

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **Memminger Elementary Creates School-Wide, Year-Long #empathyforall Campaign**

### **Memminger Elementary School**

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Terri Nichols**  
Associate Superintendent

**Abigail Woods**  
Principal

**Charleston, SC** — Memminger Elementary School of Global Studies is helping students become who they are meant to be! On Tuesday, August 23, they will celebrate the year-long, school-wide campaign, #empathyforall.

Memminger Elementary and The Beach Company have teamed up to showcase faculty, staff, and students' dedication to embracing and respecting others' perspectives and empathy. The Beach Company, a business supporter of Memminger Elementary, embraced the call to be a part of this movement. An assembly is scheduled to kick off the #empathyforall campaign while showcasing our #empathyforall t-shirts on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Memminger.

"As a team, we met this summer to reflect on what we could do as a school to represent CCSD, Memminger, our community, state, and country to let everyone know that looking at someone's perspective, showing compassion, and putting ourselves in others' shoes is how WE will be the example for others," said Memminger Principal Dr. Abigail Woods.

The study of empathy is part of Memminger's school-wide social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. Memminger is the only elementary school in Charleston County School District in year three of its implementation and teaching of a school-wide SEL curriculum. The research-based, data-driven program is taught in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth, and is designed to increase students' social success and decrease problem behaviors by promoting social-emotional competence and self-regulation.

Social awareness helps students develop the ability to have empathy for others, look at situations from their point of view, be aware of another person's feelings, and have the ability to "walk in their shoes."

Students with higher levels of empathy and its related skills are more likely to be:

- Academically successful
- Accepted by peers
- Socially-skilled
- Less aggressive
- Emotionally supportive of others

"Empathy and other social skills such as learning, emotion management, and problem solving are not just taught on Mondays at 8:30," said Memminger Principal Dr. Abigail Woods. "It's the foundation for everything we do at Memminger. If our students cannot self-regulate, problem-solve, and be compassionate, they will not be ready to learn."

"Social and emotional skills are life skills," said Heather Anderson, Memminger School Counselor. "Research shows that the more children become aware of themselves, the better they become at understanding others. This is a crucial element when educating the whole child. Helping students focus, problem-solve on their own, self talk, and have empathy provides benefits in the classroom, but also in life. I believe empathy is how we will bring about positive, sustainable change in our society."

Throughout the year, faculty, staff, and students will proudly wear the #empathyforall t-shirts as an outward and inward reminder that we will continue on the path to be the change in the world we want to see.

For more information on how SEL is implemented at Memminger and the #empathyforall campaign, please contact Heather Anderson, Memminger School Counselor (843) 724-7778.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.