



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cherokee Charter Academy earns recognition, awards at statewide Academic Showcase

GAFFNEY, SC – Cherokee Charter Academy earned five different awards in recognition of their outstanding academic performance in the 2022-2023 school year at the Charter Institute at Erskine's Academic Showcase on Friday, November 3, 2023.

Cherokee's Elementary School earned a Silver School of Distinction award for outperforming the local school district and demonstrating Average growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics in the 2022-2023 school year.

Cherokee's Middle School brought home numerous awards, earning a Gold School of Distinction award for outperforming the local school district and demonstrating Above Average growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Cherokee's middle school also was named a Gold School of Excellence for performing in the top 25% of the state in English Language Arts. Finally, Cherokee's middle school received recognition from the Institute as a Palmetto Gold School and an Excellent Rated school, both given by the South Carolina State Department of Education.

"Cherokee Charter Academy is moving the needle in academic performance in Cherokee County. This would not have been possible without the support of our parents, hard-working students, and a dedicated group of teachers," said school leader, Mr. Jason Byrd.

At the showcase, charter schools from around the state were celebrated for their academic achievement and outstanding growth. Cherokee was one of 14 schools recognized at the event and was asked to present their strategies for academic growth with their peers.

"We are very proud of the growth CCA made at both the elementary and middle school levels. We attribute this to the standard of excellence we set forth each day with our families," said Dr. Lindsay Walker, Elementary School Principal at Cherokee.

Cherokee Charter Academy is located in Gaffney, South Carolina, and serves grades 4K-8. In only its third year of operation, Cherokee has become the highest-performing public school in Cherokee county.

"Academic excellence is the top priority for all current and future schools within the Tutelage Family of Schools," said Mr. John Loveday, Executive Director of Cherokee's Educational Management Organization, Tutelage School Solutions. "We are so incredibly proud of our founding school, Cherokee Charter Academy, after only three years in operation, is now the highest performing public school in all of Cherokee County. This goes to show what is possible when you combine dedication, teamwork, and

creativity towards accomplishing a goal. We know CCA will continue to grow and lead the way in public education, not only in Cherokee County, but also in the Upstate and across South Carolina."

Enrollment is currently open at Cherokee Charter Academy – visit <https://www.cherokee.education/> to learn more.

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The Charter Institute at Erskine is the fastest-growing school district in South Carolina. Serving 27 schools and 26,000 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.



Cherokee School Directors Jason Byrd & Dr. Lindsay Walker share key strategies that led to Cherokee's success with charter school leaders from around the state.



Cherokee staff members are recognized by Charter Institute at Erskine staff at 2023 Academic Showcase. From left to right: Ms. Naomi Morgan (Institute), Mr. Mike Sinclair (Institute), Dr. Steve Adamson (Erskine College & Institute Board Chair), Mr. Jason Byrd (Cherokee), Dr. Lindsay Walker (Cherokee), Leslie Williams (Cherokee), Dawn Rector (Cherokee), and Superintendent Cameron Runyan (Institute).