Chester County School District

Committed to excellence for ALL students

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Mission
A great place to grow, committed to excellence for ALL students

Vision
We believe…..
- all people are entitled to a safe, healthy, and positive environment.
- learning requires total community involvement.
- all people have value and can be productive citizens.
- challenge inspires learning.
- multicultural diversity enhances a society.
- learning is a lifelong process.
- preparation for global changes requires growth.

We are a professional learning community…..
- where student results drive instruction.
- where timely interventions/accelerations based on data and student needs are provided.
- where collaboration is organized toward targeted goals that result in improved student performance.
- where employee quality shapes a culture of learning.

Kindergartners review the days of the week on a Promethean Board.

The School District of Chester County, South Carolina
Who are we?

An organization’s slogan is often meaningless words used for advertising purposes, but our school district’s motto “A Great Place to Grow” is so much more to us. Students and employees alike are encouraged to grow and expand their knowledge base as well as improve and develop personal abilities and talents.

Chester County School District

⇒ Three attendance areas: Chester, Lewisville, and Great Falls

⇒ 5 elementary schools

⇒ 3 middle schools

⇒ 3 high schools (one per attendance area)

⇒ Career and Technology Center, Adult Education and Alternative Education

⇒ 5,526 students

⇒ 688 employees, 384 of which are teachers

⇒ 120 teachers have more than 20 years experience in the classroom

⇒ 211 teachers have at least a BA+18 hours

⇒ 48 teachers have National Board Certification
Uniquely Chester County

Nestled between the mountains and the beach, beautiful Chester County gives residents a more rural lifestyle with easy access to the services of nearby metropolitan areas. Unique in our small size and location, Chester County School District is a leader in the education community. An active member of the Olde English Education Consortium, the Chester County School District works with area districts to provide quality professional development for teachers and special programs for students.

Highlights

- The new technology 1:1 initiative, hiTEC, places HP Elite tablets in the hands of every certified teacher and all high school students.
- Great Falls Elementary was named a Microsoft Pathfinder School, one of only nine nation-wide, in 2012.
- In 2013, the entire district was chosen as one of twelve districts nation-wide to enter into a Microsoft Alliance Partnership.
- Seven schools were recognized in 2012 as Palmetto Gold or Silver for their student achievement rates or closing the achievement gaps between groups of students such as race, free/reduced lunch rate, students with disabilities.
- Lewisville High School received a perfect 100 score on the South Carolina State Report Card.
- Chester Park School of Inquiry was named a finalist for the esteemed Dick and Tunky Riley What Works Education Award.
- Our NetScope partnership with nearby Winthrop University provides professional development for district employees, and enables our employees to mentor college students training for a profession in education.
**Mentor Me**

The Mentor Me program is a new district-wide strategy that pairs students in grades kindergarten through 12th with a mentor. Mentors are caring adults who want to give back to their community by volunteering their time in the Chester County schools. The role of the mentor is to be a caring friend who listens and encourages his/her student, while providing guidance and giving examples of good life choices.

**Microsoft Innovative Pathfinder and Mentor School**

Great Falls Elementary School is a 2012 Microsoft Pathfinder School, selected based on its innovative use of technology. Principal Wendell Sumter and kindergarten teacher Stephanie Barber recently represented not only our outstanding district, but also our nation at an international education forum in Prague, Czech Republic. Only nine American schools were chosen to share their new and exciting ideas and practices. Throughout the coming year, Great Falls Elementary teachers and staff will work with other accomplished educators from around the world to further integrate technology into the curriculum.

**Telemedicine**

The telemedicine program at Chester Park Complex is a first-of-its-kind medical service in South Carolina. This futuristic undertaking enables students who become ill while at school to be examined by a physician without ever leaving the office of the school nurse. This process is made possible by the use of medical instruments equipped with cameras that allow the physician to "see" the patient. Two-way video conferencing machines permit the doctor to communicate with the patient as well as the nurse, who then handles the instruments as directed by the doctor during the virtual visit. It is also the role of the school's registered nurse to determine if the student needs to be seen by the doctor; if so, the nurse contacts the parents to keep them informed.

**Special Programs**
Ready for global competition

Technology
Every classroom now comes equipped with interactive white boards to make learning fun and engaging. State-of-the art computer labs give students access to a world of information. The new hiTEC (Helping Integrate Technology, Education and Careers) initiative will place a HP Elite tablet in the hands of every certified teacher and all high school students. This 1:1 technology initiative is an example of Chester County School District’s commitment to preparing our students to compete academically on a global scale. The District has also partnered with TruVista Communications to bring Wi-Fi hotspots to predetermined locations within the county and thus give students Internet access after school hours.

Facilities
Our facilities are modern, clean, and provide a safe learning environment for students. School Resource Officers serve in the schools as mentors and often teach classes such as D.A.R.E. (drug prevention program). Our district was recently named a “Clean Zone” by JanPak company for our use of green and environmentally-safe cleaning products.
In our district, we understand individuals learn differently. Therefore Chester parents and students can decide together which elementary school best suits a student’s unique style. Chester Park Complex houses three distinctly different schools: School of the Arts—incorporates music and art into core subject areas; School of Inquiry—uses hands-on methods to reinforce content; Center of Learning through Technology (COLT) integrates technology into the teaching of math, science, reading, and social studies.

Arts, Inquiry and COLT students receive a well-rounded education in grades K-4 through 5th grade.
The Chester County Career Center offers an enviable engineering and design program that helps area high school students prepare to compete for positions in high-tech industries of the present and future. Recently, the Career Center received a $5,000 grant from PPG Industries to share between its "Project Lead the Way" and Mechatronics programs, said Lee Green, career center director.

"This program teaches kids automated manufacturing and hydraulics, that's where manufacturing is going," Green said. "They (PPG) were looking for a program close to what they do at PPG."

The courses are part of the center's two newest programs called STEM which integrate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, Green said. The Career Center plans to use the PPG grant to purchase robotics training equipment that will aid in the learning process for the 25 students in the program, he said. In 2011, students from the Career Center's Mechatronics program went to a national competition and placed sixth among 22 teams in the SkillsUSA competition. The Career Center prepares these students offering first, a prerequisite course called Introduction to Engineering Design taught by Instructor Lewis Wright. "The program we started up here called 'Project Lead The Way' instills in students to take more science and math courses and it introduces them to the design field,” Wright said.
Wright teaches the introductory course to engineering and design as well as Principles of Engineering, he said. He also teaches a similar course at Chester Middle School.

“These courses entail design work, drafting, designing and 3D products,” Wright said. “It teaches them basic engineering practices like how to design cars and heavy equipment and introduces them to the latest technology.”

Wright is grateful for the PPG grant because “for start-up programs, it costs money,” he said.

“This curriculum keeps changing,” Wright said. “This program is part of a national curriculum where a lot of kids are doing great things and that's what we're instilling in the kids in Chester County.”

The courses are designed similarly to college-level courses where the students take prerequisites and then decide on a specific field of study such as mechanical, civil or architectural engineering or digital electronics, Wright said. Students in his program last year designed modules of a crane, Ferris wheel, miniature car, a swing and a draw bridge, he said. This year, his students are working on two projects, a solar-cell car and a marble sorter which helps them learn to design a machine that separates items for particular packaging, he said. Wright hopes in the year to come there will be additions to the program in statistics, fluids and thermal dynamics.

“Equipment money is critical,” he said.

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We offer Career and Technology Education (CATE) classes such as Welding, Graphics Communications, Machine Shop, Marketing, Carpentry, Fire/Law, Electricity, Automotive Mechanics, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Masonry, and Agriculture Mechanics and Horticulture. We also offer business classes, such as Keyboarding, Entrepreneurship, and Web design.
Community Support

**Chester County School Board**
The Board of School Trustees is elected by the residents of Chester County. These volunteers work diligently to provide students with the best possible education. Meetings are held monthly at the District Office and are open to the public.

*Front Row: Mrs. Pat Hensley, Chair Maggie J. James, Mrs. Denise Lawson. Standing: Mr. Jim Stroman, Dr. Laurens Fort, Mr. Eugene Boyd, and Reverend Bill Stringfellow*

**Public Education Foundation**
Created to assist in the mission of the Chester County School District, the Public Education Foundation works to secure grants and funding that will be used to promote student activities and scholarships. The Foundation has overseen thousands of dollars and helped numerous children, from funding field trips that enable third graders to visit their local history museum, to sending worthy high school graduates to college. Its Board members have worked hard to secure business partners, giving these partners an easy and assured opportunity to contribute to the future of Chester County. For more information, please contact Chairman Bill Bundy at whbundy@truvista.net.

**Parents, Community Members, Local Media, and Higher Education Partners**
The district has strong parental support along with active PTO/PTA organizations. Individual community members, businesses, organizations, and churches are all proud supporters of the Chester County School District. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors our annual *Teacher of the Year* Banquet, and the Sheriff’s Department works closely with our district to provide students a safe and secure learning environment. The local newspaper publishes a weekly “High Five” article to highlight the accomplishments of students and employees. The paper also prints a weekly “Teacher Spotlight” to showcase teacher talents. The Chester County School District maintains close contact with our local higher education partners York Technical College, Winthrop University, and the University of South Carolina Lancaster. These institutions offer professional development opportunities for teachers, as well as special programming and classes for our students.
A Sampling of Student Opportunities

**Athletics**
Chester Senior High School is a division 3A school, with Lewisville High and Great Falls High Schools competing in division 1A. Our high schools and middle schools boast winning teams in the following sports: football, cheerleading, basketball, baseball, volleyball, track, tennis, wrestling, golf, swimming, soccer, cross country, and softball. Other club teams include skeet shooting, bass fishing, rocketry, and Olympic-style archery.

**Marching Band and JROTC**
Our awarding-winning marching bands and JROTC programs teach students to hone their talents and skills. These programs are just two examples of the many student organizations and clubs that are active on each school’s campus.

**Advanced Placement**
High school students can begin their college years with classes already under their belts thanks to Advanced Placement courses offered in our high schools. AP classes are taught in mathematics, science, English, and social studies.

**Teacher Cadets**
The Teacher Cadet program gives middle and high school students a better understanding of education—preparing them for a possible teaching career, as well as giving them valuable insight into the complexity and importance of the educational system.

**Gifted and Talented Program**
Students identified in third grade through eighth grade as being academically and artistically “gifted and talented” are placed in the ACCENT program. This enrichment program helps students reach higher academic goals and achievements.

**ACT/SAT Prep Program**
Certified teachers are working hard to help students prepare for their college boards with extra study sessions. Practicing these important skills gives students the experience and expertise needed to do well on either the ACT or SAT test.

**21st Century Afterschool Program**
This excellent program is designed to help elementary students with their homework, as well as give them extracurricular activities such as 4-H. The program meets daily.
Superintendent Dr. Agnes Slayman with Chester High’s Teacher Cadet class after a performance of their skit on self esteem.

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