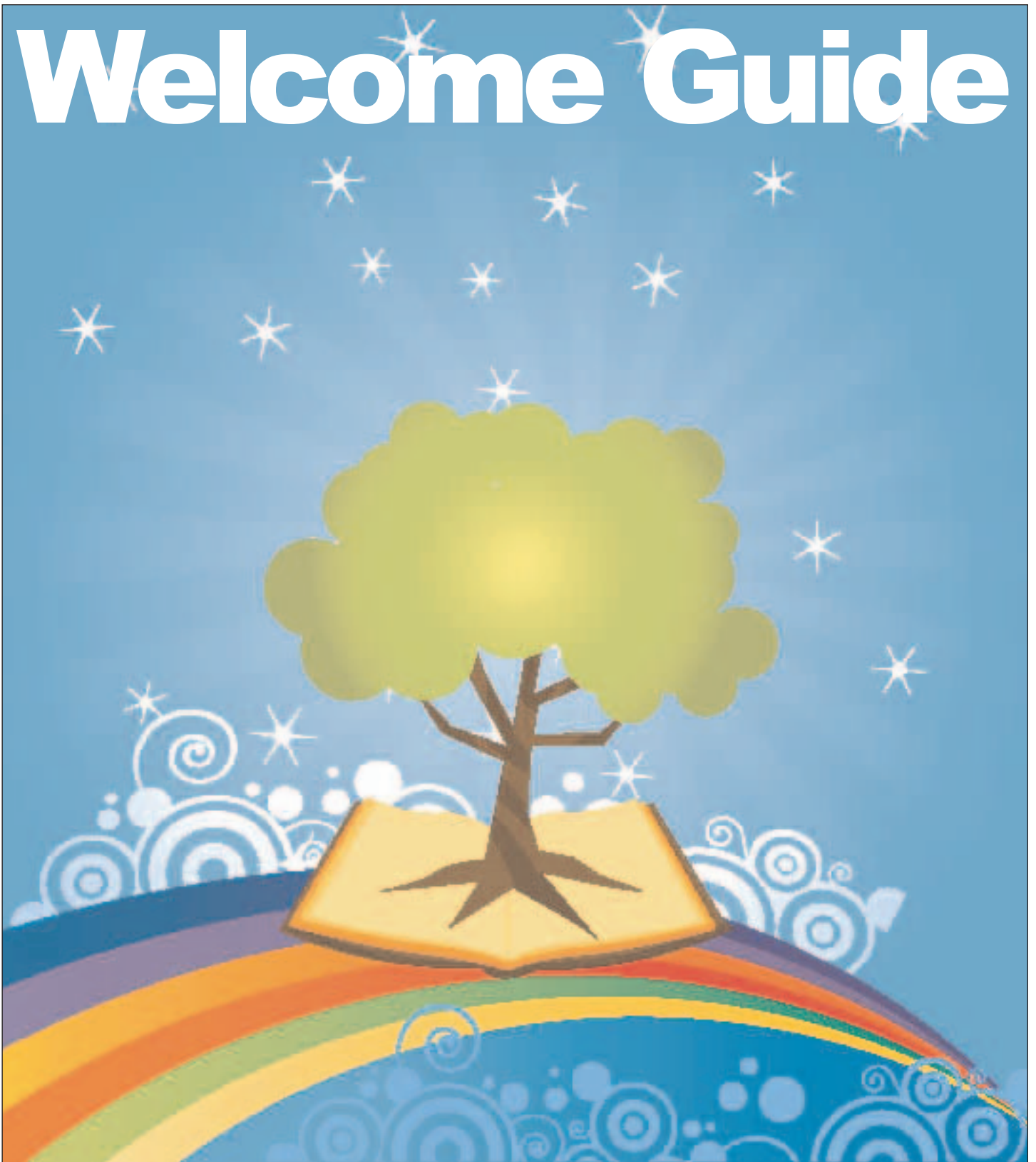


Welcome Guide



Welcome

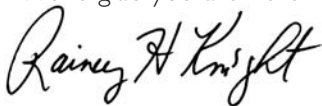
From The Superintendent

Welcome to Darlington County School District! Whether you are a new family just entering our school system or someone considering a move to our area, we are happy to provide you with this information.

The Darlington County School District serves approximately 10,600 students in grades K-12. We offer a well-rounded program of services that meet the needs of all children: 18 traditional schools, one magnet high school, two magnet elementary schools, one alternative program, a county-wide career & technology center, and a county-wide adult education program.

The enclosed information will tell you a little about our district, but I encourage you to visit us for a firsthand look. Contact the principals in your area and ask to visit our schools and meet our teachers. Our school district is about people, not buildings, and I think you will like what you see!

We're glad you are here!



Dr. Rainey Knight
Superintendent

The Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County Board of Education serves as the governing board of the Darlington County School District. The board is made up of eight members, elected from each area of the county for a four-year term.

The Darlington County Board of Education meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. for regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings are held in the Board/Community Conference Room of the Administrative Annex #1 at 102 Park Street in Darlington, except where noted on the schedule.

Residents are encouraged to attend meetings in order to learn more about the district's programs and operations. The first 30 minutes of the meetings are set aside as a time to hear from the public. During this time, any citizen may speak for up to three minutes. If you desire to be scheduled on the board meeting agenda, or if you wish to speak for more than three minutes, please contact the Office of Communications at 843/398-2284.



Connell Delaine
Chairman



Warren Jeffords
Vice-Chairman



Charles Govan
Secretary



Tom Henson



Tommy Jeffords



Dr. Allen McCutchen



Jamie Morphis



Joyce W. Thomas

Mission

Excellence in Teaching and Learning for All

Vision

The Darlington County Community will grow and prosper economically and culturally as the school district fosters an environment that produces well-educated, productive citizens.

All families will receive validation of their important role in their children's education within an atmosphere of mutual respect and collaboration.

All students will demonstrate respect for others and possess the knowledge and skills to be productive members of the community with the desire to continue as life-long learners.

All staff will be empowered through meaningful, professional experiences in a supportive and collaborative environment to ensure the success of all students.

Beliefs

In Darlington County School District, we believe:

- Excellence is achievable and always worth the investment.
- Education is the shared responsibility of the home, school and community.
- All students can learn and perform at a higher level.
- The quality of a child's education depends on the quality of the teacher.
- All decisions are made in the best interest of the education, safety, and well-being of students to create successful schools and strong communities.



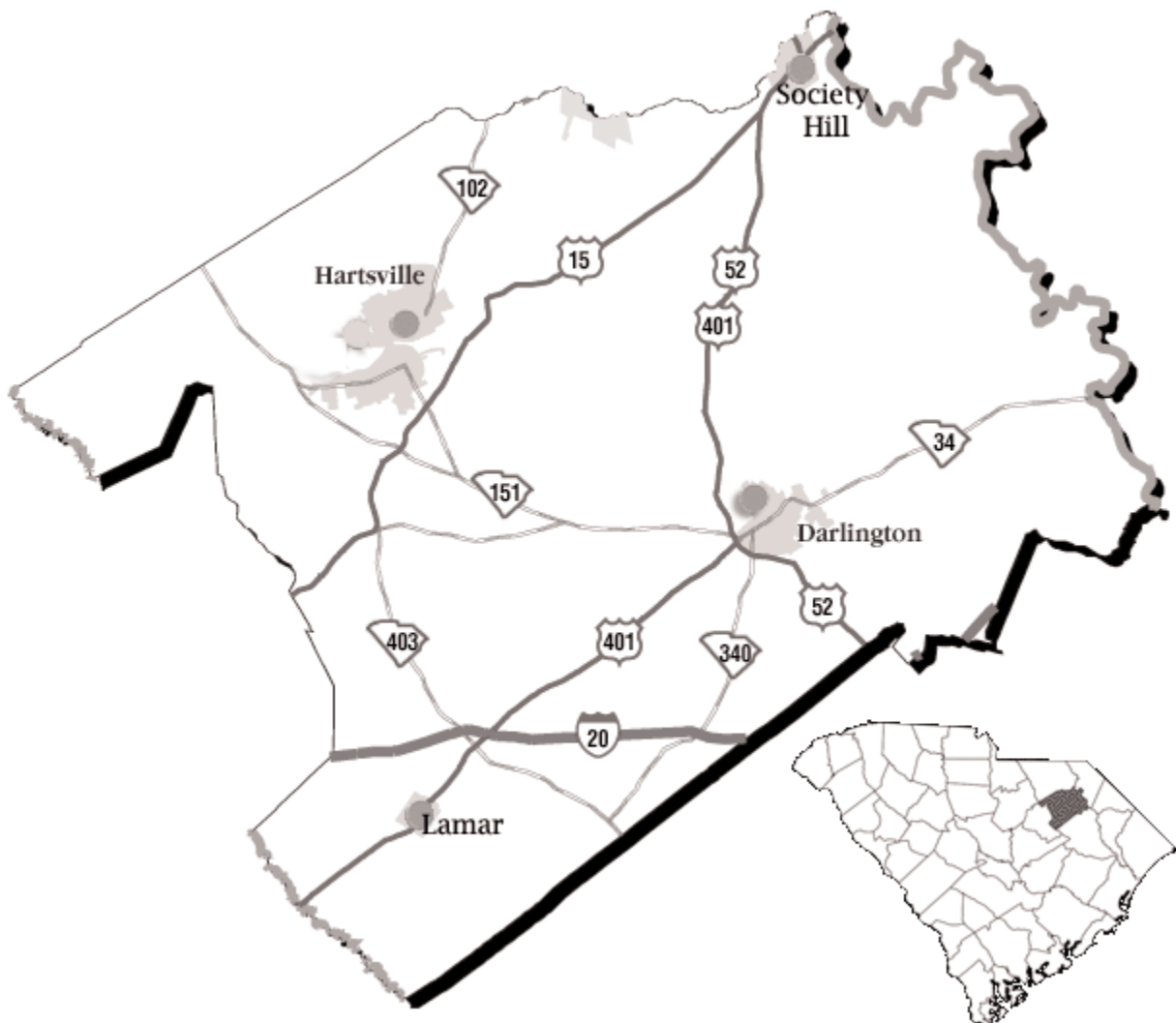
Darlington County School District

Located in northeastern South Carolina, the Darlington County School District serves 10,600 students at 23 schools. These schools include two elementary magnet schools, one magnet high school, one alternative school, one Institute of Technology, and four integrated magnet programs (two middle school, two high school). The district also offers a county-wide adult education program.

The school district completely covers Darlington County and is divided into four attendance zones: Darlington, Hartsville, Lamar, and Society Hill. Each zone serves a different geographic base of Darlington County.

All children between the ages of five and sixteen years old (inclusive) must be enrolled in school. Students attend school for 180 days each school year and must meet state attendance requirements for placement in the next grade. Graduation is based upon successfully completing the number of units required by the State Department of Education and successful completion of the SC Exit Exam.

Here in the Darlington County School District, we are committed to providing every child a challenging education, inspiring educators, and safe, nurturing schools.



Reasons to celebrate

Darlington County School District is filled with dedicated employees who hold the belief that they are there to improve the lives of the students in our district. On every level, in every school and office, hard-working professionals are pushing to improve our schools and our district. Those efforts are paying off for our students.

The district is accredited by AdvancEd. All schools are fully accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Darlington County School District and Hartsville High School exceeded the state average for public schools on the SAT. Mayo High School exceeded the national average. The district is now less than 20 points from the national average.

Two elementary schools - Carolina Elementary and Pate Elementary - have been named "No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools". The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, run by the federal Department of Education, honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Our schools and district have a strong commitment to providing cutting-edge technology in the classroom. All schools are wired for the Internet, with many featuring wireless laptop labs and interactive whiteboards. Through the district's technology plan, all teachers are provided a laptop, printer, and document camera.

The seniors of the class of 2009 earned \$11,352,487 million in scholarships. Since 2002, our students have earned more than \$76.7 million in scholarships!

Our district now offers Ninth Grade Academies at Darlington and Hartsville High schools. The Ninth Grade Academy concept groups rising ninth graders together in a school-within-a-school concept, allowing for more focused attention and more personalized instruction during this critical year.

Our district provides resources to assist teachers in pursuit of National Board Certification. Currently 67 educators in our schools have earned this prestigious certification.

Our schools provide excellent service to exceptional students and serve nine different handicapping conditions.

The Teacher Forum is one of the most active in the state and hosts numerous professional growth activities during the year.

The Character Education Program provides students with experiences that will prepare them to do the right things for the right reasons.

Southside Early Childhood Center is one of only a few early childhood centers in South Carolina to have earned accreditation by the National Association of the Education of Young Children.

Students and staff enjoy safe, orderly schools. School resource officers and campus supervisors are assigned to all middle and high schools.

Our district provides alternative education to students in grades 6-12 who, for discipline reasons, do not thrive in their home school.

Our schools offer full-day kindergarten for five year olds.

Darlington County offers an award-winning adult education program that offers a wide array of classes, including GED prep classes and computer training classes.

Through the Pathways to Success program, students are provided with opportunities to explore career options, identify their interests, and participate in mentoring and job shadowing.

While the state teacher's pay schedule stops at 22 years of experience, Darlington County has extended its teacher pay schedule to 30 years.



South Carolina: A High Quality Education

National standing and recognition

- The national report card “Quality Counts 2009,” published by the respected magazine, *Education Week*, ranked South Carolina No. 1 in the nation for improving teacher quality and No. 5 in the nation for its academic standards and accountability system.
- Seven independent national studies have cited South Carolina’s academic standards as among the most rigorous in the nation. Most recently, the education research organization Education Trust ranked South Carolina and Maine as first in the nation for the rigor of student proficiency standards.
- The national journal *Education Next* said that South Carolina, Maine and Massachusetts have the nation’s most rigorous standards for academic proficiency (Summer 2006).
- The Princeton Review ranked South Carolina’s testing system as No. 11 in the nation and praised the state’s academic proficiency standards as among the nation’s most rigorous.
- Education Trust reports that South Carolina’s minority and lower-income students have raised their scores and reduced achievement gaps in recent years on standardized reading and math tests. The organization’s 2009 national report, “Education Watch,” says that achievement gaps in South Carolina are smaller than the national average. Among the report’s highlights: 8th math performance by the state’s African-American students ranked #9 in the country, and 8th grade math scores for Hispanic students ranked #8.
- South Carolina ranks third in the nation in the number of teachers certified by the prestigious National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, with 6,499 nationally certified teachers.
- The National Council on Teacher Quality rated South Carolina tops in the nation for identifying effective teachers, retaining those effective educators and dismissing ineffective teachers from the classroom.

Test scores

- South Carolina’s 22-point gain in SAT scores leads the nation over the past ten years among states where more than half of the graduating seniors take the test.

- For the first time in history, South Carolina students are scoring at and above the national average on nationally and internationally standardized test
- South Carolina scores are at or near the national average on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the federally required tests widely considered the best measure for comparisons among states. South Carolina’s performance on NAEP has resulted in top national rankings for improvement:
 - o Math, Grade 4 – No. 1 in the nation
 - o Math, Grade 8 – No. 1 in the nation
 - o Science, Grade 4 – No. 1 in the nation
 - o Science Grade 8 – No. 3 in the nation
- Standard and Poor’s has identified South Carolina as an “outperformer” on NAEP for consistently achieving above statistical expectations.
- South Carolina students met or exceeded the international average in the Third International Math and Science Study, which compared test scores of students in 38 nations.
- South Carolina is one of only a few states that has increased high school seniors’ scores on the ACT college entrance exam over the past five years despite dramatically increasing the number of students who took the exam.



Schools

Brockington Elementary Magnet School for Science and Technology (Grades 3-5)
413 Brockington Road, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5095

Brunson-Dargan Elementary (Grades 3-5)
400 Wells Street, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5080

Cain Elementary (Grades 4K-2)
607 First Street, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5020

Carolina Elementary (Grades 1-5)
719 W. Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3112

Darlington County Institute of Technology (Gr. 10-12)
160 Pinedale Drive, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-4796

Darlington County Intervention School (Grades 6-12)
100 Magnolia Street, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 393-5617

Darlington High School (Grades 9-12)
525 Spring Street, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5140

Darlington Middle School (Grades 6-8)
150 Pinedale Drive, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5088

Hartsville High School (Grades 9-12)
701 Lewellyn Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3130

Hartsville Middle School (Grades 6-8)
1427 Fourteenth Street, Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3121

Lamar Elementary (Grades 4K-2)
214 N. Darlington Avenue, Lamar, SC 29069
(843) 326-7575

Lamar High (Grades 9-12)
216 N. Darlington Avenue, Lamar, SC 29069
(843) 326-5543

Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology
(Grades 9-12)
405 Chestnut Street, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5050

North Hartsville Elementary (Grades 1-5)
110 School Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3115

Pate Elementary (Grades 3K-2)
1010 Indian Branch Road, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5070

Rosenwald Elementary/ Middle (Grades K-8)
508 Church Street, Society Hill, SC 29593
(843) 378-4011

Southside Early Childhood Center (Grades 4K-5K)
1615 Blanding Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3105

Spaulding Elementary (Grades 3-5)
204 E. Pearl Street, Lamar, SC 29069
(843) 326-5347

Spaulding Middle School (Grades 6-8)
400 E. Cartersville Highway, Lamar, SC 29069
(843) 326-7625

St. John's Elementary (Grades 4K-5)
140 Park Street, Darlington, SC 29532
(843) 398-5130

Thornwell School for the Arts (Grades 1-5)
437 West Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3127

Washington St. Elementary (Grades 1-3)
325 Washington Street, Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3141

West Hartsville Elementary (Grades 4-5)
214 Clyde Road, Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 383-3144

Fast Facts

School System

Elementary	13
Middle Schools	4
High Schools	4
Career & Technology Center	1
Child Development Center	1
Alternative School	1
Adult Education Programs	1
Magnet Programs and/or Schools	7
Square Miles Served	.561
AdvancED Accredited	All Schools

Employees

Total Employees	1,164
Teachers	865

Finances

Budget for 2008-09	\$76,703,190
Budget for 2009-10	\$66,598,320
Dollars spent per pupil in 07-08	\$8,666

School Bus Transportation

Number of Students Riding Buses	6,200
Number of School Buses	107

Students

Enrollment	11,227
Attendance Rate	.95%
Graduation Rate	.82%
Annual dropout rate	.27%

Scholarships

Class of 2003	\$6,013,470
Class of 2004	\$8,189,501
Class of 2005	\$8,838,877
Class of 2006	\$8,939,287
Class of 2007	\$12,125,192
Class of 2008	\$15,429,507
Class of 2009	\$11,352,487

Student Nutrition

Number of Breakfasts served daily	3,864
Number of Lunches served Daily	7,866
Students receiving free/reduced lunch	.70%

Cost of School Meals

Breakfast

Student	\$0.75
Reduced Student	\$0.30
Adult	\$1.80

Lunch

Student	\$1.50
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$3.00

Teachers

Attendance Rate	.96%
Master's Degree or Higher	.51.2%
National Board Certified teachers	.67
Average Teacher Salary	\$46,152



Magnets

ELEMENTARY MAGNETS

Brockington Elementary Magnet School for Science & Technology (Grades 3-5)

This school offers a challenging environment with special emphasis on science and computer technology. Students in the magnet program receive a comprehensive, integrated curriculum based on state and national standards. Additionally magnet students are afforded opportunities to participate in a more concentrated study of scientific interest. Students are provided inquiry-based science instruction and utilize technology to enhance their work. Students have access to state of the art technology in modern computer and science labs.

Thornwell School for the Arts (Grades 3-5)

Thornwell School for the Arts offers an enriched academic and arts-infused curriculum. The expanded curriculum offers strings, general music, choir; keyboards, general theatre class, theatre ensemble, production, visual arts, and advanced art to students who have a special interest in the arts. An annual musical production and Spring Arts Showcase are highlights of the school year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNETS

Darlington Middle School Science & Technology Magnet Program (Grades 6-8)

The Darlington Middle School Science & Technology Magnet Program is dedicated to providing real world experiences through exposure to advance science concepts, rigorous technology-infused curriculum and partnerships with the scientific and business communities. This magnet program provides rigorous science classes that specialize in the study of forensics, biotechnology, engineering, and other specialized areas.

Hartsville Middle School Arts Magnet Program (Grades 6-8)

The Hartsville Middle School Arts Magnet Program is an arts-infused curriculum that allows artistically gifted students to explore their talents. The curriculum includes Chorus, Strings, Theatre, Visual Arts, Band and Musical Keyboarding. Guest artists and special performances provide opportunities for enrichment. Magnet students are challenged to exceed academically and artistically.

HIGH SCHOOL MAGNETS

Darlington High School Honors College (Grades 9-12)

Darlington High School Honors College magnet program allows students to receive both high school units and dual college credit in a challenging academic environment. The credits earned can be transferred to any state college or university in South Carolina, allowing students to get a "head start" on their college education.

Hartsville High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet Programme (Grades 9-12)

Hartsville High School's IB Magnet Programme challenges students with an exceptionally rigorous program of study with both Advanced Placement and IB courses. This program provides students with the opportunity to earn an IB Diploma, the most prestigious high school diploma available. Students receive an education based on the rigorous international standards that enable successful IB Diploma candidates to be competitive in gaining admission to elite colleges and university and that prepare them for a future in the global workplace.

Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology (Grades 9-12)

Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology offers motivated students the opportunity to combine strong academics with specialized instruction in the areas of math, science and the technologies while offering enhanced courses in the humanities. Honors and college-prep courses are available in all core academic subjects. Area technical schools and local colleges and universities provide Mayo students an opportunity to earn college dual credits.



In Darlington County, parents have

Choices

In an effort to give parents more flexibility and control in the education process, Darlington County School District offers district-wide Expanded Choice. Any student in Darlington County may apply for the Expanded Choice Program, regardless of whether that student is currently enrolled in a public school, a private school, or a home school.

Under the Expanded Choice Program, students who reside in Darlington County may request to attend any school in the county, with the exception of Mayo High School. Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology already offers choice as part of its magnet program and is, therefore, not included in the Expanded Choice Program. The Expanded Choice Program is independent of the AYP Choice Program designed by the "No Child Left Behind" act.

Parents can submit Expanded Choice applications to the district during the allowed time period for each school year. Applications are available at all schools, through the district's Office of Innovative Programs, and on the district's website at <http://www.darlington.k12.sc.us>. Parents will be notified if the transfer was accepted and must confirm their decision for their child to attend the choice school.

Under the Expanded Choice Program:

- Each school in the district has ten allocated spaces for choice students. If more than ten students apply for any one school, the slots will be filled through a random selection process.
- Choice selections will be based on space availability at the selected school.
- Student athletic eligibility remains under the SC High School League rules.
- Transportation will not be provided for the Expanded Choice Program. Parents and guardians are responsible for providing transportation.
- Once a child is selected to participate, Expanded Choice will remain in effect until the student finishes his/her school of choice. A new application must be submitted with each new level of education – early elementary (K-2), elementary (3-5), middle (6-8), and high school (9-12).
- If a child moves into the county after the request period ends, the child must attend the school to which he/she is zoned. A parent can apply during the next choice cycle.
- It is not necessary for parents to complete an application for their child to attend the school for which they are already zoned and attending.

For complete guidelines, an application or more information, contact Darlington County School District's Office of Innovative Programs at 843/398-2241.



FAQ

How would I arrange to visit a school?

All of our schools have an open door policy and welcome visitors! To arrange a tour of one of our schools, please contact the school directly.

How do I know what school my child is zoned to attend?

Call the Office of Transportation at (843)398-2313.

How do I enroll my child?

New students may register throughout the school year by contacting the school directly. To register, a parent or guardian should bring proof of residency containing a street address such as a utility bill (telephone bill, electric/gas bill, water bill, tax notice, etc.) to his/her child's school.

Information on bus routes is available at registration. Parents/guardians should also check with their local health department or physician for current information about immunizations.

What fees must my student pay?

While most student fees have been eliminated, fees for special classes (like driver education) remain in effect. State law mandates that, in most instances, students on reduced meal plans pay reduced fees and those on free meal plans pay no fees. For a copy of the fee schedule, contact your child's school.

What if I miss all the registration periods?

Call the Office of Curriculum & Instruction at (843)398-5100 to arrange a kindergarten registration time.

How can I search school district policies? How can I get a copy of a school district policy?

Call the Office of the Assistant Superintendent for Administration at (843)398-5200 or visit the online board policy manual under the Publications portion of our web site (www.darlington.k12.sc.us).

How do I sign up for the free or reduced lunch program?

Families must complete a Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility Form in order to be evaluated for free or reduced meals. To get an application, parents should call the Office of Food Services at 843/398-2317. The information provided by the family is evaluated based on the income and size of the family submitting the application. Federal guidelines regulate who receives free or reduced meals. Families must submit a new application yearly to be considered for benefits.

How do I find out about bus routes?

Call the Office of Transportation at (843) 398-2313.

What is the age requirement for kindergarten? Can any child attend? Is there a waiting list?

The district offers kindergarten programs for four- and five-year-old children. The four-year-old kindergarten for the Darlington County School District is a state-funded program for children who will be four on or before September 1st.

Due to the limited number of slots available, children are selected for participation in the four-year-old kindergarten based on their scores on the state approved screening instrument DIAL-3 (Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning-Revised). All children who are not placed in the 4K program during the initial screening process are placed on a waiting list in rank order according to their DIAL-3 scores from lowest to highest. As slots become available during the year, students are accepted into the program from that waiting list.

The five-year-old kindergarten program for Darlington County School District is a state-mandated program for all children who will be five on or before September 1, in accordance with state law. This is a full day program for all students and all children who register will be placed.

How does my child register for kindergarten?

The district holds kindergarten registration in the Spring for the upcoming year. Dates and locations for the registration are advertised in the newspaper and posted on our web site. Parents may also call the Office of Curriculum & Instruction at 843/398-5100 for dates and times.

How can I get more information?

Please visit our web site, www.darlington.k12.sc.us, or call the Office of Communications at 843/398-2284.

