



Williamsburg County School District

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Dr. Kelvin Wymbs, Superintendent

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTFIELDS ARTIST ARNETTE HARRY MCFADDEN

Mr. Harry Arnette McFadden a native of Williamsburg County does not know how he started with Art, it was just always a part of who he was. He never as a child threw himself into it. Art to him was innate, ancestral, it's like a fish that is just born to swim. It came very naturally to him. He began at Cades Hebron Elementary School, graduated in 1986 from Kingstree Senior High School, and then graduated from Francis Marion University in 1990. In 2006, he received his Master's in Education from Lesley University in Teaching through the Arts. He has a Doctorate in Humanities from the Great Commission Bible College and Seminary. Recently, he was honored as a 2025 BreakFree Education Teacher Fellow to explore the theme, "Engage, Empower, Elevate."

Currently, he has some new developments that are taking shape at ArtFields in Lake City, and he exclaims "it is big and exciting!" He will be a part of a promo video sponsored by ArtsFields which has offered a group of artists to come together. He will be with the gallery that he and other artists are a part of called Acline Studio. This is their first group of ArtFields Studio Artists, he didn't realize that until later this week. He feels that ArtFields supports artists, and a lot of local artists, that's the beauty of it. Some other towns have museums and other outlets, but they don't have anything that nurtures the local artists. ArtFields offers that as an opportunity for that to happen, he loves the fact that they have built this family. The goal of his artwork when people view it is not to seek the reason why he created it, but for them to interact with it. He loves to hear people explain what they are experiencing when they view his work. He feels that when artists give their story on the reason why they created an art piece, it clouds the person's experience. As an artist he wants to know, what you see, and what you feel when you view his artwork.

He does not teach art, he teaches Science, but even in Science what he does is integrate the arts into Science. He loves to see students doodle because they are creating things. Last year his students created puppets as they were studying waves, and the puppets were used to story tell. Students had to be able to carry a task out and be able to explain how they would teach waves to a younger brother or sister by using puppets. For them to complete this lesson they

had to know about waves. He allowed them to create some sock puppets and hand puppets, it was just great because they were allowed to use their phones to record themselves as they taught about waves. So he does see himself in his students, and he wants to infuse his art knowledge. He didn't paint or draw regularly, but he had a buddy stop by his house to borrow a tie and when he noticed some artwork that he was pursuing, the buddy said to him "hey when are you going to finish this?" That sparked something in him and that encounter was over twenty years ago. That experience ignited artistic energy and it left him to ponder within himself, "How was he existing without art?" It's never too late to do anything that you wish to do!

