

# Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

Surrounding students with a community of support,  
empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

## CIS News: Summer 2018



Communities  
In Schools

Brunswick County

Volume 4, Issue 2 July 2018



**Staff Spotlight**

**Drew Jordan**

Meet Drew Jordan, CIS Success Coach and 21st Century Community Learning Center Site Coordinator at Supply Elementary. Drew graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cabrini University in Radnor, Pennsylvania. He has worked for CIS since 2015, starting in fee-based summer camps, then working with the 21CCLC after school program at Supply Elementary, and recently as a Success Coach at Supply. Drew creates individualized student support plans, manages CIS school programs Why Try, Check & Connect, Education City, Bow Tie Club, reading and math tutoring groups, after school tutoring, volunteer recruitment, and is starting a Peer Court program.

Working for CIS has helped him better understand the community, the students CIS serves, and to create impactful relationships. Drew enjoys the opportunity to not only teach students to succeed, but to learn from them as well. "Nothing brings me more joy than seeing students overcome the hurdles in their path and achieve their goals. The road to each student's success is a beautiful thing to be a part of," said Jordan.

Drew enjoys spending his time with friends and family, being outdoors, and playing video games.

## Look who's talking:

CIS helps me with a computer learning program Moby Max. It's fun and CIS helps me be better with my schoolwork!

- CIS student

I couldn't even imagine what school would be like without CIS being a part of the team and part of students' lives.

- Elizabeth Mautz,  
Asst. Principal Leland Middle School

CIS makes you feel very included. I love CIS Peer Court and helping students with a second chance not hurting their permanent record.

- CIS Peer Court  
student volunteer

## CIS, Women in Philanthropy, and Brunswick Community College Foundation partnering to change student lives

CIS and Women in Philanthropy & Leadership of Brunswick (WPLB) recently expanded their partnership to include small student groups mentored by community members of WPLB focused on promoting career and college readiness and social emotional learning in schools. The small "I Am Extraordinary" (IAE) groups are formed in sixth grade and meet at least monthly along with an annual field trip to Brunswick Community College. The program model is for the same group of students and mentors to continue through seventh and eighth grade. The program is operational at Cedar Grove Middle, South Brunswick Middle, and Leland Middle Schools. IAE student groups will be expanding into Shallotte Middle School in the upcoming school year.



Shelly Cheers, Parent Facilitator Cedar Grove Middle School shared, "Words of kindness cannot express how much I appreciate your thoughtful acts of kindness to our girls at Cedar Grove Middle School. The mentoring of our young ladies went above and beyond expectations. It really does make a difference when they know someone is interested and really cares."

CIS and members of WPLB recently met to collaborate on best practices in serving student IAE groups. The meeting served to introduce a new program called Men in Philanthropy. The Men in Philanthropy leadership groups will be piloted at Waccamaw School and Supply Elementary School this fall. "It is with great excitement we announce the launch of Men in Philanthropy & Leadership of Brunswick (MPLB) in fall 2018. MPLB will complement the philanthropic work of Women in Philanthropy & Leadership offering mentorship during the often challenging middle school years for students in Brunswick County," said Elina DiCostanzo, Brunswick Community College Foundation Director of Resource Development.



*I Am Extraordinary student group*

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## CIS working to plant education SEAD

The Aspen Institute, an education and policy studies organization in Washington, DC, refers to Social, Emotional, and Academic Development (SEAD) as the integration of social and emotional development with academic learning in K-12 education. Research shows that when schools integrate SEAD into K-12 education, academic performance improves, students are more engaged, and more likely to graduate and attend and graduate from college. Evidence also shows students with healthy social and emotional development are more successful in the workforce and experience greater lifetime well-being.



*CIS SEAD program at  
Cedar Grove Middle School*

In the same way that academic skills can be developed, social and emotional skills can be nurtured and developed through students' school experience. Using SEAD methods in student groups prepares students to connect with others, make responsible decisions, communicate, solve problems, think critically, be resilient, persevere, and work in teams—key skills for the future workforce. A student's ability to focus, manage emotions, and stay engaged, plays an important role in his or her ability to process new concepts and ultimately learn. Stand-alone programs and interventions like CIS Action for Success that focus on developing social and emotional skills have shown to improve behavior and academic performance.

CIS works with Brunswick County Schools to provide dropout prevention services with CIS Action for Success programs located in Cedar Grove Middle School, Leland Middle School, Shallotte Middle School, South Brunswick Middle School, Waccamaw School serving K-8, and Supply Elementary School. SEAD student groups and teaching methods are being used as part of the CIS Action for Success program. The CIS Action for Success program at CGMS holds weekly SEAD student group sessions for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Groups are facilitated by Whitney Franklin, CIS Success Coach, with assistance from active and retired educators using curriculum instruction for anger management, conflict resolution, defense mechanisms and emotional reactions. Sessions are individualized using behavior specialist resources and SEAD methods for specific group needs. All CGMS students participating in SEAD groups showed improvement in pre and post program testing.

## CIS Action for Success improving lives

Many students in schools today face struggles that we don't even realize exist. CJ, an eighth grader from Waccamaw School, knows this all too well. Before coming to Waccamaw in sixth grade, CJ's sister passed away suddenly and he was dealing with troubles at home. Starting a new school was another added obstacle. CJ felt disconnected from everything, wasn't being heard by friends or teachers in his struggles, and became closed off to others during his seventh grade year. Bad behavior, fights, and poor grades followed. CJ was referred to the CIS Action for Success (AFS) program at Waccamaw School. He started attending after school groups like CIS WhyTry, after school tutoring, and small support groups with CIS Success Coach Amber Malave. His behavior soon improved and he started doing better in school.



*Waccamaw School  
and CIS program  
graduate CJ*

CIS evidence-based interventions helped CJ learn to control his emotions which enabled him to talk to his parents about his feelings when they argued and yelled. The CIS AFS program and Ms. Malave became a sounding board for CJ, a place where he could be heard, and receive assistance to focus on emotional control and positive ways to communicate. CJ says, "Without CIS I wouldn't have been able to get through. The best thing in middle school for me was the CIS program." Completing his eighth grade year, CJ has come full circle in his life. He wants to give younger CIS students a chance at better life so they do not make the same mistakes. CJ chooses to volunteer his own time and give back to other students. He meets with younger students in the CIS program at Waccamaw during lunch or after school in the CIS Friends of Rachel Club and other CIS programs, to mentor them for appropriate behavior and offer support to cope with obstacles and problems they might be facing.

Younger students at Waccamaw look up to CJ and seek him out to talk about problems. CJ finished middle school improving his behavior and academics. His plans are to go into the Navy and then become a substance abuse counselor to make a difference in many lives. "If you need help, please go ask for help and it will make a huge difference in your life – both educationally and socially," said CJ.

CIS offers evidence-based, student support at four middle schools, Waccamaw School, and Supply Elementary School. Students often face multiple risk factors for dropping out of school or not being promoted to the next grade. CIS Success Coaches are embedded at these schools to work with students through individualized Student Support Plans for case managed students. During the 2017-2018 school year, 352 students received individualized case management in the CIS AFS program.

- 88% of students referred for low performance in Math or Reading improved, based on report cards and end of grade testing.
- 82% of students referred for behavior issues showed a documented change in behavior, based on school disciplinary records.
- 79% of students referred for truancy issues improved attendance, based on school attendance records.
- 99% of students provided with CIS case managed services were promoted to the next grade.

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## 21st Century Community Learning Centers keep students learning after bell rings

During the 2017-2018 school year, 287 students received free after school programming through the CIS 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC). The middle school programs at Cedar Grove Middle and Shallotte Middle served 187 students, with the elementary school program at Supply Elementary serving 100 students. Cedar Grove and Shallotte Middle Schools were in their fourth and final year of programming through a Department of Public Instruction grant. The programs provide homework assistance, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) project-based learning, and individualized web-based instruction in Reading/Language Arts, Science, and Math. Academic enrichment activities are provided to promote academic success and grade level proficiency. Opportunities are provided for students to grow in life skills, recreation, community service, and to gain exposure to community-based activities to promote their personal development.

Although the middle school program ended, the elementary school program is continuing to deliver exceptional STEM based learning experiences to students. 21CCLC Programs serve at-risk, high-need students that benefit in further learning from the program operating after the regular school day ends. The 21CCLC Program at Supply Elementary will continue to offer afterschool STEM learning experiences for two more years. Being available for elementary age students to shape their educational learning habits in formative years is beneficial as they continue their education. Both programs have shown measurable improvement in student outcomes in the recent 2017-2018 school year.

### Elementary 21CCLC Measures of Success:

- 70% of students increased Math proficiency by at least one letter grade, with 20% of students increasing two letter grades.
- 93% of students arrived to class motivated to learn, with 80% increasing class participation, and 77% improving conduct since attending the program, based on teacher surveys.
- 100% of students participated in STEM activities with 80% of program time spent on STEM.
- 100% of students participating in the program performed at grade level or higher in Science, with 96% performing at grade level or higher in English/Language Arts, and 90% performing at grade level or higher in Math per report card grades.

### Middle School 21CCLC Measures of Success:

- 83% of parents reported improvement in their child's behavior as a result of program participation.
- 51% of students regularly attending improved homework completion and class participation as evidenced by teachers.
- 77% of regularly attending students demonstrated proficiency in English/Language Arts, with 74% demonstrating proficiency in Science, and 67% showing proficiency in Math per report card grades.

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## Social shares create value and become shares in action

When CIS supporters tap into their own personal networks on social media and share CIS posts, it reaches out to a large group of people that would be difficult for CIS to reach on our own.

We encourage our supporters to share posts they've read or actions taken with CIS (a donation, a ticket purchase to an event, attendance at an event, a personal experience, etc.). By sharing with your network of friends, they are heavily invested in what you share. The share is authentic and can create interest in your network to take action themselves, whether it's taking a look at the CIS website, or Facebook page, making a donation, or even sharing the original share with their personal network, and expanding the reach even further. Social shares have the power to create increased awareness for organizations who need to let people know a need exists. They can increase general awareness connecting an organization's work with people who may need help or want to learn more.

Depending on what's going on in the life of a supporter, sometimes they can't give monetarily or give time, but can still lend their voice and share. Social sharing, friendraising, and fundraising is something that can be layered onto everything you're already doing. It's a powerful strategy that can add tremendous value to organizations you support. Tapping into the power of social sharing and encouraging friends to share actions they take with CIS, those shares will spread in an authentic way leading to more awareness, supporters, and donations.

Click the icons below to access our social media channels and interact with us daily. Get social and stay connected with timely information from CIS of Brunswick County!



CIS page



CIS Thrift Shop page



CIS Twitter



CIS Instagram

# Communities In Schools of Brunswick County

## Volunteer Spotlight



*Ron Shuster, CIS Board Member and Cedar Grove Middle School CIS volunteer*

**1. Tell us about your volunteer work with CIS.** I am a member of the CIS Board of Directors and work in the CIS tutoring program at Cedar Grove Middle School each week.

**2. What is your favorite thing about CIS?** Being involved with students and education, because education is the most critical thing for future success.

**3. What is your favorite thing to do in Brunswick County?** I enjoy kayaking, biking, and hiking. My wife and I love to go camping and of course we love the beaches!

**4. What inspires you to continue giving back to CIS and the students of Brunswick County?** Students are the future and so many fall through the cracks. I want to help students have a chance at a better life.

**5. Tell us one of your most rewarding experiences as a CIS volunteer.** It's so satisfying when you help a student that was behind to get caught up. Then at the end of the quarter, they are doing well and passing.



*Sandy Johnson, Southport Thrift Shop volunteer*

**1. Tell us about your volunteer work with CIS.** I volunteer at Southport CIS Thrift Shop three days a week, five hours each day.

**2. What is your favorite thing about CIS?** My interaction with the customers in the shop and the CIS staff and volunteers. We laugh, share stories, and sometimes even cry.

**3. What is your favorite thing to do in Brunswick County?** So many to share: learning to shag dance, going to the beach, seaside dining, reading on my porch all year round, and meeting so many wonderful people.

**4. What inspires you to continue giving back to CIS and the students of Brunswick County?** One of the best investments we can make in children is their education. Good education is vital to future success as leaders, doctors, educators, parents, and responsible adults.

**5. Tell us one of your most rewarding experiences as a CIS volunteer.** Helping someone, even in a small way, each day. Customers need assistance finding the right outfit for a special occasion, others just need someone to talk to or just smile and say hello.

## Leland Middle School and CIS partnering together to better student lives



*CIS Lunch buddy and LMS student in school garden.*

Assistant Principal Ms. Elizabeth Mautz has worked at Leland Middle School (LMS) for four years, with the last two as Assistant Principal. CIS has been working with staff at Leland Middle School since 2010 to support students, keep them from falling behind, and graduate with academic success. CIS and LMS have open two-way communication working in partnership to better student lives. CIS Success Coaches embedded in schools offer extra support for students as well as a resource for teachers and school administrators.

CIS is another adult support system for students in school where they know the Success Coach cares deeply and is concerned about their education and well-being. Initiatives where the school and CIS partner together bring in community and business connections the school might not otherwise

be able to access. The CIS program at LMS gives students all aspects of support that may be needed through school to help them achieve the best possible educational outcome.

Assistant Principal Mautz says the CIS Peer Court program stands out at LMS. Peer Court is an alternative system of justice, offering first-time juvenile offenders an opportunity to admit responsibility for offenses and receive constructive sentencing from their peers. Offenses include truancy, classroom disruption, simple affray and others. Peer Court provides "hands on" educational experience for student volunteers to learn about the judicial process. The CIS Lunch Buddy program also stands out to Mautz, pairing at-risk students with caring, positive adult influence to motivate them to improve schoolwork and better reach their potential.

A CIS community partnership with North Brunswick Kiwanis is one of the most rewarding experiences CIS has brought to LMS. Kiwanis volunteers worked with CIS students to prune, plant, and design a relaxing educational garden area for students. Students see it as a treat and feel rewarded to spend time in the garden areas during lunch or after school, no matter the temperature outside. "I couldn't even imagine what school would be like without CIS and CIS Success Coach Ms. Ruth Thompson being a part of the team and part of students' lives," said Mautz. CIS strives to give back and improve student lives, the school, and the community each day.

For current CIS of Brunswick County happenings, visit [www.cisbrunswick.org](http://www.cisbrunswick.org)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? Email us at [tbeane@cisbrunswick.org](mailto:tbeane@cisbrunswick.org) or 910-832-3494



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