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## Media Release

# **All in the Family – Husband and Wife Team Taking Math and Science by Storm at Pinckney**

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**Charleston, SC** – If you're visiting the fourth-grade hall at Charles Pinckney Elementary School and see two different nameplates - above two different classroom doors, that say "Douty" – rest assured your eyes are not playing tricks on you.

Those are the classrooms of the husband and wife team, Scott and Ronda Douty. They both teach fourth-grade math and science.

It is rare for married couples to be assigned to the same school, but the Doutys are not alone. Many couples teach within the district, and like the Doutys, send their children to Charleston County schools.

Scott taught in North Charleston for five years. But when their first child, Andrew, was on the way, the couple decided that Scott would be a stay-at-home dad until the children began attending school.

Ronda taught in Summerville and then Pinckney Elementary School and Laurel Hill Primary School. This is her 20<sup>th</sup> year in teaching.

In honor of National Family Week, which is November 18–24, 2018 we celebrate those families within the district.

### **Their story**

Scott's parents were both educators. He had great respect for their chosen profession and appreciated the benefits that came with it, such as extended holidays with the entire family.

By the time he got to college, Scott had begun to settle into the notion that he too would go the education route as a Physical Education teacher like his father.

His future wife Ronda always knew she would become a teacher. Her love of children drove her towards the profession.

It was in classes at the College of Charleston that the couple fell in love. They were married just two weeks after graduation, and both went to work in local schools.

When their twin girls, Ansley and Ashton, turned five-years-old Scott eased back into education as a substitute teacher.

Not long after, Pinckney Elementary School Principal Leanne Sheppard was in need of a long-term substitute teacher and asked Scott if he was interested.

He was eager to take the job, and after being observed and evaluated that semester, Sheppard offered him a full-time position.

"That says a lot for Principal Sheppard to bring him in after having not taught for eight years," said Ronda. "He was a little rusty, but she trusted him, and she trusted us to not only teach in the same school but across the hall from one another."

The couple loves being able to teach in the very community that they call home because it allows them to build relationships with the students and their families. They also enjoy spending holidays and summers together as a family.

"Principal Sheppard put a lot of trust in my ability to do the job, and she had faith in me to do the right thing," Scott said. "The students think it is so cool that we are husband and wife and often comment on it."

Although they're across the hall from each other, the couple rarely sees each other due to just being busy from the start of school until the final bell.

"We are not having candlelight lunches or anything," said Scott.

He did note that since his spouse is in the same profession, she can relate to the job, and the career so they're able to share stories.

"Ronda gets it," he said.

"It's tough," she added. "You're 'on' all day long, and only another person in education could truly understand."

Their 15-year-old son Andrew is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Wando and participating in the award-winning marching band takes up much of his time. Their twin daughters are just across the campus as 7<sup>th</sup>-graders at Thomas C. Cario Middle School.

Being a stay-at-home dad was some of the hardest work Scott said he has ever done. However, they're both glad one of them got to do it.

“It was a lot of work and sacrifice, but it was a team effort,” Scott said. “It took us both to make it happen. We wanted it for our kids because they grow up so quickly. Now here we are in the midst of our careers doing what we love to do – together.”

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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 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. 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.