

Laurens County School District 55

301 Hillcrest Drive
Laurens, SC 29360
864-984-3568

www.laurens55.org



VISION STATEMENT
Empowering and Inspiring
All to be Educated and
Informed

MISSION STATEMENT
Laurens County School
District 55 prepares
students for success in
learning and careers
through engaging,
challenging, and
personalized learning
experiences. Students are
curious, confident in their
own abilities, and
competitive in the local,
national, and global
environment. Students are
safe, valued, and supported
in their learning by highly
effective staff, families,
and community.

OUR THEME

World-Class Champions . . . every child, every chance, every day!

OUR GOALS

- Provide world-class safety and a positive school culture.
- Provide world-class, high-quality instruction to increase student achievement.
- Provide world-class communication and family engagement.

May 22, 2023

Greetings Laurens County School District 55 Family,

I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend. We encourage you to read through the newsletter thoroughly and stay up-to-date with all the latest news and developments.

In this week's newsletter, we continue to encourage everyone to finish the academic year strong. Let's not lose sight of our goals and continue pushing forward with determination and perseverance. As we approach the end of the year, let's stay focused on our studies and make the most of the remaining time we have. Remember, every effort counts, and with hard work, we can achieve great things.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to excellence. Let's finish strong together!

LINKS

Cook Center for Human Connection [June Mental Health Newsletter](#)

[May 9, 2023 Virtual Family Mental Health Night Recording](#) (Password: NT4=Utpv)

[2023 South Carolina Mathematics Standards](#)

[Front Matter and Appendices](#) and [Standards and Indicators](#) Math Standards Review Surveys



THE AMAZING SHAKE WINNERS

Congratulations to our Laurens County School District 55 2nd Annual Amazing Shake Winners:

- 1st Place - Mia Ramirez - Laurens Middle School (Prize: 32' TV)
- 2nd Place - Junior Diaz-Reynoso - Laurens Middle School (Prize: Bluetooth speaker)
- 3rd Place - Miachanda Jacks - Sanders Middle School (Prize: Firestick)

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MILITARY HONOR CORD CEREMONY

Two Laurens District 55 High School (LDHS) students, Brayden Roberts and Matthew Smallwood, participated in the 2023 South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Military Honor Cord Ceremony on May 17, 2023, at the Columbia Metropolitan and Convention Center. The students had the opportunity to meet SCDE Superintendent Ellen Weaver and South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs Secretary Major General (Ret.) Todd McCaffrey. Students at the ceremony were deemed as an elite group of young men and women who have the physical stamina, mental aptitude, and bravery to commit to serving the United States of America.

Brayden signed up for the Marines and his proud Nanny Doris said, "I am proud of the courage that he has to go out into the military and serve our country. His service will make him a stronger and more mature person. I am also proud of everything that he has already accomplished and know that he will accomplish more in his future with the United States Marines."

Matthew "Matt" Smallwood signed up for the Navy and his equally proud mother Gemini Dyar shared, "As Matt's parents, we want him to take advantage of opportunities that arise from being blessed as a citizen of the United States. His enlistment in the US Navy allows him to proudly serve the greatest nation on Earth, and also gives him the opportunity to see other parts of the world and continue his education beyond high school. We are very proud of his dedication, commitment, and service."

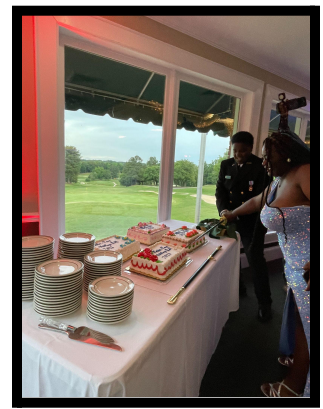
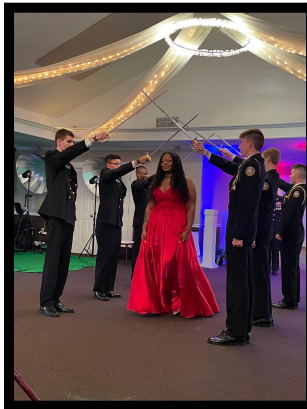
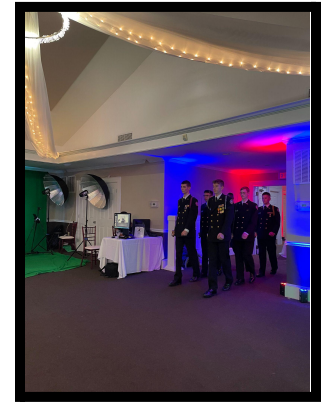
Gemini Dyar added, "The Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Program at LDHS is an excellent program that prepared Matt for the Navy. It combines discipline, physical activity, teamwork, and responsibility that has truly helped our son mature in many ways. Under the leadership of Senior Chief Flood and Commander Politino, Matt learned the value in hard work, taking responsibility, and accomplishing goals he could take pride in."

Laurens 55 is proud of Brayden and Matthew for their willingness to protect the citizens of the United States of America.



RAIDER NAVY MILITARY BALL

Laurens District 55 High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (LDHS NJROTC), known as the Raider Navy, held its annual Military Ball on Saturday, May 20, 2023. Under the leadership of Senior Chief Flood, Commander Politino, and with the support of the Raider Navy parents, the cadets raised funds to hold the special event at the Holly Tree Country Club in Simpsonville. The program included welcome remarks from Senior Chief Flood and Commander Politino, a cake-cutting ceremony, the crowning of the first Raider Navy King and Queen, a salute to graduating cadets, the Changing Commands ceremony, and remarks from Superintendent Dr. Ameca Thomas.



SUMMER MEALS ARE TO BE OFFERED BEGINNING JUNE 6, 2023

Laurens County School District 55 Student Nutrition Services Director Wanda Knight is excited to announce that the Summer Meals Program will be offered at all our schools except for Sanders Middle School due to construction. The Summer Meals Program is open to anyone 18 years old and younger to receive breakfast and lunch. The meals do not need to be consumed on-site. Most sites will serve until June 30th. E.B. Morse Elementary, Waterloo Elementary, and Laurens District 55 High School will continue to operate until July 13th. Summer Meals will also be available at four offsite locations (YMCA, New Prospect Church, Bridging the Gap, and First Baptist Church).

LCSD 55 CENERGISTIC INITIATIVE

Laurens County School District 55 (LCSD 55) will conserve energy over the summer using the Friday Setback Guidelines, starting on the last day of school. LCSD 55 encourages the community to continue practicing energy-saving practices at home every day and in celebration of World Environment Day on June 5, 2023.

FORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MOTHER AND SON EVENT



Ford Elementary School (FES) held a Mother and Son event on Friday, May 12, 2023, ahead of the Mother's Day Weekend. FES wants to ensure they provide a similar opportunity for FES mothers to bond with their sons, as they did for FES fathers during their Daddy Daughter Dance. Attendees enjoyed games, dancing, and food.

E.B. MORSE ELEMENTARY APRIL 2023 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH CELEBRATION



E.B. Morse Elementary School (EBM) held its April 2023 Students of the Month Celebration on Friday, May 5, 2023. Awardees were recognized individually and given certificates. Family members of the award recipients witnessed the event in the cafeteria while the rest of the school watched the ceremony stream live via Google Meet. A pizza celebration followed the awards ceremony.

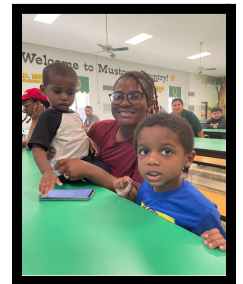
Parents of student awardees were very excited for their children. "I'm proud of Jaxson. I feel that these awards ceremonies encourage him to do better and better in his class," said Jaxson's mother, Damika Barksdale.



Adrianne Patterson, the mother of Braydon Patterson, said, "I'm very happy for Braydon. It's great to recognize students in ceremonies. It boosts their confidence."

Patterson also commended the assistant teacher, Mrs. Overstreet. "Mrs. Overstreet is an amazing assistant teacher who keeps parents in the loop. She has a high level of communication practices, and you can tell she wants the best for students," said Patterson.

5th-grade student Isaac Shafer confirms the parents' beliefs about the importance of awards ceremonies. He said, "I'm very happy to be the Student of the Month for my class. I feel very good and want to do my best to get it again."



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LCSD 55 Board of Trustees will be held today, Monday, May 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Gray Court-Owings (GCO) School located at 9210 SC-14, Gray Court SC 29645. A Budget Work Session will take place at 4:30 p.m. at GCO before the regular School Board Meeting.

STAY IN THE KNOW

	<i>A weekly video to share school district news</i> May 19, 2023
	<i>A podcast of one-on-one conversations</i> Mayor Nathan Senn
	<i>A chance to hear how L55 has positively impacted students</i> Jackson Martin
	<i>A chance to hear about our excellent teachers</i> Amy Blakely
	<i>A chance to hear how L55 graduates achieved greatness</i> Stephanie Ortiz

CLOSING

On behalf of the LCSD 55 Board of Trustees, administrators, and staff thank you for your partnership, support, and continued engagement as we work together to serve your children and our community. Your input is greatly valued and we love to hear from you. Contact me at athomas@laurens55.org, call 864-984-3568, attend our school and district events, or view our school board meetings. Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Ameca C. Thomas, Ph.D.
Proud Superintendent of
Laurens County School District 55

Laurens County School District #55 is committed to the principle of equal opportunity. It is the policy of the district not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, age, national origin, immigrant status, English-speaking status, familial status, or disability with regard to students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment.