

## Some Background on Peter Smyth

### GEOGRAPHY

- A South Carolina native, born in Greenwood and grew up in Charleston.
- Has resided in Columbia, Myrtle Beach, Beaufort, and Newport News, Virginia

### FAMILY

- Daughter, Becky, a paramedic with Charleston County EMS and a graduate of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics
- Son, Matt, Director of Communications, Center for Politics at the University of Virginia and also a graduate of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics
- Granddaughter, Grace Lillian, age 7 months

### GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT

- See Family above

### EDUCATION, DEGREES, CERTIFICATION

- The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee – BA, Biology
- The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina – MAT, Mathematics
- Graduate work at The Citadel, College of Charleston, Francis Marion University
- South Carolina Teacher's Certificate – Secondary Science, Mathematics; Master's Degree plus 30 hours; endorsed for A. P. Calculus and A. P. Statistics

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Mathematics Coordinator, Horry (South Carolina) County Schools
- Mathematics and Computer Supervisor, Beaufort (South Carolina) County Schools
- Education Associate, South Carolina Department of Education, Division of Public Accountability, Office of Quality Assessment

### RECENT TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Porter-Gaud School, Charleston
- School of the Arts, Charleston
- Myrtle Beach High School
- School experience:
  - Pre-Calculus, A. P. Calculus, A. P. Statistics and Statistics, Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Research Techniques (an interdisciplinary course for 9<sup>th</sup> graders), Chemistry, Biology, Physics
  - Mathematics Department Chairperson
  - Boys' Varsity Tennis Coach

### RECENT GRADUATE COURSES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TAUGHT

- *Connected Mathematics*, a graduate course for middle grades teachers for Berkeley County School District
- *Probability and Statistics for Middle School Teachers*, a graduate course for middle grades teachers as part the Middle School Math Program of the Citadel
- Adjunct Faculty, The Citadel. Taught numerous graduate courses for teachers in Horry, Charleston, Beaufort, and Berkeley County Schools based on the NCTM Standards and technology
- Middle Grades Mathematics Project, Appalachian State University
- Numerous workshops and in-service presentations

## RECENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- A. P. Statistics Summer Institute, The College of Charleston
- A. P. Calculus Summer Institute, Francis Marion University
- WWShare Summer Institute, The College of Charleston. An interdisciplinary math/science workshop to develop teacher teams.
- Woodrow Wilson TORCH Summer Institute (The Mathematics of Change, Algebra, Statistics), The College of Charleston
- TRANSIT Program, Ohio State University. A program to develop teams to promote graphing calculator use in mathematics classrooms.
- Middle Grades Mathematics Project, Michigan State University. A program to establish teacher teams using the MGMP materials.

## SCIENCE RESEARCH BACKGROUND

- Research Assistant, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Research Assistant, South Carolina Marine Research Institute

## THOUGHTS ABOUT CCSMS

While the school's focus is on math and science, the program is inclusive of all areas of a well-rounded education. Good science and mathematics require strong foundations in the humanities as well as the arts and even athletics and physical education. Some of the things I think will make this school different include a project-based (interdisciplinary) approach, the involvement of students in learning and assessment, and the possibilities of bringing the real world into the classroom.

I have an absolute commitment to public education. I believe that so much of what is going on in schools today focuses on preparing for standardized tests, with little focus on students doing quality, meaningful work. I see few students with passion for what they do – at least not in the classroom. I truly believe the fault lies not with the students but with the culture of schools. For more background on these ideas, I would recommend William Glasser's *The Quality School*.

We have a crisis in our schools, not because test scores are low, but because our students are not graduating with necessary skills, particularly the ability to think critically, to communicate, to solve problems, and to work together to produce quality. If one reads *The World is Flat*, one realizes that this is not Kansas anymore. We, all of us, have a challenge.

So what can students and parents expect? I think they can expect a school that provides challenging, meaningful opportunities, a school that expects more of students than ever before, but engages the students in the process as active members of a learning community.

I would commend to anyone the CCSMS mission statement, particularly our goals to be "academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable."

Being a charter school gives us the freedom and the responsibility to do these things. The principal's job, my job, is to provide the opportunities and the environment and to build the teams of faculty and students to implement our goals. As part of the CCSMS management team, my work as the instructional leader of the school will focus on developing, with the faculty, engaging curriculum and innovative instructional strategies. Oh - my favorite book on management: Dilbert's *Random Acts of Management*.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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