
Grades: K-8

South Carolina Connections Academy

Office Location
220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 403
Columbia, S.C. 29410
Phone: 803-212-4712
ConnectionsAcademy.com
Grades: K-12

South Carolina Virtual Charter School

Office Location
140 Stonebridge Drive Suite 420
Columbia, S.C. 29210
SCVCS.k12.com
Grades: K-12

South Carolina Whitmore School

Office Location
510 Lexington Ave.
Chapin, S.C. 29036
Phone: 866-476-6416
Fax: 866-476-1646
SCWhitmoreSchool.org
Grades: 9-12

Charter Schools:

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

The South Carolina Charter Schools Act of 1996 defines a charter school as a public, nonreligious, non-home-based, nonprofit corporation forming a school that operates by sponsorship of a public school district, the South Carolina Public Charter School District or a public or independent institution of higher learning but is accountable to the board of trustees – or in the case of technical colleges, the area commission – of the sponsor which grants its charter.

HOW IS A CHARTER SCHOOL DIFFERENT FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL?

Charter schools are allowed more freedom in instruction while still being held accountable.

HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE SAME?

Charter and public schools both are sponsored by the same school district, whether a local or state school board. Charter and public schools are open to all children, do not charge tuition and do not have special entrance requirements.

WHAT TYPE OF CURRICULUM DOES A CHARTER SCHOOL HAVE?

A charter school teaches all of the core subjects but can adjust how much time is spent according to the needs of a student. A charter school may also be geared toward a specific educational core. For example: a school for the arts, a school for the deaf or a school for the sciences.

CAN A PARENT CHOOSE A CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILD?

Yes, but there are certain restrictions depending upon the sponsoring municipality. Charter schools are considered a school of choice, and parents can choose to enroll their children in a charter school rather than their assigned public school.



WHAT GRADES ARE COVERED IN A CHARTER SCHOOL?

It depends on the individual charter school, but most teach the same grades as traditional elementary, middle and high schools.

WHO CAN START A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Parents, teachers, school districts, community leaders, businesses and municipalities can all submit a proposal to begin a charter school.

ARE TEACHERS CERTIFIED AT CHARTER SCHOOLS?

Certification requirements are determined on a state-by-state basis.

CAN A CHARTER BE REVOKED?

Yes. If over the course of three to five years a charter school is unable to achieve specific educational standards, the charter can be revoked.

WHERE WAS THE FIRST CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES?

The first charter school license was approved in Minnesota in 1991, and its doors opened in 1992. Currently, 43 states and the District of Columbia have approved charter schools serving approximately 2.9 million students. 🍌

Noteworthy

ALLEGRO CHARTER SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Walking into Allegro Charter School of Music, I'm immediately hit by the sound of piano and pluck of an upright bass. Founded in 2015, this beacon of creativity has already managed to rack up a waiting list.

The only school of its kind in South Carolina, Allegro is, well, noteworthy. Focusing on fostering academic growth through music, the school has already received visits from film crews looking to document the magic that seeps from its classrooms.

"The response from the community has been very positive," said Daniel Neikirk, who was recently named principal. "Charleston is such a world-class, artistically rich city, we thought it appropriate to have a school in its center that matches and reflects that."

The local art community has already welcomed Allegro by offering guidance and funds. Members of The Charleston Symphony Orchestra have dedicated time to helping these budding musicians excel at their craft, while Girls Rock Charleston and Jazz Artists of Charleston have shared

platforms to further propel Allegro's message.

While students at Allegro have a longer school day, it is filled with priceless interactions and a soundtrack to match. Currently, grades 6 through 10 are offered, but the school plans on adding 11th and 12th grades.

The music selection performed is varied. One minute students can be playing Bach and the next jamming out to Bruno Mars. Pop, rock and rap are genres that kids are free to explore, keeping them engaged and interested.

"It's an amazing feeling to watch a child who was once painfully shy come out of his or her shell and shine," said Neikirk. "Kids go from not even knowing how to hold an instrument to accomplishing things I didn't even get to do until college."

At Allegro, students are encouraged to find their own rhythm.

To learn more, visit www.allegrocharterschool.org or call 843-297-8033.



Allegro CHARTER SCHOOL of MUSIC

MUSIC
ACADEMICS
CREATIVITY

Producing inspired thinkers and creative members of society through the infusion of music into an academically challenging environment.

Allegro Charter School of Music
120 Broad Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843.297.8033
www.allegrocharterschool.org

Charity, Respect and Outreach

CHRIST OUR KING-STELLA MARIS SCHOOL

Christ Our King-Stella Maris School in Mount Pleasant was founded in 1950 to serve the East Cooper Community. The school provides an outstanding Catholic education for more than 600 students from 4K through 8th grade and is the largest Catholic elementary school in South Carolina.

BY AMY MERCER

In 2009, Christ Our King-Stella Maris was named a National Blue Ribbon School, and, in 2011, its middle school became a fully accredited International Baccalaureate World School. The school promotes a Christian educational philosophy characterized by charity, respect and outreach. The school offers a variety of clubs as well as athletics such as basketball, tennis, football, golf, archery and dance/cheer.

During its 65-year history, Christ Our King-Stella Maris School has continued to grow. Several years ago, it instituted its One to One iPad program. The school has enhanced its Music, Drama and Art programs, converted its former youth center into the Monsignor James A. Carter Black Box Theater and enhanced its Reading Initiatives program.

The Harmonia Choir has performed in competitions all over the Southeast, including this year's Piccolo Spoleto Festival. Led by Suzanne Fleming-Atwood and Scott Atwood, the choir's members have been selected for state, regional and honors choirs.

We Give Wednesday offertory is collected during weekly School Mass and supports local charities, including Water Missions International, MUSC Children's Hospital and Pet Helpers. The school also has helped victims of the typhoon in the Philippines, a local boy with a muscular disease to purchase a wheelchair lift and a local family ravaged by a house fire. Christ Our King-Stella Maris students perform thousands of service hours helping local charities.

The school is proud to have six alumni who have returned as teachers. The Christ our King-Stella Maris family is proud of its commitment to the mission of the school and its Catholic Identity. 🙏

To learn more about Christ Our King-Stella Maris School, visit www.coksm.org or call 843-884-4721.



Christ Our King-Stella Maris

"Where Tradition and Innovation Unite"

Faith, Charity and Respect



- Differentiated reading instruction
- One to one iPad program
- Certified International Baccalaureate School
- Enhanced academic support
- Catholic School Founded in 1950
- Grades 4k - 8th



1183 Russell Drive, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.884.4721 • www.coksm.org

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

University Directory

COASTAL SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC FOUR YEAR

The Citadel

171 Moultrie St.
Charleston, S.C.
843-225-3294
www.citadel.edu
Founded: 1842

Coastal Carolina University

100 Chanticleer Drive East
Conway, S.C.
843-347-3161
www.coastal.edu
Founded: 1954

College of Charleston

66 George St.
Charleston, S.C.
843-805-5507
www.cofc.edu
Founded: 1770

Medical University of South Carolina

45 Courtenay Drive, MSC 203
Charleston, S.C.
www.musc.edu
Founded: 1824

South Carolina College of Pharmacy

Columbia, S.C. 29208
800-846-8896
Charleston, S.C.
843-792-3740
www.sccp.sc.edu

University of South Carolina- Beaufort Campus

801 Carteret St.
Beaufort, S.C.
843-521-4100
www.uscb.edu
Founded: 1959

PRIVATE FOUR YEAR

American College of the Building Arts
21 Magazine St.

Charleston, S.C.
843-577-5245
www.Americancollegeofthebuildingarts.com

Charleston Southern University

9200 University Blvd.
North Charleston, S.C.
843-863-7000
www.charlestonsouthern.edu
Founded: 1964

Webster University

4105 Faber Place Drive, #100
North Charleston, S.C.
843-760-1324
www.webster.edu/charleston
Founded: 1976

FOUR YEAR PROPRIETARY

Art Institute of Charleston

24 N. Market St.
Charleston, S.C.
843-727-3500
www.artinstitutes.edu/charleston
Founded: 2007

Centura College

8084 Rivers Ave.
Charleston, S.C.
843-569-0889
www.centuracollege.edu

Columbia College

1216 Red Bank Road, Room #117
Goose Creek, S.C.
800-231-2391 or 843-794-4444
www.ccis.edu
Founded: 1851

ECPI University

7410 Northside Drive, #100
Charleston, S.C.
843-611-0642
www.ecpi.edu
Founded: 2004

ITT Technical Institute
2431 W. Aviation Ave.

North Charleston, S.C.
843-745-5700

Limestone College-Charleston

4500 Leeds Ave.
North Charleston, S.C.
843-745-1100
www.limestone.edu

Miller-Motte

8085 Rivers Ave.
North Charleston, S.C.
843-733-3073
www.miller-motte.edu

Saint Leo University

2430 Mall Drive, #185
North Charleston, S.C.
843-554-2111
www.saintleo.edu
Founded: 2012

Southern Wesleyan University

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 301
Charleston, S.C.
843-266-7981
www.swu.edu/adult-and-graduate/
locations/charleston/

Springfield College-Charleston

4390 Belle Oaks Drive, #200
North Charleston, S.C.
843-554-7244
www.Springfield.edu

Strayer University

5010 Wetland Crossing
North Charleston, S.C.
843-746-5100
www.strayer.edu
Founded: 2006

Read more at
readMPM.com/universities

Helping Students Reach Their Goals

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

THE IDEA OF GOING BACK TO school for a master's or even an undergraduate degree is daunting for many who are already in the workforce. Managing the time commitment and schedule and balancing coursework with a job, family or both, along

with completing prerequisite courses, is enough to deter many would-be students. While it is certainly a big commitment, getting a higher education degree doesn't have to mean leaving a career or being away from family.

Webster University's Charleston campus has been helping students reach their goals in spite of these obstacles for over 30 years.

The Webster University Charleston campus – consisting of a main branch in North Charleston and another location on Joint Base Charleston – accommodates its students with night or online courses.

“We have over 250 students in Charleston, and most hold full-time jobs,” explained Vice Provost Nancy Hellerud. “There are several major area employers – for example, Boeing, MUSC and the military – who send employees here for higher degrees. This schedule allows students to further their education while continuing to live their lives.”

Webster University, founded in St. Louis, Missouri, over a century ago, has evolved into a global network of several dozen campuses across the United States, internationally and on military bases. Its 180,000 living alumni around the world are a testament to the university's far-reaching impact on education and careers.

“We want to ensure that education never stops,” said Hellerud. “Courses are transferrable, and the transition is seamless no matter where you are in the world. Certain degrees require time in the classroom, but almost all degree programs offer online courses in an effort to continue learning.”

One of the founding principles of Webster University has always been to meet previously unmet needs.

“When teachers needed training in Kansas City, Webster initially opened up a Kansas City campus primarily for education programs. When the military was looking for education on bases, Webster went there. When the United Nations was looking for education in Geneva for dependents of people who worked there, Webster opened a campus,” Hellerud explained.

Similarly, the programs offered at the Charleston campus reflect the local economy in order to fill the area's employment needs. Programs include a master of arts in Counseling, Human Resources Development, Human Resources Management, Information Technology Management, Procurement and Acquisitions Management, Management and Leadership, master of Business Administration and master of Health Administration, as well as bachelor's degrees in Management and Psychology. Webster University offers prerequisite courses to help students enter these degree programs.

In addition to online course offerings, on-campus classes typically meet one night each week for nine-week terms.

“The average full-time student spends two to three years getting their master's degree. Others fast-track and complete their degree in a little over one year. The options are flexible to meet each student's needs,” Hellerud said.

In addition to its widespread network of programs and alumni and its flexible schedule and locations, Webster University's faculty members are rated highly by students.

“Nearly all of our professors are adjunct faculty. They are in the workforce doing what they teach. They have real-world experience and real-world connections, and they enhance the quality of education,” said Hellerud.

“Not only do we want you to graduate with a great degree, but we want you to have a great career as well. We're here to help you do that,” she said. 🐾

To learn more, visit www.webster.edu/charleston or call 843-760-1324 or 843-767-2278.



Above: Vice Provost Nancy Hellerud.
Below: Webster's University's Charleston campus.



Photos courtesy of Webster University.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

A 529 PLAN CAN HELP WITH THOSE COLLEGE BILLS

WERE AT THE END OF ANOTHER school year. If you have younger kids, you might be thinking about summer camps and other activities. But in the not-too-distant future, your children will be facing a bigger transition as they head off to college. Will you be financially prepared for that day?

A college education is a good investment – college graduates earn, on average, \$1 million more over their lifetimes than high school graduates, according to a study by Georgetown University – but a bachelor's degree doesn't come cheap. For the 2015-2016 school year, the average expense – tuition, fees, room and board – was \$19,548 at a public four-year school and \$43,921 at a four-year private school, according to the College Board. And by the time your children are ready for college, these costs may be considerably higher, because inflation is alive and well in the higher education arena.

Your children may be eligible for some types of financial aid and scholarships. But even so, you may want to consider some college-savings vehicles – and one of the most popular is a 529 plan.

A 529 plan offers a variety of benefits, including the following:

- **High contribution limits** – A 529 plan won't limit your contributions based on your income. In all likelihood, you can contribute as much as you want to a 529 plan, as many states have contribution limits of \$300,000 and up. And you can give up to \$14,000 (\$28,000 for a married couple filing jointly) per year, per child, without incurring any gift taxes.

- **Tax advantages** – Your earnings can accumulate tax free, provided they are used for qualified higher

education expenses. (529 plan distributions not used for qualified expenses may be subject to federal and state income tax and a 10% IRS penalty on the earnings.) Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be eligible for a state tax deduction or credit if you participate in your own state's plan. But 529 plans vary, so check with your tax advisor regarding deductibility.

- **Freedom to invest in any state's plan.** – You can invest in a 529 plan from any state – but that doesn't mean your child has to go to school there. You could live in one state, invest in a second state's plan, and send your student to school in a third state, if you choose.

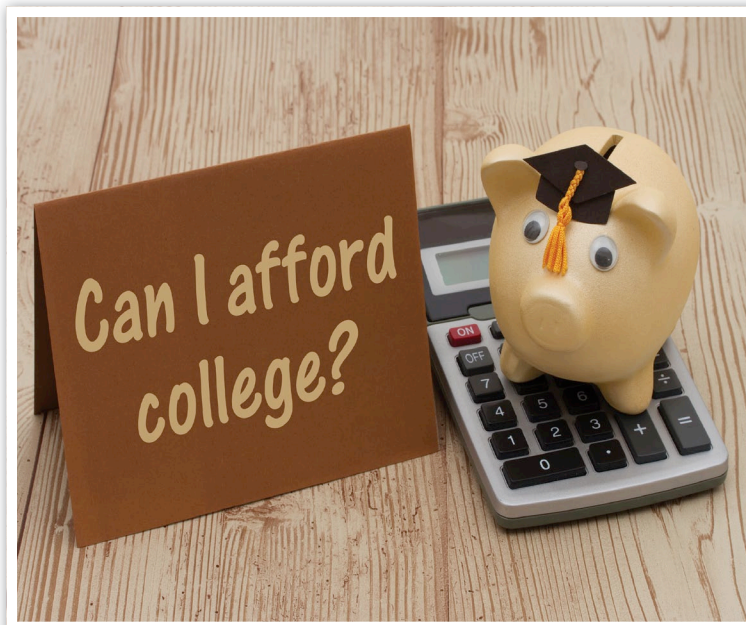
- **Money can be used for virtually any program** – Upon graduating high school, not all kids are interested in, or prepared for, a traditional four-year college. But you can use your 529 plan to help pay for qualified expenses at a variety of educational institutions, including two-year community colleges and trade schools.

Of course, a 529 plan does have considerations you will need to think about

before opening an account. For example, your 529 plan assets can affect your child's needs-based financial aid, but it might not doom it. As long as the 529 assets are under your control, they typically will be assessed at a maximum rate of 5.64% in determining your family's expected contribution under the federal financial aid formula, as opposed to the usual 20% rate for assets held in the student's name.

In any case, though, a 529 plan is worth considering. But don't wait too long – as you well know, your kids seem to grow up in the blink of an eye. 🍌

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



We're an advocate for
STELLAR CUSTOMER SERVICE &
 the **BEST EDUCATION** possible
 for our children.



TREY

MIKE

BOB

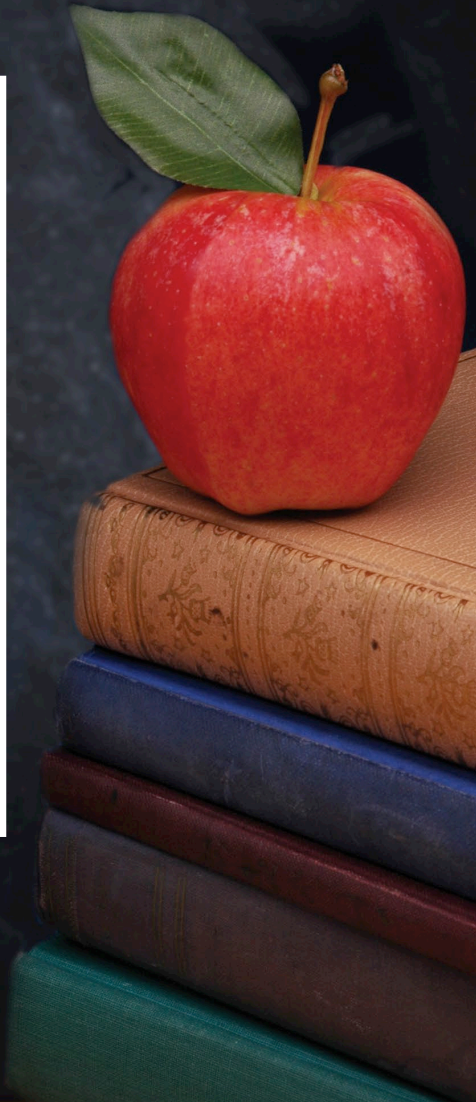
AJ

MOE

1198 Shadow Drive (Off Chuck Dawley in Mt. Pleasant)

843.881.2820

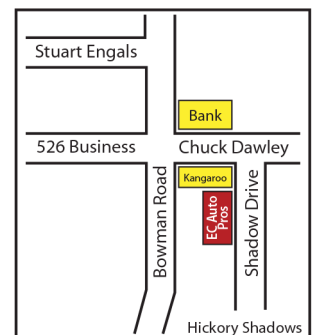
Mon-Fri 8am - 5:30pm | www.eastcooperautopros.com



SERVING EAST COOPER FAMILIES SINCE 1994



Willie and Chrissie Hopkins
 Owners



FIND YOUR VOICE.



Amauri Bowman '16

I am independent and I like having my own ideas. There's a passion in me to make the world a better place. If I can change the life of just one person, that's changing the world to me.

At Porter-Gaud, we see things in children they have yet to see in themselves — strengths, symphonies, stories, truths, voices. Every day, a passionate community of teachers, parents, coaches, staff, and administrators goes to work to draw forth our students' voices, to seek truths, and uncover talents in classrooms, on stages, in studios, on athletic fields, and everywhere life takes them.

PORTER  GAUD

DISCOVER.PORTERGAUD.EDU

843.402.4726