

*"He far exceeded my expectations. He is a valuable member of the team."*

Mary Downs, Service Excellence Manager, Guest Services

## ABOUT PROJECT SEARCH

Project SEARCH is an international program first developed in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital to provide employment and education opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. There are currently over 300 programs across 46 states in the U.S. and five other countries.

Through collaboration between Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's-based Project SEARCH, Spartanburg School District 6 (Dorman High School), South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and Workforce Investment Board, the program becomes the first Project SEARCH established in South Carolina.



*"She fits right in like a member of the team."*

Gina Wilson, Equipment Coordinator, Respiratory



*"She caught on fast and works hard."*

Sonja Cureton, Team Leader, Linen Service



## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The High School Transition Program prepares interns for employment in the community. During this program students will:

- Receive classroom instruction on employability and independent living skills
- Participate in internship rotations
- Work with a job coach and host mentor to learn how to perform internship tasks independently
- Engage in job development activities
- Upon the completion of the program, have the skills needed to obtain a community job that aligns with their vocational goals

## Entrance Criteria

The Project SEARCH application process takes place each spring. Student applicants must also meet the following requirements for consideration:

- Desire to work competitively in the community
- Be 18 - 21 years of age
- Meet eligibility requirements for vocational rehabilitation
- Have independent hygiene and grooming skills
- Maintain appropriate workplace behaviors and social skills
- Ability to pass a drug screen, felony check, and be up-to-date on immunizations
- Willingness to take direction from Project SEARCH and hospital staff
- Ability to communicate effectively

## HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION PROGRAM

Project SEARCH is a unique, business-led transition program designed for students with developmental disabilities, particularly youth transitioning from high school to adult life. Students attend the program for a full school year in the host business, located on Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's main campus. The hospital provides access to an on-site classroom that accommodates up to 12 students. The site is staffed by a special education teacher and one to three job coaches to meet the educational and training needs of the students.

In addition to classroom learning, students master core skills through three 9- to 10-week internship rotations during the school year. The students acquire competitive, marketable and transferable skills to enable them to apply for a range of jobs in which they can be successful.

## MEDICAL CENTER INTERNSHIPS

Ida Thompson Child Development Program	Environmental Services
Central Patient Transport	Guest Services
Dining Services	Linens
Emergency Center	Pediatric Rehabilitation
Endoscopy	Respiratory
	Sterile Processing



The presence of a Project SEARCH High School Transition Program can bring about long-term changes in business culture that have far-reaching positive effects in the community.

### CONTACT OUR TEAM FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT SEARCH AND HOW YOU CAN HELP.

#### **Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System**

Gloria Graves, Student Programs Coordinator  
864-560-6278 | ggraves@srhs.com

#### **Spartanburg School District 6**

Dr. Alan Eggert, Executive Director of Special Services  
864-576-4212 | eggerta@spart6.org

#### **Dorman High School**

Sam Napier, Project SEARCH Teacher  
864-590-0297 | napiersd@spart6.org

#### **South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation**

Barbara A. Rhodes, Counselor  
864-585-3693 | brhodes@scvrd.state.sc.us

### TO START A PROJECT SEARCH IN YOUR AREA, CONTACT:

#### **Project SEARCH**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
3333 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229  
[www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us)

### PROJECT SEARCH IS A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN:

- Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
- Spartanburg School District 6 (Dorman High School)
- South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department
- Workforce Investment Board



## High School Transition Program

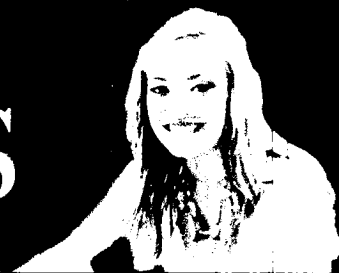
Providing education and job training  
to young adults with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities.



# The District Six FOCUS

*"Where Children are always FIRST"*

October/November Issue



ENTIRE

## West View Elementary Wins National Award



West View has been named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School. Only six schools in the South Carolina received this prestigious honor. This award recognizes West View for overall academic excellence as a high performing school based upon recent test scores. Principal Shawn

Wootton says, "West View Elementary places a strong emphasis on setting high expectations, instructional leadership and creating a positive school climate. This award validates everything that we do each day for children, preparing them for the 21st century." In addition to thanking the teachers, students and district administration, Wootton says parents and mentors play a huge role in making the students of West View successful. The school will be recognized in November during a ceremony in Washington, DC.



## Dorman Teacher Feels Blessed to be Named District Six Teacher of the Year



Dorman High School educator Bobbie Jean Shepard was thrilled to hear her name called as the 2014-2015 District Six Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made during our annual Back to School Awards and Recognitions Program. Entering into her 8th year as an

educator, Shepard says, "I feel very honored. I am blessed to work with a phenomenal group of professionals who are dedicated to meeting the needs of young people. It's exciting to be a part of something so important." Bobbie Jean graduated from Wofford College as an English major and earned her Master of Education from LaGrange College. When asked why she chose education as a career, Bobbie Jean said, "I have always loved learning and studying. Being in the classroom just feels natural to me, and I definitely enjoy sharing my learning experiences with students."

## District Six - First in SC to Pilot Job Placement Program

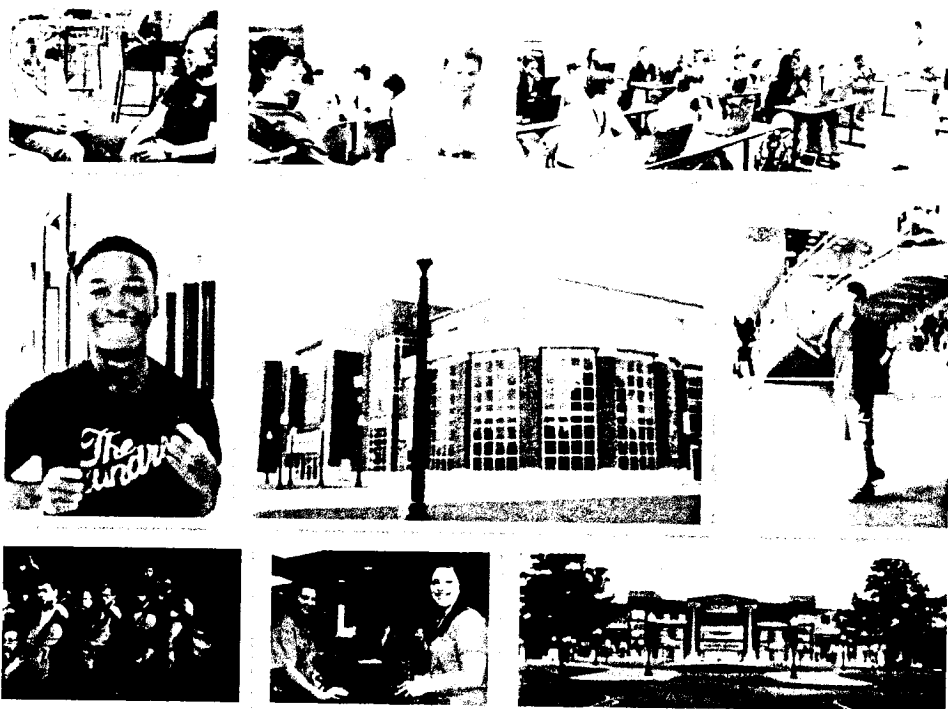


Spartanburg School District Six is a forerunner in the state, piloting a program that provides real-life work experiences for students. Project SEARCH is a high-school transition program that will ensure career readiness to students in our special education program. The program is different, in that it is a one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at work. District Six is partnering with Spartanburg Medical Center to provide internship opportunities for our students. Vocational Rehabilitation is providing students with a job coach. The district currently has seven students enrolled in this initial cohort at Spartanburg Medical Center. During the year, students are interning with three different departments, while gaining valuable work experience that would lead to employment. District Six Special Education Director Dr. Alan Eggert says, "The goal is 100% job placement. This program provides not only a great opportunity to expose our students to the work environment, but also showcases the skills that our students can bring to the workforce." Project SEARCH was developed in 1996 in Cincinnati, OH.



## Students Settling in to the College, Career and Fine Arts Center

The Dorman High School College, Career and Fine Arts Center opened for students in August and is helping create an atmosphere of college and career readiness. District leaders believe, by placing students in an environment that mirrors the college life, students will have an easier transition into higher education. Inside the 169,000 square foot building is 26 state-of-the-art classrooms, an art gallery, science labs, common areas for students to study, a coffee shop and a fine arts center. The 1,500 seat auditorium is the district's first official venue for fine arts performances. The Dorman High School College, Career and Fine Arts Center was part of the district's long range growth and facilities plan and will be completely paid off in April.



## Parents to Receive ACT Aspire Results

### ACT<sup>®</sup> Aspire

In May 2014, all students in Spartanburg School District Six, grades 3-8, took the ACT Aspire. This college readiness assessment differs from any previous state mandated test in several ways. This was the first year students were given a timed computer-based test in English, math, science, reading and writing. Students were also required to use a keyboard for the writing portion of this assessment, a new experience for many students. We plan to continue using ACT Aspire and will use the results to better individualize learning for our students. This longitudinal assessment maps learner progress from grades through high school to help students acquire the readiness needed for future success. You can find helpful links and more information on ACT Aspire on our website.

## Students Receive Perfect Score on PASS



Fifty students in District Six earned a perfect score on all or part of the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) test. District Six recognized those students during the October school board meeting. The PASS test covered the areas of English, math, science and social studies.

## District Six Welcomes New School Board Member



Spartanburg County School District Six Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint a long-time district resident and educator to serve alongside them on the board. Christie Johnson filled the seat left vacant in May, after the passing of Coach Dale Evans. Johnson has been a part of District Six for thirty-five years; attending Woodland Heights Elementary, Dawkins Middle, and graduating from Dorman High School. In 1995, Johnson returned to District Six to begin her teaching career at Gable Middle. She is now a 9th grade English instructor for the Spartanburg County Early College Program and is an adjunct professor at Wofford College. Johnson says, "I am especially honored now, as the mother of two sons attending District Six schools, to have been appointed to fill Coach Dale Evans' board seat. He was a local icon and an inspiration to all of those who knew him. Although it is impossible to fill his shoes, I look forward to serving the students, teachers and parents of District Six."

## Former District Six Leaders Tour the District's Newest Facility



Former District Six school board members and board secretaries gathered for an inside look at the new College, Career and Fine Arts Center. It was a reunion of sorts with old friends who shared one common bond, their love and dedication to District Six students. The group heard a presentation about the growth and advancements in District Six. They also toured the facility and later attended the Choral and Symphony concert. More photos have been posted on our website.

## District Six Serves Up Healthy Foods



The new culinary service program in District Six is off to a strong and healthy start. Parents and students say they appreciate the healthier, great tasting options our cafeteria staff are now serving up. The positive feedback, regarding the new menu options and made from scratch meals, is backed up by the numbers. District Six has seen an increase of approximately 400 additional meals served per day.

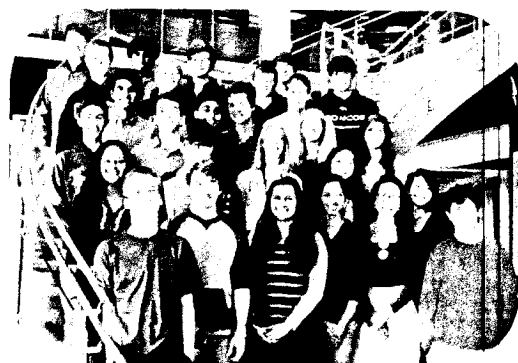
We are offering students homemade soups, fresh fruits, and locally grown products. In addition to these offerings, the freshly made personal pan pizzas are a hit with middle school students. We are the only high school in the country with a Papa John's franchise, and the only high school in SC with an official Subway franchise, both located at DHS. The district has received grants from Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Mary Black Foundation to further these efforts.

## Teachers Win State Excellence Award



Congratulations to Dorman Freshman Campus teacher James Jordan and Rachel Johnson, of Anderson Mill Elementary for receiving the Palmetto Teachers of Excellence Award by the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies. The group annually honors the outstanding performance of teachers who promote quality social studies in this state.

## DHS AP Scholars



Spartanburg County School District Six is proud to announce that thirty-six students from Dorman High School have earned 2014 AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams. Bottom to Top (l-r) Row 1: JR Gore, Jordan Tynan, Aalia Soherwardy, Shreya Mehta, Melissa Phan, William Walters. Row 2: Alia Kapasi, David Chappell, Kaleigh Roach, Jessica Marlow, Brianna Li. Row 3: Trevor Schachner, AJ Meadows, Anand Mulji, Caralise Roach, Danielle Michaud. Row 4: Ashish Nicodemus, Weston Upton, Cooper Hird. Row 5: Ryan Sanders, Michael Kowalske, Jordan Lawson, Andrew Kiser. Row 6: Alex Wood, Himendra Perera, Kent Edwards, David Bulman. Not pictured: Mauricio Gallegos Leal, Harrison Hart, Sarah Nail, Michala Patterson, Anna Singleton, Lindsay Swanson, Rebecca Walker, Cooper Wolfe, Brandon Xavier.

## Remembering Two Cherished District Six Educators



The District Six community is mourning the loss of two faithful educators who impacted the lives of many students. Former Band director Scott Keever passed away on October 20th. Keever recently retired from Spartanburg School District Six after 26 years of service. A community gathering is being held on Saturday, November 8th, 12pm-4pm. The Keever

family will come together, along with the community to remember, fellowship and raise funds for the Scott Keever Memorial Fund. The money raised will help provide band instruments to beginning band students in need. In August, Carol Warren, a beloved teacher at the District Six Child Development Center also passed away. Warren loved children and teaching special needs for Spartanburg District Six and was a true advocate for all students. She received the Teacher of the Year Award in 2013. Both educators will be greatly missed.



## Jesse Bobo Chosen for Book Give-Away



The beginning of school is all about "new things"- students meeting their new teacher, teachers meeting their new students, and in the case of Jesse Bobo, new books for students. The school was fortunate to receive over 2,000 new donated books

from Central United Methodist Church as a part of the South Carolina United Methodists' "1 Million Book Effort." Because of the generous gift from Central United Methodist Church, during the first two weeks of school, all students were able to choose two new books to add to their home libraries. Book choices ranged from "old favorites" like Curious George and Clifford, to Encyclopedia Brown and nonfiction books about animals.

## National Merit Semi-Finalist



Congratulations to our National Merit® Sen Finalists (l-r) Shreya Mehta, David Bulma and Amelia Atkins. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955 based on Preliminary SAT score.

## DFC Holds Contest to Promote College Readiness



Take a walk down the halls of Dorman Freshman Campus and you will see the names and colors of colleges from all across South Carolina. The new décor not only introduces students to the various colleges, but also demonstrates

team pride in the competition that is taking place among our CAVS classes this year. Each student at Dorman Freshman is assigned a CAVS class as a mentoring and advisory period during the school day. This year the CAVS classes have been arranged into teams of four. Each team has chosen a college in South Carolina for their team name. Throughout the course of the year, students can earn points for their team by completing activities that promote college and career readiness.



## AMES Students & Parents Learn About Internet Safety



Detective Tracy Moss from the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Dept. shared with students about the importance of Internet safety. Detective Moss explained that while technology

has opened many avenues for education, students and parents must maintain an awareness of the dangers associated with the Internet. Students were encouraged to avoid sharing personal information on social media or other websites. During the Lunch and Learn session, parents were trained to set parental controls on their children's devices and encouraged to monitor Internet use in their home.

## Fairforest Middle School Students Use Lessons to Explore Colleges



Fairforest Middle School's Integrated Business Application (IBA) students extended their knowledge about block-style business letters by writing to colleges within the United States. The students chose colleges based on the program they offered that support their current career goals. In return, many colleges sent information packets, pendants and pencils to the students. Some colleges were above and beyond like West Texas A&M University, who sent one 8th grade two t-shirts, two draw string bags, pencils, a small buffalo and a school banner. The banners students have received are now hung for everyone to enjoy for the remainder of the year. The IBA students have become so excited about learning about colleges through this project that they now want to write to industries that support science, engineering and technology.



## Water for Sudan - Students Reaching out to Support Families Across the World



It's a mission the students at Pauline-Glenn Springs are serious about and they're hoping their research and hard work will pay off. Their goal is to raise \$15,000 to fund the drilling of a well in south Sudan. The school is holding fundraisers throughout the year to help them reach their goal. Local business leaders recently visited the school for a performance and to learn more about this project. Water for South Sudan is a program created by Salva Dut to provide clean drinking water for thousands living in South Sudan villages. Many die each year from drinking

contaminated water. You may contact the school if you would like to make a donation toward their goal to make a difference in the lives of families there.



## Gable Middle School Holds "Pink Out"



The Gable Middle school family is rallying around 6th grade teacher Vickie Sinclair. Sinclair was diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. Faculty and Staff recently held a "pink out" in her honor. Sinclair says she is grateful for the prayers and support she has received since her diagnosis.

## ~Learning Takes Root- Arcadia Students Plant Garden



Arcadia Elementary, with the support of and volunteers from Hub City, have planted a vegetable garden again this year. Each grade has a special area that they plant, cultivate and grow vegetables. The selection ranges from spinach, onions, radishes and much more. Students look forward to enjoying their fresh vegetables soon.



## Students Expand Skills in First Tee Tournament

Several District Six elementary schools participated in the second-annual Life Skills & Golf Skills team challenge presented by The First Tee of Spartanburg. The event featured 10 different stations where students' golf skills were tested after answering a core values-related question. Roebuck, Arcadia, West View and Jesse Bobo were among the top 10 finishers. Marina Gallaher, from Fairforest Elementary, was an essay winner on 9 Healthy habits. Congratulations to all of our participants who represented District Six well.

## Grace in the Middle



A young woman at Dawkins Middle school is defying the odds and a new book, detailing the obstacles she's overcome has recently been released. *Grace in the Middle*, a book about 8th grader, Savannah Grace Duke, was released in July. Due to a malignant tumor, Savannah was born without a left leg, and in the words of her mom, "She doesn't measure victory by comparing herself with others, but whether or not she got stronger in the struggle." In her new book, *Grace in the Middle*, Wendy Duke chronicles her daughter's story, her struggles and triumphs. Savannah competes on the Varsity swim team, is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a part of the DMS Student Council. Pictured left: Savannah autographs a book for a friend. This book can be purchased at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

## Popular Game Helps Incorporate Lessons in Engineering & Construction



The creation of the Minecraft Club at Roebuck Elementary School has caused students to get excited about staying after school. Minecraft is a game that has spread in popularity worldwide and has now been adapted for schools. Katrina Hankins, RES Reading Coach, attended a Playful Learning Summit at Clemson University and was inspired to implement a program to guide students as they collaborate with peers in engineering, construction and research in order to better understand needed resources and to create a community of creative learners. Although students would describe this new club as fun and exciting, the goals of the program are to increase academic achievement through engaged play and the development of skills in literacy, critical thinking and problem solving.

## FES Students Engaged - Lessons about Yellowstone Park



Through the partnership with Michelin North America, two representatives from Yellowstone National Park visited students at Fairforest Elementary. Michelin works closely with the Yellowstone National Park and Foundation, and students were excited to learn about this beautiful landmark. Deputy Superintendent of the park, Steven Lobst, presented a slide show about the Yellowstone National Park and its history, as well as, brought in many items for the students to see and touch; including deer

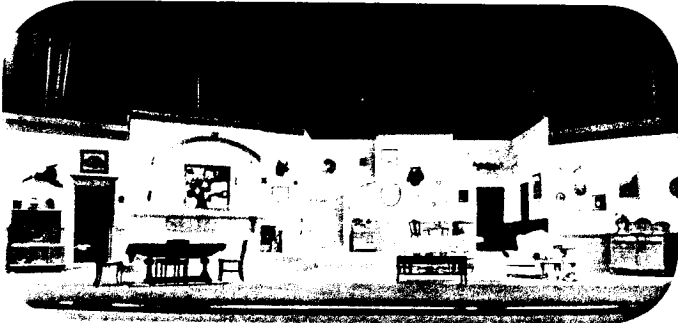
antlers, buffalo horn, coyote skin and bear skin.

## Positive Parenting



The Child Development Center is offering a series of six classes to help parents with positive parenting strategies in the home. This opportunity is made possible thanks to a \$130,000 grant from the Mary Black Foundation. In the most recent gathering, the group discussed strategies for encouraging positive behavior, including rewards and behavior charts. Parents were able to make their own behavior chart and laminate it to use at home. (pictured above) Forty teachers, administrators, psychologists, guidance counselors, and RBHS staff from the Child Development Center and all nine elementary schools were trained in the program. The goal is to educate parents so that they have the tools to positively address their child's needs and behaviors at home.

## RDA Students Design and Build Set for Dorman Play



The Dorman High School Theatre Department recently performed "You Can't Take it With You," a premiere performance in the new Fine Arts Center.

This first class set was built by students at RD Anderson.

## Community Supports Lone Oak Students



Students at Lone Oak Elementary began school with everything they needed thanks to Vanguard Community Church, who donated book bags filled with supplies for each student. Spartanburg company, Green Textiles, also generously donated earbuds in a carrying case for every student. These have come in quite handy as teachers implement more technology-based instruction. Thanks to both groups for their support of our students.





SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT SIX 2014 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR  
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SCHOOL-LEVEL WINNERS



Meredith Cox  
Child Development Center



Sarah Tiller  
Anderson Mill Elementary



Lyndsey Gantt  
Arcadia Elementary



Blair Harakas Kyles  
Jesse S. Bobo Elementary



Shannon Bishop  
Dawkins Middle



Kathryn Misenheimer  
Dorman Freshman Campus



Dr. Sharon Doyle  
Woodland Heights Elementary



Dr. Leslie Turnage  
Fairforest Elementary



Charity Cannon  
Fairforest Middle



Bailey Wood  
Gable Middle



Amanda Allen  
Lone Oak Elementary



Allison Catto  
Pauline-Glenn Springs Elementary



Kelli Wolfe  
Roebuck Elementary



Mary deGuzman  
West View Elementary



Tracy Cook  
RD Anderson

## WHES Students Have Unique Camp Experience



School has only been in session for about two-and-a-half months, but plans are already in the works for another engaging summer camp at Woodland Heights. Eighty students participated in this new experience that was fun, inexpensive and quite a learning opportunity. Rising second through fifth graders attended camp this summer from 8:00 am until 3:00 each day. They ate breakfast and lunch, attended a visual art class, music class, literature/reading class and drama class. The "Oceanic Arts" theme helped create a cohesive learning opportunity with the help of teachers, student counselors (former Woodland Heights fifth graders) and volunteers. Students experienced "hands on – minds on" inquiry projects and educational field trips, preparing them to start the school year off strong.

## Story Tales Come to Life at Anderson Mill



Anderson Mill students had the privilege of hearing Tim Lowry, a national storyteller in honor of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. Tim commanded the students' attention from his first words and enthralled each grade level audience with his stories of the People, by the People, and for the People. He mixed stories of American History and Folklore with various other creative and captivating tales.

## Stay Connected with District Six



*"Spartanburg School District Six, where children are always first, ensures the highest quality education for all children by providing a highly qualified staff, a challenging curriculum, first-class facilities, and a safe and nurturing environment."*

## Spartanburg School District Six Board of Trustees and Superintendent



Mr. Lynn Harris  
Chairman



Roy Kevin Harrison  
Vice Chairman



Mr. Michael  
Forrester  
Secretary



Mr. Charles Boyd



Mr. Mike Crook



Dr. Mary Lou  
Hightower



Mrs. Christie  
Johnson



Mr. Wendell Lee



Mr. Alex Meadows



Dr. David  
Owens  
Superintendent

## Election 2014

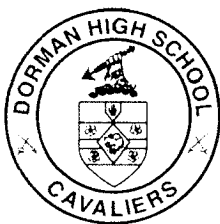


Just a reminder that schools will be closed on November 4, 2014 for election day. Don't forget to exercise your right to vote!

## Experiencing Deeper Waters and Engaging Lessons



Dawkins Middle School teacher used her recent scuba diving experience to help her 8th grade students understand plate tectonics. Christi Coomes recently learned to scuba dive. She went to Iceland to dive between the European and North American tectonic plates of the earth. A great hands-on experience to bring back to the classroom.



## PAUL M. DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL

1050 Cavalier Way  
Roebuck, South Carolina 29376  
Phone (864) 582-4347 • Fax (864) 587-8738  
[www.dormanhigh.org](http://www.dormanhigh.org)

Ken Kiser, Principal

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

**I would like to invite you to visit Project SEARCH – Spartanburg Medical Center to see the first program of its kind in the State of South Carolina.** Project SEARCH is a collaboration between Spartanburg School District 6 (Dorman High School) and Spartanburg Medical Center (SMC). Young adults with disabilities are trained by SMC department managers and employees on three ten-week internships. Project SEARCH is a full-emersion job training program.

Our seven interns have made themselves so indispensable that some departments are making plans to hire them. These young people are transforming from “special ed” high school students to respected members of the Spartanburg Medical Center workforce. Please come witness this transformation for yourself. **These young trailblazers are changing the face of disability in South Carolina.** People with disabilities are an amazing resource for our state; they are capable of contributing much more to the workforce than we have ever realized.

Our interns are fighting for an independent adult life. Your visit would validate their efforts and give them the encouragement to fight even more fiercely. **It's a good day for disabled young adults in South Carolina!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Thomas".

Lisa Thomas  
Project SEARCH Job Coach  
Dorman High School  
1050 Cavalier Way  
864.494.1450