

Access SC SDB

Embrace the Possibilities — Access the Future SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

Students Encouraged to Be Leaders

Leadership is a major focus at the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. Students are encouraged to take leadership roles – everything from student council officers to athletic team captains.

"We try to give students every opportunity to be leaders," said Sara Kollock, director of educational services. "By accepting leadership responsibility, students learn to advocate for themselves and others."

Students serve as yearbook editors, student government officers, and team captains.

They join parents and staff as representatives on School Improvement Council. And, they demonstrate leadership in the community by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and other charitable organizations.

Leadership is also practiced in day-to-day activities. Students in the School for the Blind make the morning announcements. Cedar Springs Academy students lead the pledge of allegiance in morning assemblies. School for the Deaf students participate in Junior National Association for the Deaf.

As part of the leadership initiative, teachers are studying the book *The Leader in Me*. The book was written to help teachers and other professionals meet each child's full potential. Every teacher's goal is to empower students to embrace opportunities and live independently.



Sports offer leadership opportunities for many students. In the photo, football team captains Hermani Mesilien and Drequan Cheeks pose with Sir Purr, the Carolina Panthers mascot. The Panthers donated practice uniforms through The Walker Foundation, our fund-raising arm.



The Color Guard takes the lead at many school events including a recent Veterans Day program. From left are Maya Patterson, Alexis Blandshaw, Jyda Good, Roxy Gregory, and Billie Ann McDaniel.



New at School

A small engine repair class is the latest addition to the Applied Academics Program. Students learn to repair a variety of small engines including lawn mowers, weed eaters, and chain saws.

From left are Christopher Jackson, Jeremy Ponder, teacher Tony Lee, and Raheem Jenkins.



Students are creating their own sound tracks in the new "Introduction to Audio Technology" course. They are learning recording, mixing, processing, and synthesizing techniques as well as digital sound editing. They also plan to produce an audio yearbook.

Left to right: LeAndrew Watson, Anna Milligan, Allyssa Owens, and Christopher Jackson.



A new playground is open at the Cedar Springs Academy.

Associate teacher Justyn Jackson swings student Jacob Jackson.



Spanish is a new course offered in the School for the Blind. The school is partnering with VirtualSC, the state's virtual schools program, to provide the class. An expert instructor teaches the class online and our School for the Blind provides classroom assistance.

Associate teacher Debbie Beheler and student Hayleigh Huggins practice Spanish pronunciations.

Steel drums are a new addition in the Fine Arts Program. The drums are part of the daily music instruction and will be used in upcoming special events.

Left to right: Makayla Greeley, Damien Custer, Chase Hanna, and Devon Landers



Welcome to Access SCsDB!

Leadership is always a major goal for our students. We want each of our students to reach their highest potential – whether they are served on the main campus in Spartanburg or through our outreach programs.



Dr. Page McCraw
Interim President

We also want to be servant leaders to our statewide professional community. As the state's only specialized school for sensory disabled students, we have a responsibility to work with others to ensure that all students receive the best services possible.

We are committed to partnerships and resource sharing to ensure that every sensory disabled child has the opportunity for a good education with the accommodations needed. We want to help give each child the tools needed for success – whether success is defined as college, career, or simply becoming as independent as possible.

I am honored to serve as interim president and look forward to working with you to better serve our state's sensory disabled community.

Sincerely,

Page

Dr. Page McCraw
Interim President

Dr. Page McCraw is serving as interim president of the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. She also continues in her role as director of curriculum and instruction. Her experience includes serving as the state director of career and technology education for the SC Department of Education and 24 years in Cherokee County Schools serving as a high school math teacher, career center director, director of educational programs, and personnel director.

Coming Up at SCsDB!

- 12/12 School Improvement Council**
11 a.m., Swearingen Center, Spartanburg Campus
Online at www.scsdb.org/SchoolImprovementCouncil
- 12/19 Holiday Programs in Schools**
- 1/16-19 Adventures in Braille**
School for the Blind, Spartanburg Campus
- 1/24 The Walker Foundation's Chili Cook Off**
7 p.m., Spartanburg Country Club
- 2/5 SC Regional Braille Challenge**
Commission for the Blind, Columbia

Please see our full calendar at www.scsdb.org. For more information on events or any of the articles in this publication, please contact us at info@scsdb.org or toll-free at 1-888-447-2732.

Student Leaders

Students have been elected or appointed to serve in more than 50 leadership positions. Student council representatives are listed below. A complete list of student leaders including sports, yearbook, and government can be found at www.scsdb.org/leadership.

School for the Deaf High School

David-Michael Peck, president; **Sarah Castor**, vice president; **Lyndsay Shafto**, secretary; and **LeAndrew Watson**, treasurer



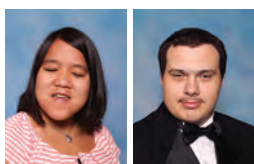
Palmetto Achievement Academy

Dacorion Horton, president; **Daniel Martin**, vice president; **Lana Cedeño**, secretary; **Alfonso White**, class representative



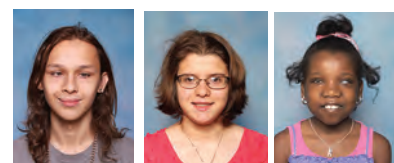
School for the Blind

Anna Milligan, president; **Matthew Cloninger**, vice president



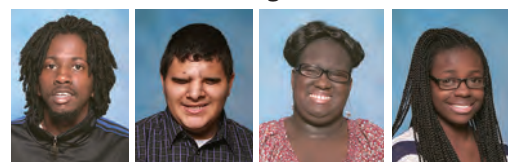
School for the Blind Class Representatives

Grace Bridges, **Tyler Brotherton**, **Damien Custer**, **Landon Lipsey**, **Hudson MacFarlane**, **Katie Roche**, and **Ari'Yanna Smith**



Cedar Springs Academy

Dominique Dotson, **Jeremiah Elizondo**, **Lillian Elmore**, **Jyda Good**, **Chandler Horton**, **Kairee Sanders**, **Christina Schlierholz**, and **Robin Turnage**



Congratulations to the 25 students who entered artwork in the Piedmont Interstate Fair Competition! **Collin Melba** (above) won first place, **Keilyn Bello** and **Kayla Wiegand** earned second place honors, and **Jasper Womick** was awarded third place. The other 21 students ALL received honorable mention recognition.



Curtis Sparkman and **Jason Harmon** (above) were one of three pairs of students who won first place in bocce at the Special Olympics State Fall Games. Other students placing first were **Alexus Blandshaw** and **Kadiedra Hay**, and **Ther Tee Vang** and Unified Partner Donovan Gossett.

Our hornet mascot has a name now. It's **Buzz Walker!** Buzz is for the sound hornets make and Walker is for the school's founding family. Students and staff were invited to submit names as part of the 165th Anniversary Homecoming Week. Buzz Walker received the most votes from the names submitted. Congratulations to teacher **Mark Bell** for his winning name idea. In the photo, **Sara Kollock**, **Fernandez Johnson**, **Shelicia Wilkins**, and **Alexus Blandshaw** cheer for Buzz.



2014 Homecoming Court: Left to right: School for the Blind Homecoming Queen **Meredith Boyce** and her escort MacKenzie Hines; Cedar Springs Academy King **Jason Harmon** and Queen **Kadiedra Hay**; School for the Deaf King **Raheem Jenkins** and Queen **Laquashus Mack**; Interim President **Page McCraw**; front - Cedar Springs Academy Princess **A'She-Rah Jeter**, School for the Deaf Prince **Lucas Nation**, and School for the Blind Prince **Cameron Stitt**.

Welcome New Students!

School for the Blind

Michael Clifton of Chester
Reggie Richburg of Columbia
Daniel Sanders of Salley
Perrin Whelchel of Simpsonville

School for the Deaf

Kejuana Harling of Anderson
Cole Haywood of Orangeburg
Kayla Jackson of Columbia
Montravious James of Columbia
Katie Madison of Spartanburg
Ashley Moss of West Columbia
Taylor Sanders of Spartanburg
Michael Shiflett of Gaffney
Sam White of Simpsonville

Cedar Springs Academy

Daniel Singleton of Charleston
Robin Turnage of Camden
Morgan Ward of Spartanburg
Luis Zuniga-Ocampo of Spartanburg



**The students listed had enrolled at the publication deadline. New enrollees are welcome year-round.*



Our Instructional Resource Center has shipped more than 600 assistive items to school districts across the state this semester. The center provides braille and large print textbooks as well as tactile graphics and assistive devices. It was developed through a partnership with the State Department of Education and serves every school district in the state. Above: Mandy Clayton and Doug Ford take inventory.



Students performed at The Walker Foundation's fund-raising event in Columbia. From left are Brianna Oliphant, Telicia Avery, Alexis Blandshaw, and Andrew Bibbs.

Mark Colby of Michelin and Perrin Whelchel led the way, taking first place, at a recent fun run. The run was part of an appreciation activity for Michelin and Mary Black Foundation. The two organizations donated more than \$54,000 through The Walker Foundation to offset the cost of resurfacing the school's athletic track.



Seniors met as a group to work on college applications. In the photo, **John Reynolds**, director of residential life, helps **Elijah Griffin** complete an application.

Recent Graduate Finds Success in College

Lyric Bratcher learned to advocate for herself and to embrace diversity while attending the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. She believes those skills have made her successful at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, where she is majoring in early childcare.

Legally blind, Lyric does not see color, can't see very well in the daytime, and is extremely nearsighted. While life can be challenging at times, Lyric wants no pity. "The great thing about the School for the Blind was the community of people that were like me and understood me. In a regular high school, people take pity on you and look down on you as if you can't do anything for yourself. At the School for the Blind, they say 'You can do it!'"

Lyric was 16 when she came to the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. "I met some friends at summer camp who said I should try it. My mom had been trying to get me to go there for years," she said. "Going there has made me more comfortable with myself as an adult. I enjoyed having good friends and being around people who understood."

Lyric learned to appreciate diversity while attending the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. She learned sign language so that she could communicate with students who were deaf. She also met and socialized with many of the students with multiple disabilities.

Graduating in 2014, Lyric was known as a leader. She served as vice president of student council and was named Fine Arts Student of the Year. She was recognized for outstanding performance in English and math. She participated in track and field and goalball, a sport designed for athletes who are blind or visually impaired.

Working toward an associate's degree, Lyric is in her first semester at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. She is taking four courses and is doing well in all of them. Scholarships and financial aid cover all of her costs except books. She will attend technical college for two years and plans to transfer to Coastal Carolina to complete a bachelor's degree.

"They don't give you any special treatment in college," said Lyric. "They do provide some accommodations, but you're expected to turn in your assignments on time just like everybody else." Friends help her navigate the campus, and she takes advantage of large print materials, magnifiers, and computer adaptations. Students share classroom notes with her, and she is allowed to select her seating for best lighting.

What would Lyric tell this year's graduates? "Get ready. Once you graduate, you really step out into the real world. Know what you want to do – college or work. Know how to make decisions and how they will impact you, not just the day you make the decision, but in the future. Be able to advocate for yourself."



Photo by Lari B. Roper, Horry Georgetown Technical College

The Latest, The Greatest! New Technology in the School for the Blind Makes Reading Easier

Students in the School for the Blind are enjoying a variety of new technology thanks to a recurring appropriation from the SC Legislature. New assistive devices include:

Ruby Handheld Video Magnifier – This portable device helps students read text and see details. It can zoom in close or change contrast to meet the individual student's needs, and works well even in dark environments.

PIAF (Picture in a Flash) Tactile Graphic Maker – Now students can follow maps, graphs, shapes, and handwriting by touch. The PIAF machine will print raised versions of drawings, printed items, or photocopies.

SARA CEs (Scanning and Reading Appliances, Camera Edition) – Students place a page under the camera and listen as it reads the printed material aloud. Students can pause, go backward and forward, or hear a word spelled. SARA CEs can read 18 languages and come with 222 classic novels pre-installed.





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Embracing the Possibilities

The SC School for the Deaf and the Blind works with parents and professionals to help identify and develop each student's highest potential. Together with local school districts, we strive to match children who are deaf or blind with the best educational options to meet their individual needs.

Options available through the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind include:

- Early intervention programs for infants and toddlers
- PreK-12 education programs on the main campus in Spartanburg (residential and day)
- Specialized vision and hearing services in local school districts statewide
- Mainstreaming opportunities with Spartanburg area school districts
- Summer Camps for children ages 6-14
- A wide variety of accessibility services

Contact Us!

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- *AdvancEd/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement*
- *Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf*
- *SC Department of Education*

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