

Laurens County School District 55

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

www.laurens55.org



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.

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.

May 30, 2023

Greetings Laurens County School District 55 Family,

It is hard to believe that the last day of the 2022-2023 school year is this week, on Thursday, June 1. Graduation will also be on Thursday, June 1, at 7:00 pm at Laurens District 55 High School. As we come to the close of another academic year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for all your hard work and dedication. This year has been challenging in many ways, but together we have tackled the obstacles, made many accomplishments, and finished strong. Our students have shown remarkable resilience and determination, and our faculty and staff have gone above and beyond to support their learning and growth. As we head into the summer break, I encourage everyone to take some time to relax, recharge, and reflect on the past year. Congratulations to our 2023 graduates. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Also, best wishes to all for a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to coming back refreshed and ready for another great year ahead! The first day of school for students for the 2023-2024 school year is on Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

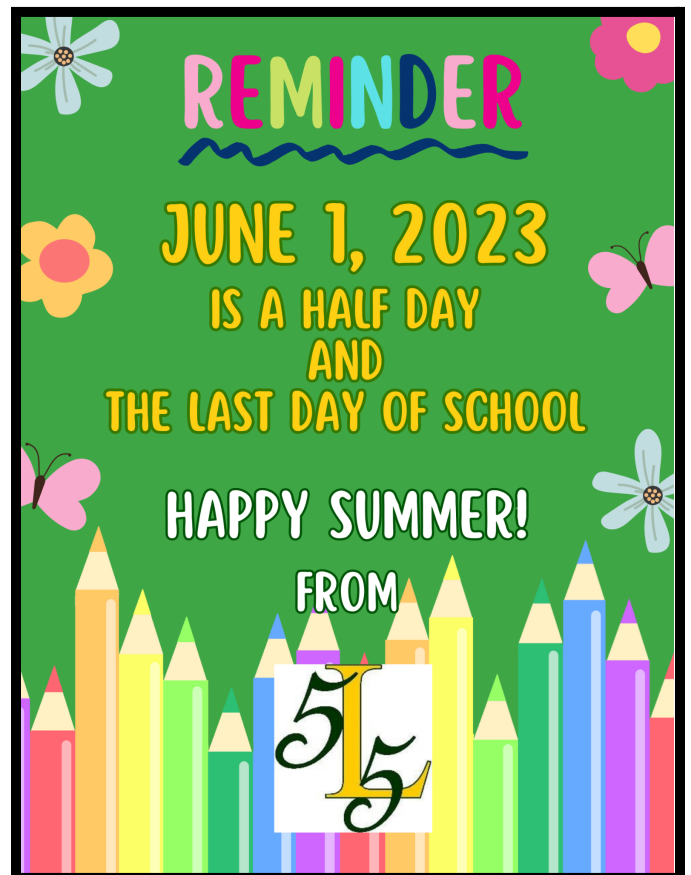
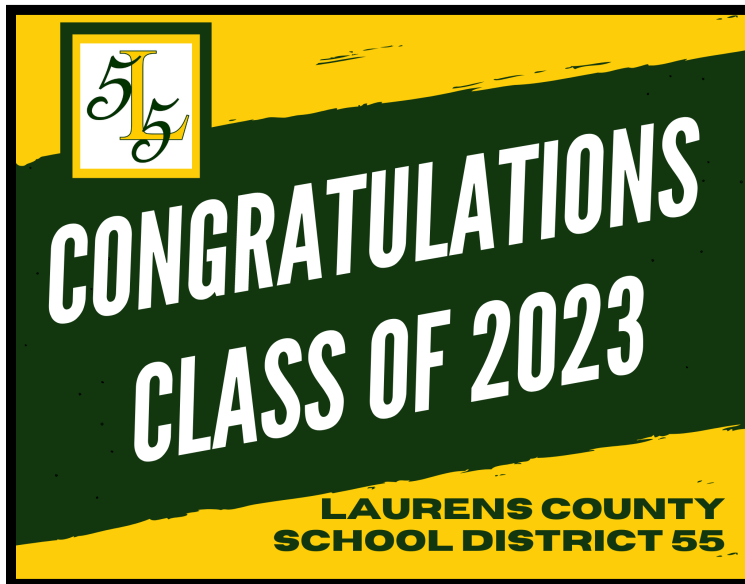
Enjoy your summer!

LINKS

[Virtual Parent Academy Recording](#), [A Parent's Guide to the Active Threat World](#)

[2023 South Carolina Mathematics Standards](#)

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



2023 LCSD 55 EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION NIGHT



The 2023 Laurens County School District 55 (LCSD 55) Employee

Appreciation Night

was held at the Ballroom in Laurens on Thursday, May 25, 2023. Special recognitions were given to employees with 20, 25, and 30 years of service in LCSD 55, retirees, School Teachers of the Year, Induction Teachers of the Month, Induction Teachers of the Year, and School Support Staff of the Year. The 2022-2023 District Teacher of the Year, Katherine Waldrop from Hickory Tavern School, received a monetary award of \$1,000.00, a plaque, and a certificate. The 2022-2023 District Induction Teacher of the Year, Harika Etha from Sanders Middle School, received a monetary award of \$500.00, a plaque, and a certificate. The 2022-2023 District Support Staff of the Year, Connie Godfrey with Student Nutrition Services, received a monetary award of \$500.00, a plaque, and a certificate. Congratulations to all awardees!



MEET CONNIE GODFREY, 2023 SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Connie Godfrey works under the Laurens County School District 55 (LCSD 55) Student Nutrition Services Department. Mrs. Godfrey has been serving LCSD 55 since 2000. She has worked at Laurens District 55 High School and other LCSD 55 elementary and middle schools. She is currently at Ford Elementary School, where she handles the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program and the Afterschool Snack Program.

Mrs. Godfrey chose to join the Food Nutrition Staff at Laurens District 55 because of the convenience of being on the same schedule as her children during their school years. It gave her peace-of-mind knowing she would be there for her children whenever they needed her.



In her 23 years of service, Connie has many things she loves about her job. She shared, "What I love most about my job is the satisfaction of knowing that I have been a part of a great food nutrition staff that truly cares about our students' well-being. Providing a safe, fresh, healthy meal to all the students of our district ensures that each student gets the proper nutrition to start their day. To see smiles on the children's faces, receive many hugs, and be told thank you for the good food is such a blessing."

LCSD 55 Student Nutrition Services Department Director Wanda Knight has many things to praise about Connie Godfrey. “She is very knowledgeable about her job duties. She is always willing to help and go above and beyond. She has assumed new duties this year and has excelled. She is a team player and loves providing meals to our students,” said Knight.

Mrs. Godfrey is pleased to receive the 2023 South Carolina School Nutrition Association Employee of the Year Award. She said, “I am honored and humbled to have been chosen to represent the Laurens 55 Food Nutrition Staff this year. I am so blessed to have received recognition for a job I love. I pray that I positively impact the students I serve and that they see me as a caring friend.”

MEET ANGEL TOLLISON, 2023 SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION CAFETERIA MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Angel Tollison is with the Laurens County School District 55 (LCSD 55) Student Nutrition Services Department. She is the Cafeteria Manager at E.B. Morse (EBM) Elementary. She oversees the EBM Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program. She is also the Coordinator of the Summer Meal Program for the City of Laurens Central Kitchen.



LCSD 55 Student Nutrition Director Wanda Knight only has kind words about Tollison. “She is very hardworking. She began her career as an hourly employee and has worked her way to becoming a manager. She is very precise with her paperwork and ensures meeting all guidelines. She works well with her team and loves feeding our students,” said Knight.

E.B. Morse Principal Dr. Bailey also expressed his admiration for Tollison, “Angel is extremely hardworking and cares deeply about meeting the needs of the staff and students. She is a great example of leading from the middle, as she does not ask her staff to do anything she would not do herself. She sets very high standards for all of the EBM cafeteria members and places great emphasis on ensuring that our students are given the highest quality nutrition. We are very lucky and privileged to have Mrs. Tollison leading our cafeteria.”

HICKORY TAVERN SCHOOL CAREER FAIR

On May 22, 2023, Hickory Tavern School hosted its first annual Career Fair for middle school students. Shakera Tribble, Career Development Facilitator, worked with local businesses to invite them to come present information on their chosen field to HTS students. Students were able to get questions answered about different career clusters from these visitors.



Studies show the importance of career awareness activities, which include helping students think ahead about their future and helping students figure out what careers they would like to pursue. Career Fairs allow students to connect with community members as they learn about the education, experience, and skills they need to become successful. HTS already plans to expand its Career Day next year.

ATLANTA EDUCATIONAL TRIP



Congratulations to all Laurens County School District 55 5th grade Gifted and Talented students for their academic successes throughout the year. The students enjoyed a well-deserved educational trip to Atlanta, Georgia from May 23-25, 2023.

VIRTUAL PARENT ACADEMY SERIES

Our district recorded a parent academy training session on May 25, 2023. The session is entitled “A Parent’s Guide to the Active Threat World” and focuses on safety responses during an active shooter situation. The session is presented by Todd Johnson with Rock and Shield Consulting, LLC. The recording is now available on our district website under [Parenting Resources](#).

P-EBT PROGRAM UPDATE

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Health and Nutrition encourages parents of qualifying P-EBT Program students to verify the address listed in PowerSchool. Per SCDE, qualifying students must be enrolled in the last 20 days of school for the 2022-23 school year to be eligible and must belong to one of the following categories:

- Currently approved for free and reduced lunch
- Currently attend a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) School
- Not currently approved for the free or reduced lunch, but becomes approved and enrolled through the district before August 15, 2023.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LCSD 55 Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Laurens County School District 55 Administrative Office located at 301 Hillcrest Drive, Laurens, SC 29360.

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> Chrys Hill
	<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.