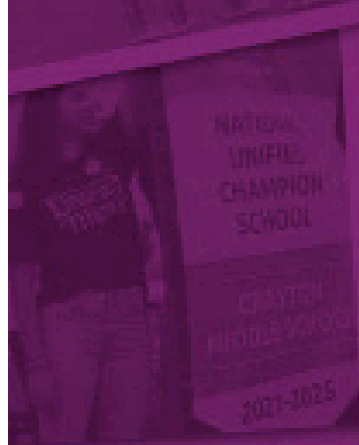




SPOTLIGHT ONE

A Publication of Richland County School District One



RICHLAND ONE

ENGAGE • EDUCATE • EMPOWER



For the 2022-2023 school year, we chose **“Team One, One Team”** as our mantra and rallying call. As we look at the progress that was made throughout the district in the past year, we see what can be accomplished when we all work together as one team for the benefit of our students. The support and engagement of our parents and our community partners continue to be essential to our success.

We encourage all of our students to keep reading and learning throughout the summer, and we look forward to seeing them on August 16 when we begin what promises to be another great school year for Richland One. **For more of our Points of Pride, please go to RichlandOne.org.**

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Craig Witherspoon

Craig Witherspoon, Ed.D.

Superintendent

2022-2023 POINTS OF PRIDE EDITION

Celebrating the Class of 2023



Richland One's high school graduation ceremonies returned to the Colonial Life Arena for the first time in three years. Due to the pandemic, graduations had been held at the district's football stadiums since 2020. Congratulations to the Class of 2023 for your focus, determination and perseverance. Continue to make us proud in your future endeavors!

1,353 Graduates

203 Richland One Academic All-Stars

160 Honor Graduates

7 National Merit Scholarship Finalists

\$76.6 Million Scholarship Total

86.0%
Graduation Rate

Richland One's graduation rate has exceeded the state average for four consecutive years.



Surprise from Shaq

Members of the Class of 2023 received a surprise message from a big celebrity at the beginning of their high school graduation ceremonies. The message played on the video board at the Colonial Life Arena was from NBA legend Shaquille "Shaq" O'Neal congratulating the graduates. Shaq has connections to Richland One, including having mentored students at C.A. Johnson High School and Dreher High School.

By The Numbers

59

STUDENTS EARNED CERTIFICATES OR ASSOCIATE DEGREES FROM MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, A COMBINED TOTAL HIGHER THAN ANY OTHER MIDLANDS DISTRICT



259

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS RECEIVED BY SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND STAFF



520

STUDENTS COMPLETED CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS OF STUDY.

97

STUDENTS WERE HONORED AS THE FIRST RICHLAND ONE RISING STARS FOR IMPROVEMENT MADE IN ACADEMICS, ATTENDANCE, DISCIPLINE, OVERCOMING OBSTACLES AND OTHER AREAS.



16

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS WON IN FOUR SPORTS (SWIMMING, CROSS COUNTRY, TENNIS, AND TRACK AND FIELD)



167

RICHLAND ONE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLARS

7

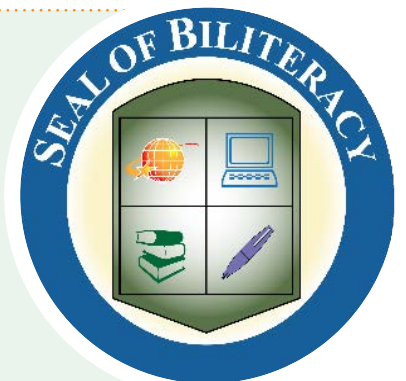
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WERE NAMED SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHING FELLOWS.

9

AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST SCHOOLS AWARD WINNERS

47

STUDENTS WERE AWARDED THE SOUTH CAROLINA SEAL OF BILITERACY FOR MEETING FLUENCY REQUIREMENTS IN ENGLISH AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER WORLD LANGUAGE.





National Banner Unified Champion School

Crayton Middle School was named a National Banner Unified Champion School by the Special Olympics for meeting 10 standards of excellence and demonstrating a commitment to maintaining a school climate that is inclusive of all students.



Army JROTC Drill Team Champions

Lower Richland High School's Army JROTC Drill Team placed first in the Palmetto State Drill Championship (armed division) and qualified for the National High School Drill Team Championship for the second consecutive year.



Disney Dreamer

Benjamin Brown of Dreher High School was only one of 100 teens and the only South Carolina student selected to participate in the 2023 Disney Dreamers Academy. More than 8,000 high school students applied for the four-day educational mentoring program for future leaders.



McDonald's All-American

Milaysia Fulwiley of W.J. Keenan High School was named a 2023 McDonald's All-American, the only South Carolina player selected this year and only the sixth girls basketball player from South Carolina ever chosen for the all-star game.



J-100 AFJROTC Scholarship Recipient

Columbia High School Air Force JROTC Cadet Lucas Wright was one of 100 cadets worldwide selected to receive the J-100 AFJROTC Character-in-Leadership Scholarship, which provides four years of 100% paid college tuition.



Young Men United

The United Way of the Midlands announced its Young Men United pilot program, a workforce development initiative sponsored by Colonial Life, targeting young men of color in 10th and 11th grades with mentorship, paid internships and professional engagement to help them reach their education and career goals. Eau Claire High School was selected to be one of the first schools to participate in the program.



R1 CHAMPS

Richland One launched a new initiative called R1 CHAMPS (Caring Hearts Making Positive Shifts) with the goal of placing more positive adult role models on school campuses. The volunteers greet students, monitor the halls during class changes, assist staff with activities and encourage students to do their best. R1 CHAMPS began with male volunteers and will expand to include female volunteers in 2023-2024.



Future Educator Signing Day

In partnership with the South Carolina Education Association (SCEA), Richland One recognized 22 high school seniors during the district's first Future Educator Signing Day. The students signed a pledge acknowledging their plans to study education in college. Every student received an offer to teach in Richland One after earning their degree.



Superintendent's Book Club Challenge

On March 2, Richland One Superintendent Dr. Craig Witherspoon challenged students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade to read 750,000 books by May 5. If students met or exceeded that goal, Dr. Witherspoon promised that the top elementary school and middle school students would have the opportunity to dunk him in a dunk tank. Students across the district exceeded the goal by reading 1,046,651 books!

Annie Burnside Elementary School was the top school overall in the 2023 Superintendent's Book Club Challenge. Principal Janet Campbell made good on her promise to ride a camel on the school's campus if her students met their reading goal. Burnside students read 63,722 books.



MSAP Grant

Richland One was awarded a \$14.9 million Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Richland One will use the grant funds over a five-year period to implement BLAST (Building Lasting Aerospace and STEAM Trajectories) at three schools – a new school-within-a-school aerospace magnet program at Watkins-Nance Elementary School; a revised school-within-a-school aerospace magnet program at W.A. Perry Middle School; and a revised school-within-a-school national defense-themed magnet program for four academies (pre-engineering, biomedical, cybersecurity and aerospace) at Columbia High School. All Richland One students are eligible to apply for the programs, which will begin in August 2023.



Language Immersion Program Expansion

In 2022-2023, Richland One expanded its language immersion program from the elementary school level to the middle school level. The middle school level language immersion program, which is housed at Hand Middle School, began in August 2022 with sixth grade only. One grade will be added each year. The elementary language immersion program is housed at Carver-Lyon Elementary School. Students enrolled in the language immersion program are taught in English and one other language (Spanish, Mandarin Chinese or French).

Language Immersion Program Addition

A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially marked the opening of the language immersion program addition at Carver-Lyon Elementary School. The state-of-the-art, 21,215-square-foot addition includes 12 classrooms, an extended learning commons area, faculty office support spaces and additional parking. Two classrooms in the existing building were completely renovated to allow for the connection of the new addition.





Vince Ford Early Learning Center Groundbreaking

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for Vince Ford Early Learning Center, a 71,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that will be built on Rawlinson Road in the Lower Richland community to serve children from six weeks old to five years old. The Richland One Board of School Commissioners voted to name the center in memory of longtime school board member Vince Ford, who passed away in December 2022.

Energy Project of the Year

For the third consecutive year, the Association of South Carolina Energy Managers selected Richland One as the recipient of the Energy Project of the Year award. The 2023 award recognizes the district for installing solar panels on 15 school campuses. The solar power project is estimated to save \$1.4 million in energy costs annually. Richland One also was recognized as a 2022 Solar Champion by the South Carolina Solar Council.



Excellence in Financial Reporting and Accounting

Richland One received the highest honors in financial reporting and accounting from the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials International for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. This is the 34th consecutive year the district has received this highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.





1616 Richland Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Columbia, SC
Permit 611

Stay Connected!



Our Website
www.richlandone.org



Richland One TV
Spectrum Cable Channel 1303



Facebook
www.facebook.com/richlandone



Instagram
[@richland.one](https://www.instagram.com/richland.one)



Twitter
www.twitter.com/richlandone



InfoPhone
803-231-7512



Notice of Non-Discrimination

Richland County School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age or other protected characteristics in its programs or activities.

2023-2024 Key Dates

First Day of School for Students	August 16
Labor Day Holiday	September 4
Fall Break	October 20
Thanksgiving Break	November 22-24
Winter Break	December 20-January 2 (Students return January 4)
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	January 15
President's Day Holiday	February 19
Spring Break	March 29-April 5
Memorial Day Holiday	May 27
Last Day of School for Students	May 31

To view the full 2023-2024 Academic Calendar,
go to www.RichlandOne.org.

