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... and More!
We Are Richland One!

We Are Richland One, a nationally accredited school district building on a rich history and tradition of excellence. South Carolina’s ninth-largest school district, our 23,000 students represent 50 countries and as many languages. With 52 schools and special centers, our district stretches over 480 square miles and encompasses urban, suburban and rural communities. Our location in the Palmetto State’s capital city gives our students and employees access to advantages you won’t find anywhere else – innovative academic programs, unique partnerships with businesses, higher education institutions and the faith community, as well as unlimited cultural opportunities. Building robots, observing surgical procedures, repairing diesel engines and flying simulated space missions are just a few of the unique educational experiences that we offer our students. We recognize that students learn in different ways and have different interests. We also understand that parents want choices when it comes to the education of their children. Among our diverse offerings are Montessori programs, International Baccalaureate and other advanced academic programs, foreign language and international programs, visual and performing arts, career and technology education programs, and our Digital Learning Environment initiative. Richland One is also home to South Carolina’s only Challenger Learning Center for space science education. Our students represent the next generation of educators, scientists, artists, entrepreneurs and leaders. Year after year, our graduates go on to attend some of the nation’s most prestigious colleges and universities. The Richland One Class of 2015 earned more than $66.9 million in scholarships and other financial aid, setting a new district record. Our sports teams and individual student-athletes won 12 state championships in the 2014-2015 school year alone.

Students

Total enrollment (Pre-K-12) 23,293*
Elementary schools 11,806
Middle schools 4,984
High schools 6,148
Special schools 355

Schools

Total number of schools/centers 52
Elementary schools 28
Middle schools 9
High schools 7
Special schools/centers 8

Student Demographics

Ethnicity
Black 75.4%
White 18.7%
Other 5.9%
Percentage receiving free/reduced-price lunch 72.47%^

Employees

Total number of employees (full-time equivalents) 4,160
Teachers 2,030
National Board-certified teachers 282

Budget

2015-16 general fund budget $286 million ¥

* Based on 135-day enrollment figures for 2014-15
^ Beginning in August 2015, all Richland One students can eat free school meals.
¥ As of July 1, 2015; pending final approval
“STEM” Schools
Lower Richland and W.J. Keenan high schools recognized nationally for infusing science, technology, engineering and mathematics into the curriculum.

Digital Learning Environment
Technology initiative rolls out to middle and elementary schools.

Community Eligibility Provision
District begins providing free school meals to all students.

Points of Pride
From a new record scholarship total to double-digit state championship wins, there was a lot to celebrate in 2014-2015!

Enjoy the Applause!
District programs nurture students’ talents in theatre and dance.

Features
The seven-member Board of School Commissioners is the governing body of Richland County School District One. The Board is comprised of three at-large members and four members who represent geographic election districts. Board members are elected to serve four-year terms. Non-partisan elections are held in November of even-numbered years on a staggered basis.

The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month (except July), with meeting locations alternating between schools and the district office (Stevenson Administration Building, 1616 Richland Street). Open session begins at 7:00 p.m. The Board sets aside time during each meeting for public speakers. Persons who wish to address the Board may sign up to speak at the meeting. Each speaker is given three minutes. Speakers receive a written response from the Board within two weeks.

School board meetings are taped and broadcast on Richland One TV (Time Warner Cable channel 12) and posted on ROTV On Demand at www.richlandone.org. Board meeting agendas and the ROTV broadcast schedule also are posted on the district’s website.

### 2015 -2016 Board Meeting Schedule

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### School Board Office

Stevenson Administration Building
1616 Richland Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Contact: Eva Wilson,
Special Assistant to the Board

Phone: 803-231-7556
Fax: 803-231-7560

E-mail: eva.wilson@richlandone.org
Superintendent’s Message

I am very excited as we begin the 2015-2016 school year. As we work to fulfill our mission of “empowering all students to achieve their potential and dreams,” this is shaping up to be an impactful and transformational year of teaching and learning for our students and staff alike.

We want our students to be engaged in personalized learning opportunities that are challenging and allow them to guide their learning in a way that is different than they have previously experienced. Our Digital Learning Environment initiative (DLE) will be entering its second phase this fall. As such, our high schools will continue the path that was begun last year and our middle schools will be implementing the use of mobile devices. In January, students in grades 3-5 will receive devices as well.

In addition to the DLE initiative, we will continue to provide students with opportunities to be engaged in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), as well as STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) experiences. In Richland One, we see these experiences as being embedded in the curriculum and not as stand-alone opportunities. These connections will allow us to move our students further and faster as we prepare them for college and careers.

As always, we thank our parents and community members for your engagement and involvement in this journey. As such, I invite you to stay abreast of what is happening in the district through our website (www.richlandone.org; click on the VIP Network link on the home page to sign up for the weekly e-newsletter), Richland One TV on Time Warner Cable channel 12, as well as social media (facebook.com/r1schools and on Twitter @RichlandOne). You also may follow me on my weekly blog, Straight from the Supe, and on Twitter @RichlandOneSupe.

To our more than 23,000 students and 4,000 staff, best wishes for an exciting and successful 2015-2016 school year!

Craig Witherspoon, Ed.D.
Superintendent

2014-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Mission
We are Richland One, a leader in transforming lives through education, empowering all students to achieve their potential and dreams.

Objectives
1. Students will master numeracy and literacy skills.
2. Students will demonstrate higher order thinking, social skills, and character traits necessary to be contributing citizens in a global society.
3. As life-long learners, students will be empowered to continue exploring their interests and passion.

Strategies
1. We will ensure a variety of innovative, transformative, personalized learning experiences for each student from early childhood through graduation.
2. We will foster an environment that embraces change and leads to a responsive culture of accountability, communication and stakeholder engagement.
3. We will build/grow capacity for individual and system-wide productivity to accomplish our mission.

RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
DIRECTORY OF SCHOOLS

Elementary Schools

### Arden Elementary
1300 Ashley Street
Columbia, SC 29023
Telephone: 735-3400
Principal: Dr. Peggy Grant
Enrollment: 265
Grades: CD-5

### Bradley Elementary
3012 Pine Belt Road
Columbia, SC 29204
Telephone 738-7200
Principal: Kezia Myers
Enrollment: 339
Grades: CD-5

### Brennan Elementary
4418 Deveraux Road
Columbia, SC 29205
Telephone: 790-6743
Principal: Dr. Eunice Williams
Enrollment: 261
Grades: Pre K-Grade 5

### Burns Side Elementary
7300 Patterson Road
Columbia, SC 29209
Telephone: 783-5300
Principal: Dr. Felicia Richardson
Enrollment: 271
Grades: CD-5

### Burton-Pack Elementary
111 Garden Drive
Columbia, SC 29204
Telephone: 691-5550
Principal: Sarah Smith
Enrollment: 518
Grades: CD-5

### Carver-Lyon Elementary
2100 Waverly Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Telephone: 343-2900
Principal: Michelle Kennedy
Enrollment: 326
Grades: CD-5

### Caughman Rd. Elementary
7725 Caughman Road
Columbia, SC 29209
Telephone: 783-5334
Principal: Dr. Teresa Turner
Enrollment: 616
Grades: CD-5

### Forest Heights Elementary
2500 Blue Ridge Terrace
Columbia, SC 29203
Telephone: 691-3780
Principal: Dr. Frank Robinson
Enrollment: 534
Grades: CD-5

### Gadsden Elementary
1660 South Goodwin Circle
Gadsden, SC 29052
Telephone: 353-2231
Principal: Monica Owens Carter
Enrollment: 112
Grades: CD-5

### Hopkins Elementary
6120 Cabin Creek Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
Telephone: 783-3541
Principal: Debora Varn
Enrollment: 321
Grades: CD-5

### Horrell Hill Elementary
517 Horrell Hill Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
Telephone: 783-3545
Principal: Panthemia Satterwhite
Enrollment: 776
Grades: CD-5

### Hyatt Park Elementary
4200 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29023
Telephone: 735-3421
Principal: Andrea Adams
Enrollment: 479
Grades: CD-5

### Lewis Greenview Elementary
726 Easter Street
Columbia, SC 29023
Telephone: 735-3417
Principal: Delores Gillard
Enrollment: 385
Grades: CD-5

### Logan Elementary
815 Elmwood Avenue
Columbia, SC 29021
Telephone: 343-2915
Principal: Christopher Richards
Enrollment: 198
Grades: CD-5

### Meadowfield Elementary
525 Galway Lane
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 783-3549
Principal: Dr. Christine LeBlanc
Enrollment: 652
Grades: CD-5

### Mill Creek Elementary
925 Universal Drive
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 783-3533
Principal: Dr. Charles DeLaughter
Enrollment: 405
Grades: CD-5

### A.C. Moore Elementary
333 Elmton Avenue
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 343-2910
Principal: Dr. Chantelle Baker
Enrollment: 385
Grades: CD-5

### Pine Grove Elementary
111 Huffstetler Drive
Columbia, SC 29021
Telephone: 214-2380
Principal: Inger Ferguson
Enrollment: 555
Grades: CD-5

### H.B. Rhame Elementary
1300 Arnowood Road
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 731-8900
Principal: Elizabeth Eason
Enrollment: 400
Grades: K-5

### Rosewood Elementary
3500 Rosewood Drive
Columbia, SC 29025
Telephone: 343-2930
Principal: Elizabeth Williams
Enrollment: 405
Grades: K-5

### Sandel Elementary
2700 Seminole Road
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 731-8906
Principal: Claudia Brooks
Enrollment: 596
Grades: CD-5

### Satchel Ford Elementary
5901 Satchel Ford Road
Columbia, SC 29025
Telephone: 738-7209
Principal: Kevin Hasinger
Enrollment: 706
Grades: K-5

### South Kilbourne Elementary
1400 South Kilbourne Road
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 738-7215
Principal: Dr. Linda Norton
Enrollment: 236
Grades: CD-5

### Edward E. Taylor Elementary
200 McRae Street
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 343-3724
Principal: Debbie R. Hunter
Enrollment: 236
Grades: CD-5

### J.P. Thomas Elementary
6001 Weston Avenue
Columbia, SC 29020
Telephone: 735-3430
Principal: Selina Latimore
Enrollment: 391
Grades: CD-5

### Watkins-Nance Elementary
2325 Barhamville Road
Columbia, SC 29024
Telephone: 733-4321
Principal: Dr. Evelyn Cohens
Enrollment: 408
Grades: CD-5

### Webber Elementary
140 Webber School Road
Eastover, SC 29044
Telephone: 353-8771
Principal: Tiffany Brooks
Enrollment: 309
Grades: CD-5
**Middle Schools**

- **Alcorn Middle** 5123 Fairfield Road, Columbia, SC 29203
  - Telephone: 231-6349
  - Principal: Dr. Antwon Sutton
  - Enrollment: 347
  - Grades: 6-8

- **Crayton Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-7244
  - Principal: Susan Childs
  - Enrollment: 1019
  - Grades: 6-8

- **Heyward Gibbes Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-7454
  - Principal: Jody Davidson
  - Enrollment: 872
  - Grades: 6-8

- **Hand Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-6894
  - Principal: Bobbie Hartwell, Jr.
  - Enrollment: 486
  - Grades: 6-8

- **Hopkins Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-6694
  - Principal: Bobbie Hartwell, Jr.
  - Enrollment: 486
  - Grades: 6-8

- **W.A. Perry Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-6245
  - Principal: Robert Smith
  - Enrollment: 327
  - Grades: 6-8

- **St. Andrews Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-6910
  - Principal: Derrick Glover
  - Enrollment: 684
  - Grades: 6-8

- **W.G. Sanders Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-6345
  - Principal: Andrea Smith
  - Enrollment: 392
  - Grades: 6-8

- **Southeast Middle**
  - Telephone: 231-6950
  - Principal: Stacey Whittaker
  - Enrollment: 524
  - Grades: 6-8

**High Schools**

- **Columbia High**
  - Telephone: 231-6950
  - Principal: Shanequa Coles
  - Enrollment: 718
  - Grades: 9-12

- **Dreher High**
  - Telephone: 231-6345
  - Principal: Jeann Offlearger
  - Enrollment: 1102
  - Grades: 9-12

- **Eau Claire High**
  - Telephone: 231-6345
  - Principal: June Page
  - Enrollment: 601
  - Grades: 9-12

- **A.C. Johnson High**
  - Telephone: 231-6500
  - Principal: Richard Scull
  - Enrollment: 247
  - Grades: 9-12

- **W.J. Keenan High**
  - Telephone: 231-7500
  - Principal: Victoria Dixon-Moore
  - Enrollment: 698
  - Grades: 9-12

- **Lower Richland High**
  - Telephone: 231-6345
  - Principal: Kelvin Lemon
  - Enrollment: 1239
  - Grades: 9-12

**Special Schools & Centers**

- **Adult Education**
  - Telephone: 231-6944
  - Coordinator: Dr. Marva Groom
  - Grades: 9-12

- **Challenger Learning Center**
  - Telephone: 231-6345
  - Director: Dr. Carolyn Donelan
  - Grades: 9-12

- **Evening High School Program**
  - Telephone: 231-6345
  - Coordinator: Kerry Abel
  - Grades: 9-12

**Charter Schools**

- **Carolina School for Inquiry**
  - Telephone: 231-6500
  - Director: Dr. Carolyn Donelan
  - Grades: K-5

- **Richland One Middle College**
  - Telephone: 231-6345
  - Director: Dr. Timmie Davis
  - Grades: 11-12

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**FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS**

- Richland One Switchboard: 231-7000
- Adult Education: 231-2935
- Advanced Academic Programs: 231-6836
- Athletics: 231-7496
- Attendance Lines: 231-6944
- Center for Educator Qualit: 231-7500
- Challenger Learning Center: 231-7496
- Charter Schools: 231-6704
- Communications: 231-7504
- Community Eligibility Provision: 231-6953/6958
- Curriculum and Instruction: 231-7495
- Dropout Prevention & Community Partnerships: 231-6709
- Early Childhood Education: 231-6842
- Extended-Day Programs: 231-7057
- Foreign Language/International Programs: 231-6829
- Four-year-old Kindergarten: 231-6709
- Guidance and Counseling Services: 400-1691
- Hearing Office: 231-6926
- Homebound Instruction: 400-1672
- Homeschooling: 231-7459
- Human Resources: 231-7418
- InfoPhone: 231-7512
- Information Technology: 231-7464
- Insurance (student): 231-7401
- Instructional Technology Services: 231-6803
- International Welcome Center: 212-1475
- Montessori Programs: 739-3548
- Nursing Services: 231-6751
- Ombudsman: 231-7496
- Parents and Students Succeed: 231-6914
- Partnerships: 790-6763
- Procurement Services: 231-7033
- Registrar's Office: 231-6944
- Richland One Community Coalition (ROCC): 231-6909
- Richland One TV: 231-6700/6701
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools: 231-6906
- Security and Emergency Services: 231-7130
- School Board Office: 231-7556
- School Board Policies: 231-7404
- School Improvement Councils: 790-6763
- School Psychologists: 231-6764
- Social Work Services: 231-6748
- Special Education: 231-6773
- Special Education (pre-school): 691-3993
- Standardized testing: 231-7450
- Student Nutrition Services: 231-6953
- Student Records: 231-6791
- Student Transfers: 231-6944
- Student Transportation Services: 231-7002
- Superintendent's Office: 231-7500
- Teaching and Learning: 231-6704
- Textbooks: 231-6865
- Title I (No Child Left Behind): 231-6815
- Visual and Performing Arts: 231-6858
- Volunteer and Mentoring Programs: 231-7511

**BELL SCHEDULE**

- **Elementary Schools**: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **Middle Schools**: 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
- **High Schools**: 8:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Six Richland One students received scholarships through the National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship Programs for their academic achievements. Kevin Rabinovich, Esme Bajo and Elizabeth Williams of A.C. Flora High School and Nick Seymour of Dreher High School were awarded National Merit scholarships. Tyler Gray of A.C. Flora High School and Gabrielle Young of Lower Richland High School were named National Achievement Scholars.

Dreher High School was ranked seventh in South Carolina in U.S. News & World Report’s 2015 Best High Schools listing. As one of the state’s top-ranked schools, Dreher was awarded a national silver medal by the publication.

U.S. News & World Report’s research team reviewed nearly 20,000 public schools across the nation. Schools were evaluated based on reading and math proficiency tests and college readiness using Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test data.

Elizabeth Williams and Jordan Pennington of A.C. Flora High School and Nathan Hahn of Dreher High School were named as candidates for the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Each year, up to 141 students are chosen as Presidential Scholars from among the 560 semifinalists.

2014-2015 Richland One Teacher of the Year Daniel Oddo, a National Board-certified mathematics teacher at Dreher High School, was named one of five finalists for 2015-2016 South Carolina Teacher of the Year. Mr. Oddo represented Richland One at the 50th anniversary of the South Carolina Teacher of the Year celebration.

W.J. Keenan High School and Lewis Greenview Elementary School competed at the 2014-2015 State Odyssey of the Mind Competition. Keenan earned first-place and third-place awards, while Greenview won two first-place awards and one second-place award. First- and second-place winners qualified for the World Finals.

Richland One recognized its outstanding volunteers, partners and School Improvement Councils during an awards program and reception held in their honor. The district's 4,500 volunteers have given more than 100,000 hours of service to Richland One students and schools in the past year, time valued at $2.2 million.

Students who graduated in the Richland One Class of 2015 collectively received more than $66.9 million in scholarship offers and other financial aid, exceeding the previous year’s total by more than $2 million and setting a new district scholarship record.

Richland One schools, students and staff received numerous honors and awards during the 2014-2015 school year. Following is just a sampling of our many Points of Pride. For more Points of Pride, go to www.richlandone.org.

Richland One was reaccredited by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission. A 12-member external review team of educators recommended the district for reaccreditation following a four-day visit during which team members interviewed 362 stakeholders, made 116 classroom observations and reviewed numerous documents provided by the district.

Richland One led the state this year for having the most students graduate with 12 years of perfect attendance. The six students who achieved that distinction were: Gabrielle Cummings, Brianna Harris, Ashley Pough and Nick Seymour of Dreher High School; Cyrus Hall of W.J. Keenan High School; and Marcos Smith of A.C. Flora High School.

Horrell Hill Elementary School was one of 51 schools nationwide (and the only South Carolina school) selected to receive $10,000 in computer hardware and accessories from Code.org. Horrell Hill students joined their peers around the world in participating in Hour of Code activities.

Lower Richland High School and its PTSA were recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence for their achievements in building effective family-school partnerships.

Twelve Richland One teachers earned the highest credential available in the teaching profession, while 17 other district teachers renewed their National Board certification. Of South Carolina’s 136 new National Board-certified teachers, Richland One tied with Lexington-Richland Five for having the third-highest number in the state. Richland One now has 282 National Board-certified teachers.

A.C. Flora High School was ranked #409 among the top 1,000 schools in The Washington Post’s 2015 list of America’s Most Challenging High Schools. In the state-by-state top 20 listings, A.C. Flora was ranked #2 and Dreher High School was ranked #16 in South Carolina. The annual ranking of the nation’s high schools was based on the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education tests given at a school each year, as well as the number of seniors graduating that year.

Representatives from Crayton Middle School, Eau Claire High School and Lower Richland High School went to Washington, D.C. to accept National Healthy School Awards for transforming their schools into healthier places.

POINTS OF PRIDE
During the 2014-2015 school year, Richland One teams and individual student-athletes fought off their competitors to bring home an incredible 12 state championship titles in seven sports – swimming, wrestling, basketball, tennis, soccer, track and field, and golf. In Richland One, the champs are here!

**SWIMMING CHAMPIONS**

Dreher High School swimmers Austin Konkle, Nathan Hahn, Cameron Sawyer and Zachary Rue finished 1/100th of a second before their closest competitors to clinch the state Class 3A title in the 200-yard freestyle relay race.

**BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS**

The W.J. Keenan High School boys’ basketball team broke Ridgeland-Hardeeville’s 26-game winning streak, defeating the team 69-46 to win the 2015 Class 2A state championship trophy. It was the Keenan boys’ team’s first state championship game appearance since 2011.

**WRESTLING CHAMPIONS**

Kimone Shaw (right) of Columbia High School won the Class 2A state wrestling championship title in the 170-pound weight class. Louis Wilson (left), also from Columbia High, won the Class 2A state wrestling championship in the 160-pound weight class.

**GIRLS’ SOCCER CHAMPIONS**

The Dreher High School girls’ soccer team defeated four-time defending champion Hilton Head 7-3 to win the Class 3A state championship. Junior Kasey Parker scored five goals to lead the team to its first state title since 2002.

**BOYS’ SOCCER CHAMPIONS**

The A.C. Flora High School boys’ soccer team defeated St. James 5-1 to win the Class 3A state championship. The state title was the first in the 50-year history of boys’ soccer at A.C. Flora.

**GOLF CHAMPIONS**

The A.C. Flora High School golf team shot two under par to win its sixth consecutive Class 3A state championship title.

**TRACK CHAMPION**

Princess Hammett of Lower Richland High School won the Class 3A state championship in the 100-meter hurdles.

**TRACK CHAMPION**

Syteria Dorsey of Columbia High School won Class 2A state championship titles in the 110-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles.
GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS
Prestigious scholarship paying full college tuition for four Richland One graduates

Four Richland One graduates with their sights set on becoming a pediatrician, business leader, architectural engineer and mechanical engineer will be going to college at no cost thanks to the Gates Millennium Scholarship, which will pay the entire cost of their education through graduate school.

“It’s a miracle. My mom burst into tears when she heard. This is the best scholarship ever,” said Micah Crumpton, a 2015 graduate of W.J. Keenan High School. Micah, along with Shacoria Anderson of Lower Richland High School, Marcas Smith of A.C. Flora High School and Linda Taylor of Eau Claire High School are the district’s newest Gates Millennium Scholars.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program is funded by a $1.6 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to attend college. Applicants must have a 3.3 or higher GPA (grade point average) and have demonstrated superb academic achievement, leadership abilities and extracurricular community service activities. Each year the Foundation awards scholarships to 1,000 students nationwide.

“In the past eight years, Richland One has had 15 Gates Millennium Scholars. Having four Gates Scholars named in one year is a new district record,” said Richland One Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon. “Along with congratulating the students and their families, I also want to commend our district guidance coordinator, Dr. Dorothy Gallman, our principals and their guidance staff for their efforts in encouraging more of our students to apply and in providing support to them throughout the application process.”

Richland One had more Gates Millennium Scholars in 2015 than any other school district in South Carolina.

This fall Lower Richland’s Shacoria Anderson plans to attend Georgetown University to pursue her dream of becoming a pediatrician. She encourages students to start checking out scholarships early.

“When I first found out I won this scholarship, it was hard to let it sink in,” said Shacoria. “The financial burden of college is lifted. So many times families use that as a reason or excuse not to send their children to college, but with scholarships like this available, there can be no excuses. I never thought that out of the 50,000 applicants, I would be chosen, but I was.”

The fields of computer engineering and business intrigue Keenan’s Micah Crumpton, who plans to attend the University of South Carolina this fall with the ultimate goal of owning his own computer technology business. He also plans to pursue a doctoral degree and offers this advice to other students: “Life is about overcoming challenges, he said. “Know your goals and work toward them. Never give up. Be self-motivated.”

Self-motivation and determination are definitely attributes of A.C. Flora graduate Marcas Smith. This fall Marcas will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to major in architectural engineering and design with a minor in theatre. This talented student also attained a goal few students achieve: 12 years of perfect attendance from kindergarten through his senior year of high school. He has this advice for students who want to be successful academically:

“Motivate yourself. You may have family and other students and friends to help you, but at the end of the day, you are the one who has to do the work,” he said. “I knew that my hard work would pay off even if I couldn’t see the benefits at the time.”

Compassion and a desire to serve others is important to Linda Taylor. The Eau Claire graduate often volunteers at the library, homeless shelters, local daycare and church. This fall she will be attending the University of South Carolina to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in computer science.

“This scholarship lifts boundaries and you can go as far as you want,” she said. “It makes your future limitless.”

Richland One also extends its congratulations to Gabrielle Young of Lower Richland High School who was a finalist for this year’s Gates Millennium Scholarships. Gabrielle, a 2015 National Achievement Scholar, plans to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and major in physical science.

For more information on the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program, contact your school’s guidance office or go to www.gmsp.org.

(From left): Micah Crumpton, Shacoria Anderson, Marcas Smith and Linda Taylor
Austin Konkle,  
Dreher High School

“Resilient” is a fitting word to describe Austin Konkle. Since the age of seven, he dreamed and trained with the hope of one day becoming a world-class swimmer. At Dreher High School, he was captain of the varsity swim team, a 2014 state champion in the 200-yard freestyle relay and an All-State swimmer. Shoulder surgeries in his sophomore and junior years, followed by a slow and painful recovery, took their toll but he persevered.

“My junior year tested my stamina as a person... my own will power,” said Austin, who graduated as valedictorian of the Dreher Class of 2015. “I was in and out of the hospital, but my biggest strength was my optimism. I realized it was going to get better. I just needed to get through now. I grabbed hold of that in the toughest times.”

That optimism and mental toughness to push through hard times have helped him to succeed academically. In addition to being a National Commended Scholar, Austin is a gifted writer, photographer and actor. He also was a member of the Dreher math team, a Furman Scholar, Wofford Scholar, an AP Scholar with Distinction and a Harvard Book Award recipient.

The shoulder injuries and subsequent surgeries ended Austin’s dreams of being a collegiate and Olympic swimmer but paved the way for a new career goal: to serve as an ambassador to the United Nations. This fall he plans to attend Vanderbilt University as a political science major.

Austin’s heroes are members of his family who taught him to value hard work and set goals at an early age.

“My parents never pushed me as hard as I pushed myself,” he said. “When I was growing up, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents. I really admired them. I saw how much they loved our family and put their heart into everything they ever did. That made me want to treat people as kindly as they did.”

His advice to other teens, especially middle school students, is to work hard and continue to challenge themselves. “Put a little bit of extra effort ... even 5-10 minutes a day ... you can do better and have more opportunities open up. Seek to do your best, even if your friends think it’s not cool.”

Spoken like a true diplomat and a grateful son and grandson.

Gabrielle Young,  
Lower Richland High School

Gabrielle “Gabby” Young loves a challenge. She can’t wait to get to the United States Military Academy at West Point for six and a half weeks of cadet basic training. Why West Point for this National Achievement Scholar who had her pick of colleges across the nation?

“I want to give back to my country,” she said. “I am excited because I’ll go from being ‘top dog’ in high school to be with the cream of the crop and I’ll be around people who are just as or more accomplished than I. They can pull me up. It’s scary, but West Point will give me many opportunities. The rigor will test me in ways I’ve never been tested. I’ll get to see what I’m made of and grow. I look forward to the challenge ... to the person that I will be when I graduate.”

Gabby’s goal is to serve her country as an officer in the United States Army. Her leadership abilities were sharpened at Lower Richland High School where she served as president of her freshman and sophomore classes and as student body vice president and president, along with holding multiple leadership positions in school clubs.

“I’ve fallen in love with leadership,” she said. “As a leader you have to recognize what you don’t know and you get a unique chance to help others.”

Gabby was in the International Baccalaureate Diploma program at Lower Richland. She also was co-captain and a member of the school’s varsity softball and cross country teams, respectively. Her awards and honors include being crowned Miss Lower Richland 2015 and being named a 2015 Questbridge Finalist and an AP Scholar with Honors.

Her family is her inspiration and joy. Gabby wants to become a pediatrician and possibly help find a cure for celiac disease, an autoimmune disease that her 14-year-old brother has. She appreciates her parents who always believed in her and she hopes to make them proud, especially her dad, a 1979 Lower Richland graduate and former soldier. Her mom, a native of France, helped her to have a vision for herself.

“I always saw beyond the present and asked myself: ‘what am I doing now to help me down the road?’ My mom sacrificed for her family. She was there for every paper and project, editing and proofreading, and she imparted a lot of wisdom.”

Gabby’s advice to other teens is to know themselves and take risks. “Have your own identity and don’t give in to peer pressure,” she said. “I’m resilient. When I fail, I do not let it define me. Learn the lesson and press onward.”

“Seek to do your best, even if your friends think it’s not cool.”

“When I fail, I do not let it define me. Learn the lesson and press onward.”
**SCHOOL ESSENTIALS**

**SCHOOL ZONE LOCATOR**

Richland One's School Zone Locator is a convenient online tool for parents to use to find out which schools their children are zoned to attend and which buses they will ride. To access the School Zone Locator, go to www.richlandone.org, click on the School Zone Locator link on the left side of the home page and type in the information requested. The 2015-2016 school bus routes are posted on the district's website. For more information, contact the Registrar's Office at 231-6944 or Student Transportation Services at 231-7002.

**ENROLLING IN SCHOOL**

Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1 to enroll in kindergarten and 6 years old on or before September 1 to enroll in first grade. State law requires students to be in school from ages 5 to 17. Parents who choose not to send their child to a public or private 5-year-old kindergarten must sign a waiver to that effect. Waiver forms are available at all elementary schools. To enroll a child for any grade, parents must take the following documents to the school that serves their residence:

- Child's Social Security card (if no card is available, the school's computer database will generate a SUNS/State ID Number)
- Long-form birth certificate
- South Carolina Certificate of Immunization
- Two proofs of residence, such as a copy of a lease or mortgage statement and a copy of a utility bill

To enroll a child who is transferring from another school district, parents should take the child's most recent report card and the check-out card from the previous school, in addition to the documents required for registration. The following documents are recommended for registration, if available: academic record (transcript, report cards, test scores); copy of special education Individualized Education Program (IEP), if applicable; and any other records that will be helpful in placing the student in the appropriate academic program.

Students are assigned to schools based upon where their parents or guardians live. If parents are divorced or legally separated, the student is assigned to a school based upon where the custodial parent lives. If the parents or guardians do not have a lease or utility bill in their names, they must complete the shared housing proof of residence process at their zoned school.

If a student's permanent home address changes after the first grading period, parents may request permission for the student to remain at the same school for the school year. This request must be made through the Registrar's Office. If permission is granted, the student must enroll in the zoned school at the beginning of the next school year.

For more information about registration requirements or school assignments, contact the Registrar's Office at 231-6944.

**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

According to South Carolina state law, every student must present a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization showing the minimum immunization requirements at the time of school entrance. If the student is entering from another South Carolina school, he/she must submit an immunization record at registration. Students from out-of-state have 30 days to comply. Failure to comply will result in disenrollment.

Changes in immunization requirements for the 2015-2016 schedule include:

- Eleventh grade has been added to the requirement for four doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.
- First grade has been added to the requirement for two doses of varicella. A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.
- Third grade has been added to the requirement for three doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one dose received on or after the fourth birthday.

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• A hepatitis B third dose minimum age and interval has been added to school attendance minimum requirements (third dose received greater than 24 weeks of age and at least 16 weeks after the first dose).

Please note that the child's class enrollment (not age) determines which required standards to use – day care or school. Day care requirements apply to children enrolled in pre-K and 4K programs and younger, even if attendance is in a school setting. School requirements apply to children enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten through grade 12. Details regarding immunization requirements are outlined in the 2015-2016 schedules of required vaccines for school admittance and day care attendance which are posted on the Richland One website (www.richlandone.org) and on the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's website (www.scdhec.gov).

**SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS**

School supply lists for elementary and middle-school students are posted at www.richlandone.org. If you have questions or need more information, contact your child's school.
School Attendance: Setting Up Your Child for Success

If you knew that attending school every day could give your children the boost and advantage they need for success at school and in life, would you work harder to ensure that they attend school every day? The answer for most parents is a resounding yes.

Parents want the best for their children and most parents know that in South Carolina, the law states that students must attend school daily. Parents also agree that attending school is a good thing and they support their children in going to school every day. However, not all parents may be aware of the real benefits that children gain from daily school attendance.

Consider the following: students who consistently attend school in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten increase their chances of reading on grade level at the third grade and children who can read on grade level at third grade tremendously increase their chances of graduating from high school. Also, children who attend school on a regular basis have higher grades and do better on standardized tests than their peers. Both facts are very good reasons to assist your child in attending school every day.

As the new school year begins, try taking these actions to help ensure that your child is set up for success:

- **Know the school’s attendance policy and send a note whenever your child is absent.**

- **Pack backpacks and lay out your child’s clothes the night before.** This small act will save you time and keep your children stress-free and ready to meet their teachers and classmates with a positive attitude.

- **Enforce the “no television at bedtime” rule.** This will ensure that when it is time to wake up, your child is well rested and ready to go to school.

- **When possible, schedule medical appointments and other appointments at times when school is not in session.** If that is not possible, always plan to bring your child back to school after an appointment. This sends a clear message to your child that attending school is important.

Inclement Weather Procedures

There may be times during the school year when inclement weather will prompt a late start, early dismissal or cancellation of school. Richland One has procedures in place to make decisions about whether school and work schedules will be modified and to notify students, parents, district employees and community members as quickly as possible.

Parents will receive an automated phone message from the district through the SchoolMessenger notification system. Announcements of school closings or delays also will be sent to local news media and posted on the district’s website (www.richlandone.org) and Richland One TV (Time Warner Cable channel 12), as well as Facebook (facebook.com/r1schools), Twitter (twitter.com/richlandone) and the Richland One InfoPhone (231-7512). Parents are urged not to call the schools because doing so could hinder district emergency communications.

Other school emergencies, such as power and heating/air-conditioning outages, also may result in delayed school starts, early dismissals or cancellations. Similar notification procedures would be followed at the district or school level, including whether after-school programs, child-care programs and athletics activities will proceed as scheduled. Under a two-hour delay, buses will pick up students two hours later than normal and school will start two hours later than normal; any exceptions and any other pertinent information will be announced.

Please note that state law requires students to receive 180 days of instruction. Days missed will have to be made up at some other time during the school year. Richland One has designated three dates in the 2015-2016 district calendar that would be used as make-up days (in the following order) if necessary: February 15, March 18 and May 30.

The decision whether to cancel school, start late or dismiss early during inclement weather conditions is seldom an easy one, but the safety of our students and employees will continue to be our most important consideration. Parents are urged to make arrangements in advance and establish an emergency plan for their children in the event that schools are closed, start late or are dismissed early.
Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, all Richland One students will be able to eat breakfast, lunch, snacks and supper at school at no charge, regardless of their family income.

Tracy Dixon, Richland One's director of Student Nutrition Services, said the free meals - which meet federal guidelines for healthy school meals - will be provided to students at all 52 district schools and centers. The average district family could save more than $400 per child in a school year.

"Paying for lunch can be a challenge for many families. Imagine families now having hundreds of dollars in extra money to use for other bills, instead of school lunch," Dixon said. "Parents don't have to send any money, complete any paperwork or take any other action for their children to receive free school meals. This is a wonderful benefit to all families in Richland One."

Richland One is implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which was authorized by Congress as part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Districts participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs that have a high percentage of students who qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals can choose to adopt CEP as an alternative to collecting individual school meal applications. The level of federal funding for CEP districts' meal programs is determined by using information from other programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

During the 2014-2015 school year, 32 South Carolina school districts participated in CEP, according to the S.C. Department of Education.

Studies show that children who are well-fed perform better in school and Richland One encourages families to take advantage of the opportunity for their children to eat healthy and nutritious school meals at no cost. However, families who want to pay for their children's meals will have that option, but payments must be made in cash; no credit will be extended.

With the start of this new program, the district hopes to be able to offer even more locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables for students to enjoy. Students will have a variety of tasty meals to choose from including a hot lunch, "grab-and-go" sandwich combos and salads prepared fresh every day. Dixon said plans are in the works to have a salad bar in every district school this year.

For more information about CEP, go to www.richlandone.org or call Student Nutrition Services at (803) 231-6953.

SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOL

In an effort to encourage students to eat healthy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) took a major step forward in publishing the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards for all food and beverages sold to students during the school day in vending machines, school stores, snack carts and a la carte lines, as well as through fundraising.

The new Smart Snacks In School science-based nutrition standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, apply to all Richland One school campuses. The standards have limits on calories, fats, sugar and sodium and encourage the consumption of dairy, whole grains, protein, fruits and vegetables. Now in effect, these rules apply to any school that participates in the National School Lunch Program.

The Richland One Board of Commissioners has approved Smart Snack guidelines (effective July 1, 2015) which apply to school fundraisers involving the sale of food or beverages. The school board and USDA understand that fundraisers are time-honored traditions that support local school activities, including class trips, athletics programs and the purchase of school supplies.
KEY DATES

2015

August 7  Countdown to Kindergarten, EdVenture Children's Museum, 5:30-8 p.m.
August 15  Sportsorama at Memorial Stadium; kickoff at 6 p.m.
August 17  First day of school for students
August 17  Afterschool childcare and athletic tutorial programs begin
August 24  First day of school for pre-kindergarten students
September 8  Afterschool Comprehensive Remediation, SC Chamber Homework Center and 21st Century Community Learning Center programs begin
September 17  Early dismissal of all schools
October 3  Reading Rocks literacy celebration Reading Rocks with Families, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at W.G. Sanders Middle School
October 8  Richland One vs. Richland Two "Nothing But Net" charity basketball game benefitting the Palmetto Health Foundation, 6 p.m. at W.J. Keenan High School
October 13  Richland One College and Career Expo for students in grades 11-12, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Carolina Coliseum – parents/guardians of high school juniors and seniors invited to attend
October 17  Palmetto Health Foundation’s Walk for Life/Race for Life breast cancer fund-raiser at Finlay Park; opening ceremony at 8:15 a.m.
October 22  Early dismissal of all schools
November 5  Parent conferences; early dismissal of all schools
November 15-21  American Education Week
November 25-27  Thanksgiving Break
December 21-January 1  Winter Break

2016

January 14  Early dismissal of all schools
January 18  Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
January 26  District Choral Concert, Dreher High School, 6:30 p.m.
January 28  State of the District/VIP Network Meeting, A.C. Flora High School, 6 p.m.
January 29  District Honor Band Concert, Eau Claire High School, 6 p.m.
February 1  Pre-kindergarten registration begins
February 13  Richland One Hall of Fame Induction Gala, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center – reception at 5 p.m. and program at 6 p.m.
February 25  Early dismissal of all schools
March 1-May 2  Student transfer application season; contact the Registrar’s Office for details.
March 3  Last day for pre-kindergarten registration for 2016-2017
March 4  District Honors Orchestra Concert, Eau Claire High School, 6 p.m.
March 21  Richland One Technology Showcase, Olympia Learning Center, 4 p.m.
March 24  Early dismissal of all schools
March 28 - April 1  Spring Break
April 5 -19  Secondary Visual Art Show, Tapp's Art Center; awards ceremony April 19, 6 p.m.
April 8  District Dance Showcase, C.A. Johnson High School, 7 p.m.
April 8  Augusta Baker Storytelling Festival, Robert Mills House, 10 a.m.
April 10-16  Week of the Young Child
April 14  Statewide READ-IN, State House grounds, 10 a.m.
April 20-May 4  Elementary Visual Art Show, Tapp's Art Center; awards ceremony May 4, 6 p.m.
April 22  Richland One Jazz Festival, 4-9 p.m. at Emily Douglas Park (rain location: Hand Middle School)
April 28  Last day of 21st Century, Comprehensive Remediation and SC Chamber Homework Center afterschool programs
May 14-15  S.C. Book Festival, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
May 25, 26 & 27  High school graduation ceremonies, Colonial Life Arena
May 27  Last day of athletic tutorial and afterschool childcare programs
May 27  Last day of school for all students (half-day)

NOTE: Please note that 2015-2016 state testing dates had not been set by the S.C. Department of Education at press time (July 2015). For the most up-to-date information about testing dates and district events, go to www.richlandone.org. The 2015-2016 district calendar is posted on the website and printed on the inside back cover of this publication.
### After-School Childcare Programs

Richland One’s afterschool childcare programs are provided through agreements with schools and licensed childcare providers approved by the district. These programs provide a safe place for students to go after school where they receive services that enhance their social and educational growth and development. The Afterschool Childcare Programs operate Monday through Friday, from 2:30-6:00 p.m. The programs are site-based at all of the district’s elementary schools and one middle school. A fee is assessed to parents for these services.

At right is a list of the approved providers and the schools they will serve for the 2015-2016 school year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afterschool Childcare Provider</th>
<th>Assigned School(s)</th>
<th>Registration Fee</th>
<th>Weekly Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| YMCA of Columbia              | • Brennen Elementary  
| Doug Berkel, Vice President of Youth Development | • Carver-Lyon Elementary  
| 1612 Marion Street – Suite 100 | • South Kilbourne Elementary  
| Columbia, SC 29201           | • Webber Elementary  
| (803) 748-9622               | • Hopkins Elementary  
| www.columbiymca.org         | • Logan Elementary   |
| Barron Academy                | • Burton-Pack Elementary  
| Gretchen Barron               | • John P. Thomas Elementary  
| 6941 N. Trenholm Road – Suite B2 | • Arden Elementary  
| Columbia, SC 29206           | • Burnside Elementary   |
| (803) 708-4786               | gbaron@purposedvision.com |
| Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands | • Mill Creek Elementary  
| 500 Gracern Road – Suite 200 | • Watkins-Nance Elementary  
| Columbia, South Carolina 29210 | • Edward E. Taylor Elementary  
| Phone: (803) 231-3300 Fax: (803) 252-9413 | | $25 | $50 |
| Director: Robin Saviola       | Brockman Elementary |
| (803) 231-3300 (803) 466-8971 | (ssstroman@richlandone.org) |
| Tanika Epps                   | $30 | $45 |
| tepps@bgcmidlands.org (803) 467-6821 | |
| Brockman Elementary School   | • Meadowfield Elementary  
| 2245 Montclair Drive         | None |
| Columbia, South Carolina 29206 | $25 |
| Phone: (803) 790-6743 Fax: (803) 790-6745 | (intercession) |
| Director: Stephanie Jefferson | (803) 466-8971 |
| (sstroman@richlandone.org)   | $30 | $48 |
| City of Columbia Parks and Recreation | Hyatt Park Elementary  
| 1111 Parkside Drive          | Horrell Hill Elementary  
| Columbia, SC 29203           | Bradley Elementary  
| Phone: (803) 545-3100 Fax: (803) 343-8744 | A.C. Moore Elementary  
| Directors: Randy Davis       | Rosewood Elementary  
| (radavis@columbiasc.net) and | Gadsden Elementary  
| Lee Allyson Thompson         | Lewis Greenview Elementary  
| (lalthompson@columbiasc.net) | Caughman Road Elementary  
| Johnna DeLoach               | Sandel Elementary  
| EdVenture Children’s Museum  | H.B. Rhame Elementary  
| P.O. Box 1638                | Pine Grove Elementary  
| Columbia, South Carolina 29202 | Southeast Middle School  
| Phone: (803) 779-3100 Fax: (803) 779-3144 | |
| Director: Brittany Lane      | Hyatt Park Elementary  
| Cell: (803) 779-3100 (843) 312-2417 - Cell | Horrell Hill Elementary  
| Nikki Williams               | Bradley Elementary  
| (803) 606-3940               | A.C. Moore Elementary  
| Forest Heights Elementary School | Rosewood Elementary  
| 2500 Blue Ridge Terrace      | Gadsden Elementary  
| Columbia, South Carolina 29203 | Lewis Greenview Elementary  
| Phone: (803) 691-3780 Fax: (803) 691-3782 | Caughman Road Elementary  
| Director: Lula Lee           | Sandel Elementary  
| (lllee@richlandone.org)      | H.B. Rhame Elementary  
| Satchel Ford Elementary School | Pine Grove Elementary  
| 5901 Satchel Ford Road       | Southeast Middle School  
| Columbia, South Carolina 29206 | $30 | $45 |
| Phone: (803) 738-7209 Fax: (803) 738-7218 | (intercession) |
| After-hours number: (803) 738-7209, ext. 2001 | $15 | $40 |
| Director: Cindy Gary          | $50 |
| (cgary@richlandone.org)      | ($intercession) |

For More Information:

Dr. Traci Cooper, Director
Office of Extended-Day Programs
1225 Oak Street - Suite 101
Columbia, SC 29204

Phone: (803) 231-6842
Fax: (803) 231-6880
www.r1extendedday.org
For nearly two decades, Richland One has set itself apart in the Southeast in the area of foreign language education by offering a comprehensive and state-of-the-art foreign language program to every student, starting in elementary school. All Richland One students have the opportunity to begin foreign language education as early as first grade.

- Spanish is offered in grades 1-12.
- French and Latin are offered in grades 6-12.
- Chinese and German are offered in grades 9-12.

**English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program serves students in grades K-12 who have limited English proficiency and whose primary or home language is a language other than English. Students receive instruction in English as a second language and are progressively mainstreamed as their language skills improve.

**ESOL services are offered at the following schools:**
- Arden Elementary School
- Brennen Elementary School
- Burnside Elementary School
- Forest Heights Elementary School
- A.C. Moore Elementary School
- W.S. Sandel Elementary School
- Alcorn Middle School
- Crayton Middle School
- Hand Middle School
- St. Andrews Middle School
- Columbia High School
- A.C. Flora High School

**The International Welcome Center**

Richland One students currently represent over 50 countries and as many languages. The Richland One International Welcome Center serves as a “one-stop-shop” for new international families. Students take language proficiency tests at the center while their parents complete enrollment documents and gain information about the district’s ESOL Program and services available to their children. At the end of this initial visit, students are referred to the school that best meets their needs. The International Welcome Center is located at 2612 Covenant Road, Columbia, SC 29204.

For more information about foreign language education, the ESOL program or The International Welcome Center, contact Fatiha Bencheikh at 212-1475 or at fatiha.bencheikh@richlandone.org.

**New Extended-Day Programs App**

Now you can keep up with all of the who, what, when and where for the Richland One Office of Extended-Day Programs through an app developed by Apps by SIA, now available for download on all mobile devices.

With the new Extended-Day Programs app, you can:
- Keep up with all of our latest news, information and announcements
- Find out about events and activities
- Connect with leadership and key personnel
- Access important documents, links, picture galleries and other media

Scan the QR code below or search your device’s app store to download the Richland One Office of Extended-Day Programs app on your iPhone, iPad, Android, Blackberry or Windows device. Download the app today! For more information, go to AppsBySIA.com.
The beginning of the 2015-2016 school year marks the start of the second phase of Richland One's Digital Learning Environment (DLE) initiative which expands the integration and use of technology as powerful tools for teaching and learning.

DLE began in the district's high schools during the 2014-2015 school year. This year the technology initiative will roll out to middle schools and elementary schools.

"The vision for the DLE initiative is to transform teaching and learning in Richland One to provide personalized learning opportunities for all students in grades 3-12," said Richland One Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon. "Our students will have added, ongoing experiences to learn in a digital environment that will be more collaborative and engaging. Students will be able to expand their learning to go beyond the walls of the school or the pages in a given textbook.

"Richland One takes to heart the ‘Profile of the South Carolina Graduate’ that includes, world-class skills such as creativity and innovation, communication, information, media and technology. Our DLE initiative provides us the ability to impart these skills to our students," said Dr. Witherspoon.

Through the 1:1 (one-to-one) component of DLE, Dell laptop computers were issued to students in grades 9-11 during the 2014-2015 school year. Incoming ninth-grade students will be the only high school group that will receive laptops this year. Students in grades 10-12 will use the laptops they were issued last year. From August 31-October 2, 2015, laptops will be distributed to middle school students (grades 6-8). Each student also will receive a backpack. Mobile devices will be distributed to elementary students in grades 3-5 starting in January 2016.

Schools will announce and hold orientation sessions for students and parents before the devices are distributed. Parental consent forms and student pledge forms are provided. Student and parent responsibilities are outlined in the DLE Handbook. Each student is required to pay a $30 insurance fee per school year. The fee covers potential loss, theft or damage to the device. Students turn in the devices, which are property of Richland One, at the end of the school year.

With students having access and use of a personal device, the opportunities for learning are greatly expanded, allowing students to:
- Collaborate with peers and experts around the world
- Explore new environments, innovations and cultures
- Learn ethical and appropriate use of technology (digital citizenship)
- Experience new and emerging technology tools
- Discover new knowledge and solutions
- Expand their understanding and use of technology
- Foster independent learning and creativity
- Apply knowledge and skills
- Develop technology literacy skills
- Facilitate growth and leadership

DLE also provides a wide array of exciting learning activities and experiences for students, such as creating websites, apps, games, videos, blogs, presentations, models and digital portfolios; participating in virtual field trips, distance learning and video conferencing; and collaborating through computer and real-world simulations.

“I want to emphasize to our parents that being able to use technology effectively is a tool, albeit a very important tool, that our students must have in the 21st century. Students’ ability to think critically and connect thoughts, ideas and subject matter in various ways is tied to their success after high school,” Dr. Witherspoon said.

“As we implement DLE, we also want parents to be engaged in this process,” he said.

“Students will have extended opportunities to learn and work on digital tools and applications, and we want parents to learn and grow with us.”

In a digital learning environment, the focus in the classroom shifts from the teacher to the students, with the teacher serving as more of a facilitator of learning. To enhance their technology integration skills, teachers participate in workshops, seminars, webinars and a variety of other professional development activities throughout the school year and during the summer, which also provide them with opportunities to collaborate and share ideas with their colleagues.

For more information about Richland One’s Digital Learning Environment initiative, go to www.richlandone.org or contact your child’s school.
Nationally recognized programs at Keenan and Lower Richland offer students hands-on, high-tech learning experiences

In STEM classes students discover answers to questions like, ‘how are things made and what processes go into creating products?’ Students use the same industry-leading 3D design software used by companies like Intel and Lockheed Martin. They explore robotics, aerodynamics, astronautics and space life sciences. They apply biological and engineering concepts. They design, test and actually construct circuits and devices, such as smartphones and tablets.

STEM education at Lower Richland is taking the school to new heights. Last spring, Lower Richland STEM students unveiled a “game-changing” LifeCycle Innovation Project, which uses a 2,200-pound food waste dehydrator, red worms, a solar array and solar-powered greenhouse to reduce food waste from the school cafeteria by 50-70%. The project, coordinated by EngenuitySC, is the only one of its kind at any school in the state.

Here’s how the process works: Cafeteria food goes into the dehydrator which removes moisture. The discharge is taken out, mixed with manure and peat moss and fed to red worms. The worm waste (casting) will be used as fertilizer for vegetables and other plants that will be grown in the solar-powered greenhouse. Some of the fresh produce grown in the greenhouse could be used by culinary students to cook tasty dishes.

“This project gives students real-life job training which most students don’t get,” said teacher and LifeCycle coordinator Aaron Buller (below, center). “In a couple of years, this project will allow us to have community gardens and maybe a farmer’s market for the Lower Richland community. Fresh fruits and vegetables encourage healthy eating. This project uses math, science and biology. At Lower Richland, there’s some type of STEM program for every kid.”

Students Jaylen McClain (below, right) and Daquan Anderson (below, left), who operate the dehydrator and oversee the worm room, have this advice: “We want other students to know STEM is cool. Don’t be afraid to be different or do something different. Some kids are scared, but STEM projects like this are really interesting.”

Lower Richland’s STEM curriculum includes civil engineering, architecture, engineering design using 3D modeling software and principles of engineering, as well as biotechnical engineering such as genetic engineering biomedical devices and forensics. In the school’s digital electronics classes, students learn about the foundation of all modern devices such as mobile phones, MP3 players, laptop computers and high-definition TVs. Students who complete four courses in the STEM curriculum are eligible to receive completers’ certificates endorsed by the University of South Carolina and the S.C. Department of Education and apply for college credit through USC, Clemson University and Midlands Technical College.

Keenan’s STEM curriculum offers an impressive array of opportunities for students including engineering and computer science courses for college credit, robotics, an agricultural science program with a fully functioning greenhouse and a student-monitored solar cell. The school also has partnered with the S.C. Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics, local colleges and corporate sponsors to offer the ACCELerate engineering program. Students completing ACCELerate will earn 29 high school Carnegie units and 32 college credit hours when they graduate from high school.

“Our students graduate from Keenan’s STEM program and are well prepared to pursue post-secondary studies in all STEM areas,” said Keenan Principal Alvin Pressley. “The success of our STEM program is because of dedicated teachers, parents and students that truly believe they can accomplish anything and have an inquisitive approach to tackling the problems of the world in the areas of STEM.”

This fall Keenan plans to expand its STEM curriculum to include Android app development. The biotechnical engineering class will partner with a school in Japan to do a project on mitigating climate change. The science department is also collaborating with several elementary schools to develop a project that will be sent to the International Space Station next spring.
For 20 years, a spirit of adventure and a love of science and math, along with the help of a space flight simulator, have “transported” thousands of students, teachers and visitors across the solar system at Richland One’s Challenger Learning Center, the only one of its kind in South Carolina.

The center will mark its 20th anniversary on February 11, 2016. The year 2016 also marks the 30th anniversary of the loss of NASA’s Challenger 51-L Crew, which included South Carolina native Dr. Ron McNair.

The Challenger Learning Centers were founded in 1986 by the families of these astronauts and are dedicated to the educational spirit of their mission. Challenger Learning Center programs continue the crew’s mission of engaging teachers and students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Currently, there are 48 such institutions throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Korea.

Richland One’s Challenger Learning Center, which was established as a living educational memorial to the heroes of the Challenger 51-L Crew, opened its doors on February 11, 1996. Since then, the center has grown to include an aerospace education laboratory, an ePlanetarium, a Tuskegee Airmen exhibit, classroom facility, portable flight simulators, articles flown in space (including two shuttle tires and a shuttle tile), exclusive space photos, autographed paraphernalia and a 20-foot art sculpture of the space shuttle.

The center also has increased its services by offering hands-on activities, teacher training and an AstroTot program designed for students in kindergarten through second grade. Summer camps thrill youngsters as they build robots, launch model rockets and fly jets in a flight simulator. The center’s ePlanetarium surrounds visitors with stunning visual effects as they explore the universe, have near-misses with meteorites, land on the moon or orbit Saturn’s rings.

Since it opened in 1996, more than 110,000 visitors have experienced the excitement and educational opportunities offered by the Challenger Learning Center, which is located at 2600-A Barhamville Road, next to W.A. Perry Middle School.

“I would like to commend Richland One Superintendent Emeritus Dr. John R. Stevenson for his vision in helping to establish our Challenger Center,” said Vince Ford, vice chairman of the Richland One Board of School Commissioners, a graduate of C.A. Johnson High School, has been a frequent visitor to the center, along with many NASA astronauts.

Richland One’s Challenger Learning Center is so highly regarded by NASA that the agency selected it to have a front-row seat to history as it launched its new Orion spacecraft in December 2014. The center was one of only four sites in South Carolina and 180 worldwide selected by NASA for viewing of the first flight of Orion.

“As we chart our course for the next 20 years, we are refining our mission to inspire, explore and learn,” said Dr. Carolyn Donelan, the Challenger Learning Center’s lead flight director. “Of course we want students to realize that STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects are fun and exciting but, more importantly, we want them to realize that the rapidly-growing aerospace industry in South Carolina needs qualified workers that excel in the STEM subjects.

“To sustain the long-term growth of the aerospace industry, our state needs a workforce pipeline that reaches down to our youngest students,” Donelan said. “Richland One recognizes this need and opportunity for our students and supports the Challenger Learning Center in inspiring students to pursue STEM careers.”

Ready for an out-of-this-world experience at Richland One’s Challenger Learning Center? To schedule a visit or learn more about the center’s programs and activities, go to www.thechallengercenter.net, send an e-mail to Challenger@richlandone.org or call (803) 929-3951.
Here are 10 reasons to encourage your child to participate in programs at his or her school:

1. Theatre and dance programs help develop students’ creativity, problem-solving, self-discipline and teamwork skills.
2. Research shows that students involved in arts education perform better, have more motivation to learn and have better attendance records.
3. Performances build confidence and speech/presentation skills.
4. Gifted and Talented – Artistic teachers are certified in dance or theatre with a curriculum that is based on state and national arts content standards.
5. Students have special opportunities available to them, such as working with the University of South Carolina’s School of Dance, receiving tickets to professional performances and participating in master classes with professional artists.
6. The program gives students opportunities to express themselves artistically.
7. Participation among disadvantaged students has demonstrated to have a positive effect on them and increase their overall achievement in all subject areas.
8. Arts education helps students become better readers and writers, while also advancing math achievement.
9. Students in the program bond, creating lasting friendships and build skills that help them throughout their lifetime, no matter what career direction they follow.
10. It is fun! And, after the hard work, you get to “enjoy the applause!”

Do you think the Gifted and Talented – Artistic Program is right for your child? There are three steps in the identification process:

1. Referral/recommendation: Forms are available at schools and at www.richlandone.org; go to Departments and click on Visual and Performing Arts.
2. Audition: Auditions are held annually in January for fifth-graders at all elementary schools and biannually in August and January at middle and high schools. An established review team assesses the skills intended to be measured. Dance skills assessed during the audition include physical control over body movement, recall of movement that is taught at the audition and using the body expressively and creatively. Theatre skills assessed include creating a character that will be given at the audition by using imagination and changing the body and voice.
3. Interview: A short interview is held in conjunction with the audition process.

If your child will be in grades 6-12 in the 2015-2016 school year, has an interest in theatre or dance and he/she is not already involved in one of these programs, contact the guidance office at your child’s school to inquire about the August 2015 auditions. For more information, contact the Visual and Performing Arts Department at (803) 231-6858 or visit the department’s web page at www.richlandone.org.
Free Online ACT/SAT Prep Tool
Triumph College Admissions (TCA) is an online tool that Richland One provides for high school students to use to take practice ACT, SAT, PSAT and PLAN assessments. Students can take real paper-based or simulated online versions of each test to receive a precise diagnostic report of their areas of strength and skill deficiencies. The reports show students where they need to focus their efforts to maximize their scores on the assessments. Teachers use TCA student results to help them plan appropriate instruction for remediation, re-teaching and/or enrichment. Lessons and practice questions can be assigned as homework or as quizzes to assist in developing and strengthening academic skills. Richland One students have free access to TCA at school and at home. Students receive district passwords from their schools. For more information, contact your child's high school.

Richland One Parent University
Parents, could you use a few tips on being more Internet savvy or teaching your children how to handle bullies? Richland One recognizes that a parent is a child's first teacher. That's why we are committed to improving the quality of education not only for our students, but also for our parents through the district’s Parent University. In addition to providing opportunities for parents to grow personally and professionally, the Parent University workshops provide information and skills families can use to support their children academically and help them raise confident, educated children ready for the 21st century.

Parent University course topics include:
• Saying NO to Your Children: How to Say It, Mean It and Stick to It
• Helping Your Children Learn Essential Life Skills
• It's New and You Need to Know: Youth Alcohol and Drug Trends
• Bullying Prevention 101 for Parents
• Internet Basics for Parents
• Getting Started with iDevices

To learn more about these free sessions that will be offered throughout the school year, contact the parent coordinator/ liaison for your child’s school. Parent University courses are sponsored by the Richland One Office of Student Support Services and the Richland One Community Coalition (ROCC). They also are listed in the monthly ROCC e-newsletter, which you can sign up to receive at www.richlandone.org; click on the “Contact Us” tab at the top of the homepage.

How to Talk With Educators About Bullying
Children are entitled to courteous and respectful treatment by students and staff at school. Educators have a duty to ensure that students have a safe learning environment. Fortunately, educators take their responsibilities to stop bullying very seriously.

Bullying among children is aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically, it is repeated over time. Bullying can take many forms, such as hitting or punching (physical bullying); teasing or name-calling (verbal bullying); intimidation through gestures or social exclusion (nonverbal bullying or emotional bullying); and sending insulting messages using electronic devices (cyberbullying).

Children and youth often need help to stop bullying. Parents should never be afraid to call the school to report that their child is being bullied and ask for help to stop the bullying.

If your child tells you that he or she has been bullied or if you suspect your child is being bullied, what can you do?
• Keep a written record of all bullying incidents that your child reports to you. Record the names of the children involved, where and when the bullying occurred, and what happened.
• Ask to meet with your child’s classroom teacher and explain your concerns in a friendly, non-confrontational way.
• Ask the teacher about his or her observations:
  • Has he or she noticed or suspected bullying?
  • How is your child getting along with others in class?
  • Has he or she noticed that your child is being isolated, excluded from playground or other activities with students?
• Ask the teacher what he or she intends to do to investigate and help to stop the bullying.
• If you are concerned about how your child is coping with the stress of being bullied, ask to speak with your child’s guidance counselor or other school-based mental health professional.
• Set up a follow-up appointment with the teacher to discuss progress.
• If there is no improvement after reporting bullying to your child’s teacher, speak with the school principal.
• Keep notes from your meetings with teachers and administrators.

Give the school reasonable time to investigate and hear both sides of the story. Contact district-level administrators if the problem is not resolved within a reasonable period of time.

Act 155 Diploma Appeals
Beginning with the Class of 2015, students are no longer required to pass the state’s High School Exit Exam to earn a South Carolina diploma. This provision is also retroactive for students in the classes of 1990 through 2014 who met all graduation requirements except passing the Exit Exam. Students from those classes who did not earn a diploma because they did not pass the Exit Exam may appeal to obtain a diploma by submitting a petition form.

To petition for a diploma, a person must:
• No longer be enrolled in a public school;
• Have been denied graduation solely for failing to meet the Exit Exam requirements (S.C. Code Section 59-18-310(B)); and
• Complete and sign a petition form and provide proper identification.

Petition forms may be submitted online via smartphone, tablet or computer from the district’s website, www.richlandone.org; click on the Act 155 link. From there, you will be directed to the Office of Accountability, Assessment, Research and Evaluation’s web page where you can find more detailed information about the application process. To submit an application, click on the Act 155 Diploma Petition Request link. Please allow 8-10 weeks for processing, printing and delivery. All petitions must be filed by December 31, 2015.

Adult Education Opportunities
Are you in need of a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma (GED)? Do you have a Workkeys certificate? Now is the time to get your credentials to increase your potential earnings now and in the future! Do you need to improve your English as a second language? Richland One Adult Education offers classes to assist in these areas. For more information, call (803) 343-2935 or go to www.richlandone.org and click on Adult Education under Departments.
Independence Day Holiday  July 3
Teacher Workday  August 10 & 14
Professional development   August 11-13
First day of school for students   August 17
Labor Day    September 7
Early release for all schools  September 17
Interim Reports  September 18
End of first reporting period (65 days)  October 19
Early release for all schools  October 22
Teacher workday/Student Holiday  October 23
Parent conferences; early release for all schools  November 5
Professional Development/Student holiday  November 6
Interim Reports  November 23
Thanksgiving break  November 25-27
Winter Break  December 21-January 1
End of second marking period (90 days)  January 11
Early release for all schools  January 14
Martin Luther King holiday  January 18
Report cards issued  January 22
Professional Development/Student holiday  February 12
Interim Reports  February 17
Early release for all schools  February 25
End of third marking period (135 days)  March 17
Teacher workday/Student holiday  March 18
Early release for all schools/Parent conferences  March 24
Report cards issued  March 25
Spring Break  March 28 - April 1
Interim Reports  April 22
Last day of school (180 days)/Half-day for students/Elementary report cards issued  May 27
Memorial Day holiday  May 30
Teacher Workday  May 31
Middle/High schools report cards mailed  June 2

CALENDAR NOTES

Student make-up days (if needed) are February 15, March 18 & May 30
February 12 will be a workday for 240-day employees.
184-day employees will not work on October 23 & March 18
First/last day of school for students
Student holiday/professional development
Holiday
Teacher Workday
Early release for all schools

Richland One Employee Work Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First workday</th>
<th>Last workday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>180-day employees: August 17, 2015</td>
<td>May 27, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>184-day employees: August 13, 2015</td>
<td>May 27, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190-day employees: August 10, 2015</td>
<td>May 31, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-day employees: August 3, 2015</td>
<td>June 7, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220-day employees: July 20, 2015</td>
<td>June 21, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240-day employees: July 1, 2015</td>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
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Stay informed through:
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Twitter: www.twitter.com/richlandone
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InfoPhone: 231-7512