



Murray-LaSaine Elementary
School

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Terri H. Nichols
Associate Superintendent of Schools

John E. Cobb
Executive Director, Elementary
Learning Community

Meredith Wallace
Principal

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Contact:
Meredith Wallace 843-762-2765

Media Release

Murray-LaSaine Elementary Teacher Going to D.C. to Expand Art Knowledge

Charleston, SC – Art is typically one of the most popular subjects in elementary school. It's about to become even more popular for students at Murray-LaSaine Elementary School (MLES). Megan Minchener, one of the school's Lower Elementary teachers, recently found out she was accepted to the Teacher Institute at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. this summer.

"I am honored to be accepted into the Teacher Institute and to represent Charleston County School District and Murray-LaSaine Elementary," Minchener said. "As a Montessori teacher, I like to share experiences and art history with my students. This opportunity is going to prepare me to teach my students about art from the Renaissance."

Only 50 teachers from around the country are invited to participate in this seminar each year. The Teacher Institute helps K–12 teachers (of all subjects) strengthen their knowledge of art history and integrate visual art into classroom teaching. The program features lectures, gallery tours, teaching strategies, and hands-on learning experiences.

There are two sessions; Minchener will be in our nation's capital for the second session July 24-29, 2017.

As Minchener stated, she will be learning about art from the Renaissance period, which is the kind of art Maria Montessori (the Italian physician and educator best known for the philosophy of education that bears her name) would have appreciated during her time.

"At Murray-LaSaine, we pride ourselves on being life-long learners and know that it's important to never stop learning," added MLES Principal Meredith Wallace. "Our teachers and staff exemplify this. Megan learned about an opportunity in Washington D.C. to learn more about art during the Renaissance, applied for the program, and was accepted. We are excited for her to have this opportunity to travel, spend time in our nation's capital, and learn more about Renaissance art."

Upon her return, Minchener will share lesson plans and resources with other teachers and her students when the 2017-2018 school year begins.

To read more about this educational experience, visit <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/teachers/teacher-institute.html>.

For more information about Minchener and the opportunity she received, contact MLES Principal Meredith Wallace at (843) 762-2765.

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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.