



Williamsburg County School District

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December 5, 2023

KENNETH GARDNER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY STUDENTS GETTING THINGS DONE AT THE CAROLINA OPRY THEATER

Voted the #1 Christmas Show for 32 years, the Calvin Gilmore Christmas Show of the South hosted the Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy's Music scholars. This event was held December 1, 2023, at 11:00 am, at the Carolina Opry Theater in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Talented, intelligent, hardworking, and professional are just a few words that are used when the community describes the Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy's Music Program. The vision of the Academy has taken a shift with Mrs. Berlinda Mack at the helm, their highly esteemed principal, who leads the charge in making sure that KGLA's faculty and staff create a learning environment that exposes their scholars to hands-on and real-life experiences to supplement their lessons. Under the direction of Clyde Frazier III, KGLA's Music Teacher, the scholars have been selected to be featured in the award-winning holiday production "The Christmas Show of The South" at The Carolina Opry Theater in Myrtle Beach, SC.

KGLA scholars have made education their business, and this collaboration with the Carolina Opry shows that they are standing on business. The students will travel to perform various selections from their upcoming production "Christmas With The Stars - Part II" at KGLA on Wednesday, December 13th at 5:00 pm. The opportunity to expose scholars to not only see but perform with a production of this magnitude is an experience that will last a lifetime. The Carolina Opry's "The Christmas Show of the South" has been voted the #1 holiday show consecutively over the past 32 years.

"It's an epic opportunity indeed, but what excites me the most is our scholar's readiness and desire to perform in a production this large. Their ability to understand, analyze, create, communicate, and perform various standards in the theologies of music, on high levels, supplements that feeling. The scholars are truly amazing at Kenneth Gardner, so I find it necessary to expose them to flight experiences to support what I'm trying to teach them in the classroom." *Clyde Fraizer, III – Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy Music Teacher*

“As Principal of Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy, I am proud of the Leadership skills demonstrated by our great scholars and staff. These top-level experiences are aligned to our school's mission and vision as we Empower our scholars to LEAD while preparing them for College, Careers, or the workforce. We believe in educating the whole child as driven by our school's strategic plan that encompasses our academic, social, and emotional goals. Our partnership with John Maxwell's iLead International Leadership Institute has afforded our students the desire to grow and thrive as Leaders. We are excited about these opportunities and look forward to participating in these life-changing experiences. I congratulate our talented scholars and would like to thank our amazing KGLA staff, faculty, parents, WCSD administration, and community stakeholders.”

Berlinda Mack, Principal of Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy

“Performing at Carolina Opry Theatre is an experience these students will never forget. I am thankful for teachers, administrators, and facilities like Carolina Opry Theatre that provide these opportunities! The Arts are essential to a student’s education. It teaches them so many lessons such as creativity, teamwork, resilience, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking skills.”

Jennifer Holliday, WCSD Director of Fine Arts, Gifted & Talented, and Grants