



MEDIA RELEASE

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Virtus Academy shows academic gains, presented with Shooting for the Stars awards

FLORENCE, SC— The academic accomplishments of Virtus Academy of South Carolina (VASC) were celebrated at a ceremony hosted at the school on Thursday, March 31.

Virtus Academy of South Carolina showed an increase in the projections of the percentage of elementary and middle students scoring Meets or Exceeds in MAP ELA and Math from Fall to Winter. Elementary ELA showed a 3.5% rate of increase and Elementary Math showed a 13.3% rate of increase, while Middle School ELA showed a 16.1% rate of increase and Middle School Math showed a 10.2% rate of increase. Based on NWEA MAP projected growth, 67% of all grade levels met or outpaced their projected growth in reading, and 100% of all grade levels met or outpaced their projected growth in Math.

“Ultimately, we want to ensure that our students are growing academically,” said Ms. Shemekia Nero, principal at Virtus Academy. “To see that that is happening from kindergarten to eighth grade, it just shows that we are doing something right.”

Four students from each grade level were presented with a “Shooting for the Stars” award based on their accomplishments. The two students from each grade who scored the highest in each subject area were presented with the Shooting for the Stars Highest Awards. The two students from each grade who showed the most growth from Fall to Winter MAP scores in each subject area were presented with the Shooting for the Stars Growth Award. *See below for a complete list of winners.*

The Student of the Year (Ethan Shaeffer), Support Staff Member of the Year (Mr. Ron Brown) and Teacher of the Year (Ms. Megan Bray) were also recognized at the event. The ceremony was attended by students, staff members, parents, members of the Virtus Academy Board, and members of the Charter Institute at Erskine’s team.

“Success is never an accident. It happens because of great leadership,” said Cameron Runyan, Superintendent of the Charter Institute at Erskine. “We are so proud of Ms. Nero and honored to be here to celebrate today.”

Winners

Shooting for the Stars Highest Award

Kindergarten ELA: Katie Padgett
First Grade ELA: Braylon Felice
Second Grade ELA: Dallas Green
Third Grade ELA: Liam Conner
Fourth Grade ELA: Paisley Truett
Fifth Grade ELA: Evan Goodridge
Sixth Grade ELA: Sariah Mason
Seventh Grade ELA: Maren Runyan
Eighth Grade ELA: Dallin Mason

Kindergarten Math: Jeremiah Quillin
First Grade Math: Lana Dimery
Second Grade Math: Olivia Driggers
Third Grade Math: Jack Atkins
Fourth Grade Math: Adalyn Arsnoe
Fifth Grade Math: Neil George
Sixth Grade Math: Aiden Gattison
Seventh Grade Math: Nathaniel Anthony
Eighth Grade Math: Dallin Mason

Shooting for the Stars Growth Award

Kindergarten ELA: Jones Moreno
First Grade ELA: Jaxon Echols
Second Grade ELA: Lawson Coker & Roger Winburn
Third Grade ELA: Mandelyn Davis
Fourth Grade ELA: Shawn Davis
Fifth Grade ELA: Elijah Prescott & Sarah Thompson
Sixth Grade ELA: Jonathan Lee
Seventh Grade ELA: Charlie Padgett
Eighth Grade ELA: Cheyanne Foust

Kindergarten Math: Lawton Tyner
First Grade Math: Lola Munn
Second Grade Math: Carson Dolford & Ella Stroud
Third Grade Math: Dollie Welch
Fourth Grade Math: Jennie Odom
Fifth Grade Math: Keci Atkinson
Sixth Grade Math: Mickey O'Neal
Seventh Grade Math: David Hazelton
Eighth Grade Math: Sterling Hill

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About The Charter Institute at Erskine

The Charter Institute at Erskine is the fastest-growing charter school authorizer in South Carolina. Serving 26 schools and 24,000 students across the state, the Charter Institute at Erskine is committed to innovative, creative, high-quality methods of education. For more information about the Institute, please visit www.erskinecharters.org.

Photos



Virtus Board Members, Institute team members, Principal Shemekia Nero, and all Shooting for the Stars Award Winners at Thursday's ceremony.



Superintendent of the Charter Institute at Erskine Cameron Runyan and Virtus Principal Shemekia Nero



VASC students and staff members celebrating their successes.