

EDUCATION

EDUCATION: 803-339-6867
The Lancaster News

Embrace power of community support in schools

The start of a new school year is always special, filled with anticipation, excitement and the promise of new beginnings. This year, students at Clinton Elementary, A.R. Rucker Middle and Lancaster High schools were met with an extra dose of enthusiasm and warmth that truly highlighted the power of community support.



Ebony Mitchell



Terrell Mingo

collaboration with Lancaster Promise Neighborhood, demonstrated their unwavering commitment to our youths' education.

Encouraging students to have an amazing school year is not just about mere words, but rather about fostering a sense of belonging, motivation and support. By taking the time to welcome students with kindness and genuine interest, the Masons undoubtedly left a lasting impact on them.

The importance of such community-driven initiatives cannot be understated. When students feel supported and encouraged, their academic performance and overall well-being thrive. A warm and welcoming environment sets the stage for students to develop a love for learning, embrace their true potential, and overcome any obstacles they may face.

The collaboration between the Masonic lodges and Lancaster Promise Neighborhood serves as a beacon of hope, showcasing the



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A Masonic Lodge member gives a Lancaster High School student a high-five for encouragement on the first day of school Monday, Aug. 21.

positive impact that can be achieved when organizations come together for a common cause.

By uniting their resources and dedicating their time, they have shown us the true power of community solidarity. Their actions exemplify the belief that education is a collective responsibility and that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed.

As we embark on this new school year, let us take a moment to recognize and appreciate the dedication of Mingo, the Masons and all those involved. Their efforts have ignited a sense of motivation and enthusiasm among our students and staff, setting

the stage for a successful academic journey.

"The Masons can come back to Lancaster High School anytime!" said LHS Principal Rosalyn Mood.

She was excited and happy to see their collaboration with Lancaster Promise Neighborhood.

Let us rally behind them and continue to support our students in their quest for knowledge and growth. Whether through mentorship programs, donations or volunteering, each of us has the power to make a difference in the lives of these young individuals.

The warmth and kindness displayed by the Masons and Lancaster



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A Masonic Lodge member greets a Lancaster High School student with a fist bump as he walks into the school Monday, Aug. 21.

Promise Neighborhood on this memorable morning serves as a reminder that education is a community-wide endeavor. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant future for our students, empowering them to become the leaders and change-makers of tomorrow.

"They really enjoyed greeting the students and are looking forward to more opportunities," Mingo said of the Masons.

So, as we witness the smiles and handshakes, let us remember the powerful impact these simple acts of kindness can have on our students' lives. Let us emulate this wonderful

display of support and make every day a day of encouragement, collaboration and inspiration.

Together, we can create a community where every student feels valued, encouraged and ready to embrace the challenges and triumphs of the academic journey. Let this be the year where the power of community support propels our students to unimaginable heights of success, by doing "Whatever It Takes!"

Ebony Mitchell is the marketing and communications coordinator for Lancaster Promise Neighborhood.

District wraps up contract for ILHS construction

BY MAC BANKS
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A construction project that started in 2018 for the Lancaster County School District is officially coming to a close.

The Lancaster County school board voted 7-0 at its Tuesday, Aug. 22, meeting to close out its construction contract with Cleveland Construction, builder of the new Indian Land High School.

"I am excited that we as a district are in a position to move forward with closing out Indian Land High School and I am looking forward to new projects," said board member Melvin Stroble, who represents the Indian Land area.

The school was approved by a 2016 bond vote and construction started in February 2018.

Weather, COVID and finding boulders the size

of Volkswagens in the ground all delayed the project.

The school was originally scheduled to open for the 2020-21 school year. However, the school didn't open until August 2021 and cost more than \$100 million to build on 142 acres.

Since its opening, contractors have continuously worked on punch list items to make sure the project was finished to district standards.

EDUCATION NOTES

District facility survey: Lancaster County School District's Community Facility Needs Committee wants your feedback for prioritizing school facility needs for the potential bond referendum in March 2024. Visit <https://forms.office.com/r/h3m0qaYV3V> to complete the survey by Aug. 28.

CCTC grad: Kaycee Witmore of Kershaw graduated with an associate degree in nursing from Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter.

CCTC honors lists: Three Kershaw students earned academic honors for the summer semester at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter. Samantha Goethe and Keely Shaye Gerona made the dean's list (3.5 or higher GPA), and Robert Hilton made the president's list (4.0 or higher GPA).

District offers disability screening: The Lancaster County School District's Child Find program seeks

out those with disabilities, ages 3-21, who need special help to be able to receive a free, appropriate public education.

If there appears to be a delay in any area of your child's development — even if he or she is not yet school age — contact the district's Student Services Department at 803-285-8439 to arrange screening and evaluation.

Preschool programming for children with special needs provides early intervention services and might prevent some developmental disabilities from becoming more severe.

New student registration: Kindergartners and new students may register for the 2023-24 school year in Lancaster County School District. Online registration links are active on the district and school websites. If you have the required documents in digital

form, you can complete registration online. If you don't have the required documents in digital form, you must provide the documents in person at the school your child will attend.

Required documents include -

- Child's legal birth certificate (long form)
- Child's S.C. certificate of immunization
- Two acceptable forms of proof of residency (a copy of a tax receipt for real property or rental lease and power/water/gas bill)
- Photo ID (valid driver's license, passport, etc.)

This registration does not apply to students already enrolled in LCSD. This registration is for students new to the district.

To add education notes to this listing, email your submission to news@thelancasternews.com or mail it to The Lancaster News, P.O. Box 640, Lancaster, SC 29721.

State Library offers 24/7 live tutoring

BY S.C. STATE LIBRARY
 COLUMBIA — DISCUS, South Carolina's Virtual Library, a service of the S.C. State Library, is the "information place" for all South Carolinians.

DISCUS, which stands for Digital Information for South Carolina Users, provides free 24/7 access to an electronic library of subscription databases with an array of resources, ranging from books and magazines to maps and videos.

This collection of databases provides high-quality publications in an easy to navigate format for students and teachers alike. This free service allows students to safely search for up-to-date information without sifting through advertisements and non-educational results found in other search engines.

DISCUS, in partnership with the S.C. Department of Education, now offers free access to Tutor.com for South Carolina residents.

Tutor.com offers free, real-time tutoring, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for English and Spanish speakers. Connect with a tutor on a variety of subjects, test prep assistance or parent coaching.

South Carolina residents can access the free Tutor.com subscription by visiting scdiscus.org.

ABOUT THE S.C. STATE LIBRARY

The S.C. State Library develops, supports and sustains a thriving statewide community of learners committed to making South Carolina stronger. The library serves the people of South Carolina by supporting state

government and libraries to provide opportunities for learning in a changing environment. It is the primary administrator of federal and state support for the state's libraries.

In 1969, as the result of action by the General Assembly, the State Library Board was redesignated as the S.C. State Library and assumed responsibility for public library development, library service for state institutions, service for the blind and physically handicapped, and library service to state government agencies.

Headquartered in Columbia, the Library is funded by the state of South Carolina, by the federal government through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and other sources. For more information, visit statelibrary.sc.gov or call 803-734-8666.

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