



School District of Williamsburg County

"Empowering Others to Achieve Their Dreams"

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHARES INFORMATION ABOUT P.O.W.E.R. - U.P. ACADEMY FOR KINDERGARTEN – 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Q: What is the name of the program?

A: The name of the program is P.O.W.E.R. – U.P. Academy.

Q. What is P.O.W.E.R. – U.P.?

A: P.O.W.E.R. - U.P. is not an alternative school; it is a program that is designed to provide social/emotional needs to our students who need to focus on behaviors that impede their learning journey. This program is for K-5 students. It assists with offering and providing family support, solutions, and education for students to be successful. Our goal is to see students transition back into their home school setting with a plan that will decrease suspensions and recommendations for hearings will be alleviated.

P.O.W.E.R. – U.P. uses a positive behavior model that is concise. The expectations are clear and consistent so students will excel in a safe learning environment. Students will progress through the program through the use of goal setting both socially and academically. Parents play a vital role in the success of the child by actively engaging in the program.

Q: What is the purpose and rationale of P.O.W.E.R. – U.P.?

A: P.O.W.E.R. – U.P. Academy has a distinct purpose. The purpose is to build up our students who may have emotional/social and academic needs beyond the norm. These are students who have exhausted all levels of intervention at the school level and who need additional intervention so that they may reach success. The rationale is to not send these students to a hearing but rather enroll them in the P.O.W.E.R. – U.P. Academy.

Q: What are P.O.W.E.R. – U.P.'s mission and goals?

A: Prepare students for college, careers, and citizenship

One-of-a-kind learning maximizing student's potential

Welcome every child to think creatively and critically

Empower families and their child (ren) through effective home-school partnerships
Reset and restore student's mindsets for a positive learning environment
Understand students need to be empowered
Positivity creates a nurturing learning environment

Q: Is there a similar program in a neighboring district?

A: Yes, we are mirroring a similar program called R.E.S.E.T. which is at Hyatt Park Elementary in Columbia, SC. This program has proven to be successful and test scores have climbed significantly and discipline issues have decreased.

Q: How do students qualify?

A: Recommendations stem from the MTSS team. Once students have exhausted all school-wide behavior supports, the team makes the recommendation for the student to be placed in the P.O.W.E.R. – U.P. program. Also, if the student violates the Tier 3 Student Code of Conduct this can also be means of being placed in P.O.W.E.R. - U.P. This program creates small class sizes, behavioral support, and intervention, counseling for both the student and the family, as well as social/emotional education.

Q: What is the classroom environment like?

A: The P.O.W.E.R. – U.P. classroom provides the students with smaller classrooms to ensure individualized and personal learning occurs. This will provide a heightened focus on academics, and emotional and social skills. Each classroom will have a certified teacher and a behavior interventionist. High expectations will be set as in a traditional classroom setting and students will be taught how to self-evaluate their behavior each day. Point sheets will go home with the student each day and will be required to come back the following day signed by their parent/guardian.

Q: Where will this program be housed?

A: This Academy will be housed in a separate wing at Anderson Primary Montessori School. It will not be connected in any way and will serve as its own entity.

Q: Who is the contact person?

A: Colleen Kelty, Director of Elementary Education – ckelty@wcsd.k12.sc.us – (843) 355-5571

