



Williamsburg County School District

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Dr. Angela Jacobs, Interim Superintendent

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOPE ACADEMY STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SEL PAINTING ACTIVITY ON FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Students at HOPE Academy in Williamsburg County School District started the 2025–2026 school year with creativity, connection, and emotional growth as they participated in a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) painting activity led by Principal Kimily Brown.

The first-day activity was designed to set a positive tone for the year, giving students the opportunity to express themselves artistically while exploring themes of identity, emotion, and personal growth. Under Principal Brown's guidance, students painted canvases that reflected their hopes, goals, and feelings about the new school year.

"This activity gave our scholars a safe space to be heard, seen, and celebrated," said Principal Brown. "It's important to begin the year by building relationships and helping students feel empowered."

The SEL painting session is part of HOPE Academy's ongoing commitment to integrating mental wellness and emotional development into the daily educational experience. The initiative also supports Williamsburg County School District's broader efforts to prioritize student well-being and foster a nurturing learning environment.

The colorful artwork created by students will be displayed throughout the school as a reminder of their voice, value, and vision for the year ahead.