BUILDING A FUTURE
BY HONORING
Community Legacy
HCS
Horry County Schools
INSPIRING
POSSIBILITIES
WHITTEMORE
PARK MIDDLE

Building a Future by Honoring Community Legacy

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Horry County Schools

Third-largest school district in SC

56 Schools

9 Attendance Areas

48,000+ Students

6,300+ Employees

What led us to this project

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Whittemore Park needed a replacement school

The community history with the school – Why the room was needed – Whittemore High

PSSST!! IT'S TIME FOR A
SNEAK
PEEK!!

School History

- 1870: Whittemore School founded
- 1930s: First African American school in county to be awarded high school status by the state.
- 1954: School split into separate buildings – Whittemore Elementary and Whittemore High
- 1970: County integrates schools, building loses Whittemore name
- 1991: Building named Whittemore Park Middle
- 2019: Whittemore Elementary building given to city for community use, but flooded and condemned shortly after

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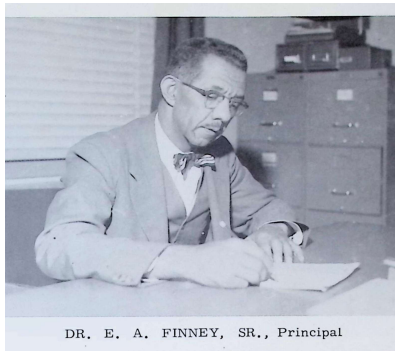
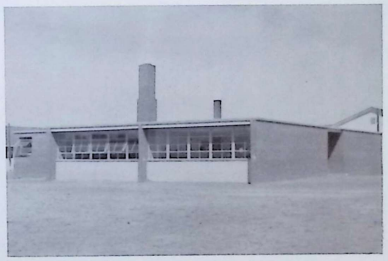

DR. E. A. FINNEY, SR., Principal

WHITTEMORE HIGH SCHOOL
Whittemore
High
Legacy
Conway

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

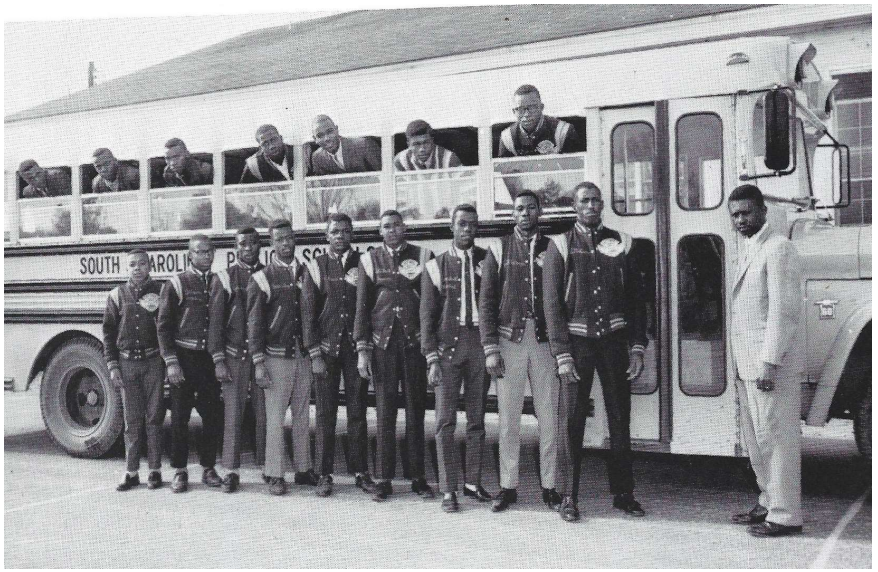
Home, Church, School, the three fundamental bases upon which characters are built. They are the only social hope and sole promise of peace in the world.

HOME



SCHOOL

BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH



School and Community Connection

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Community Connections

- Whittemore Alumni Association
- Horry County Museum
- Coastal Carolina University
- Horry County Historical Society

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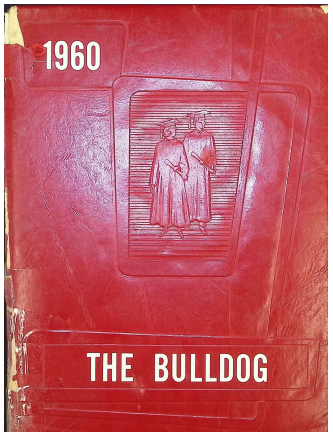
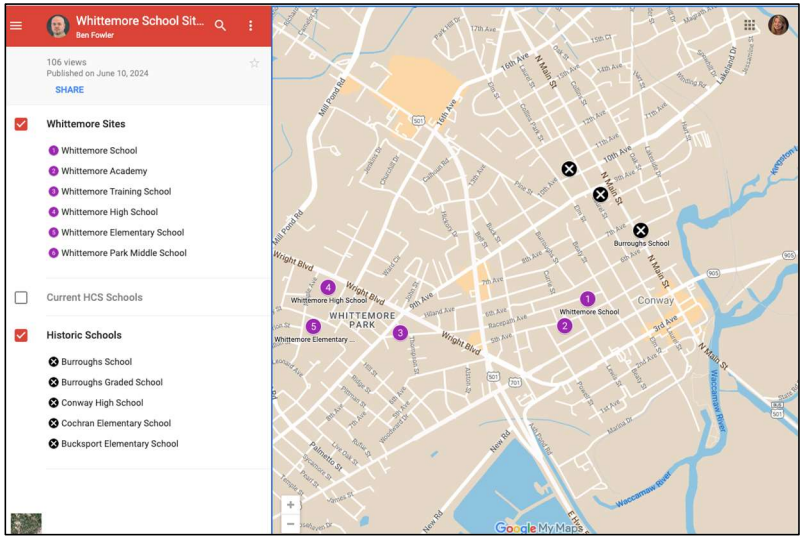
Research:

- Online resources
  - Historic society periodicals
  - University library databases/collections
  - Social media groups focused on local history
- State records
  - School directories
  - Graduation records
- Yearbooks
- Interviews

Horry County Schools





Interviews

- Barbara Blain
- Calep Brown
- Aaron Butler
- Lonnie Chestnut
- Dr. Willa DeWitt
- Dr. Preston McKever-Floyd
- Leslie McIver
- Mary Moore
- Leroy “Boe” Rainbow
- Ralph Vaught
- Ralph Wilson

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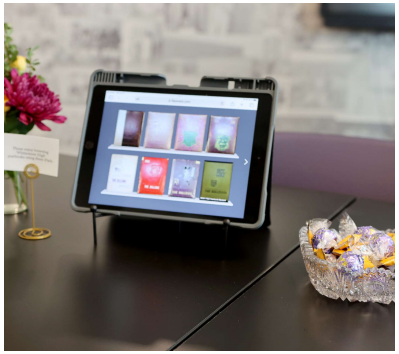
Dr. Preston McKever- Floyd
Whittemore 5 and Conway High Class of 1968

Putting it all together:

- Wallpaper
- Wall Decoration
- Artifacts
- Yearbooks
- iPads – Yearbooks
- WHS Lectern



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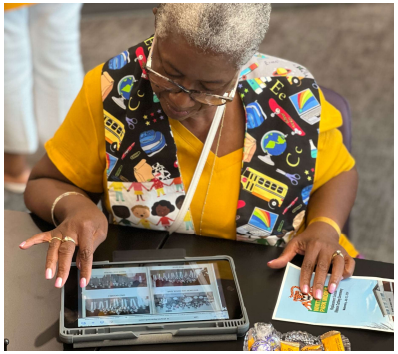
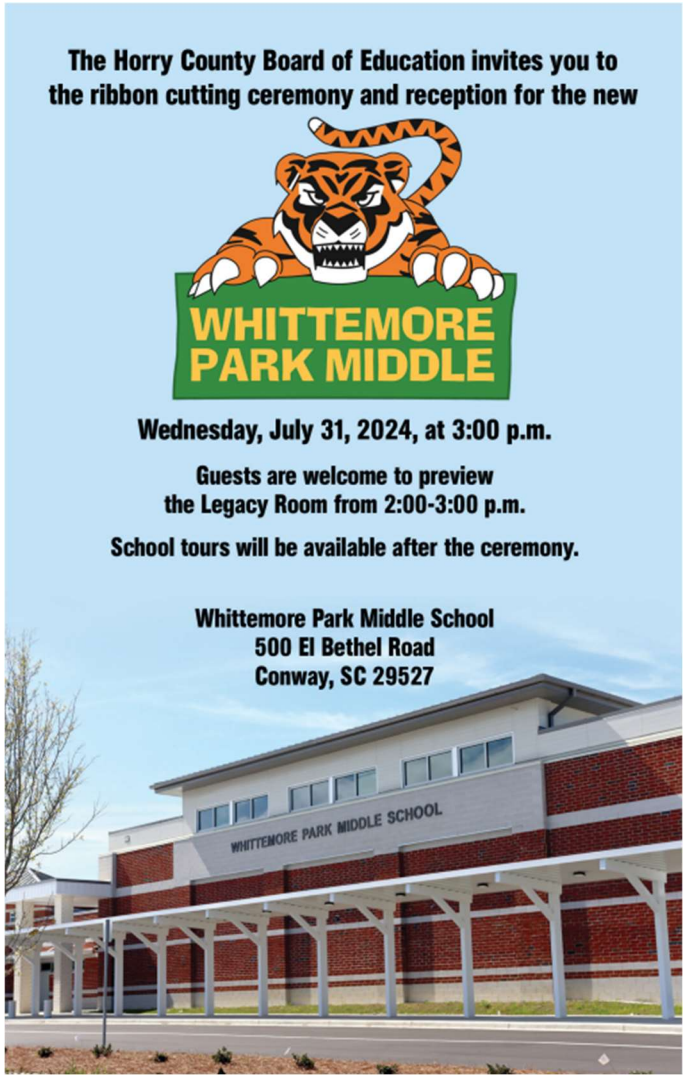
Planning the Ribbon Cutting –

- Invitation List – news media
- Interviews on TVs around school
- Open the Museum early for the community to have more time to visit





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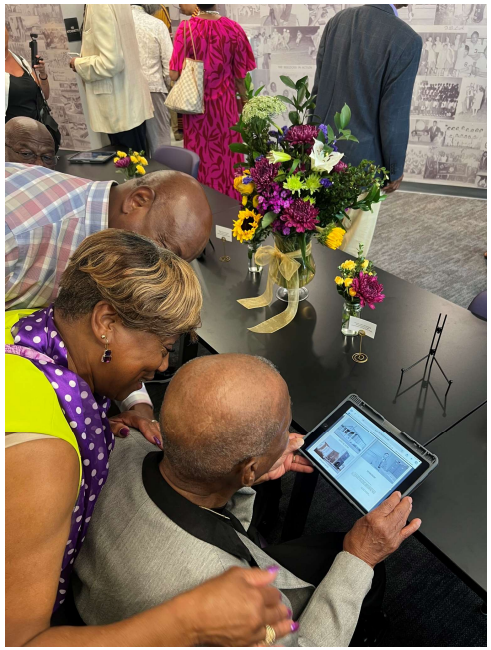
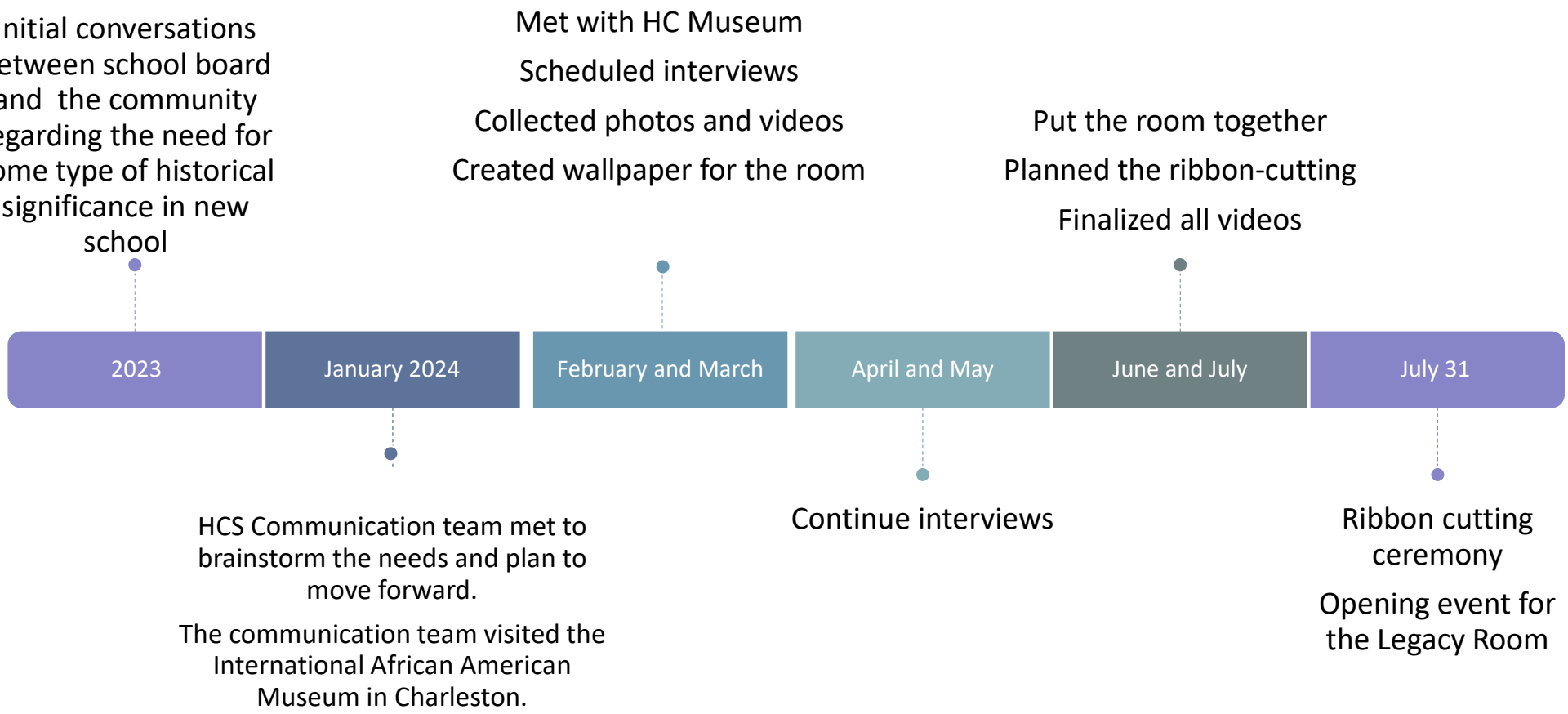
The Ribbon Cutting

Horry County Schools



Timeline: WPM Legacy Room



The Sun News
August 1, 2024 ·

Hundreds came out to celebrate the opening of a new Whittemore Park Middle School in Conway, S.C. on Wednesday. The school features a "Legacy Room" to honor the memory of the Whittemore School, a flagship school for African Americans during segregation in Horry County, S.C. July 31, 2024.

MYRTLEBEACHONLINE.COM

Photos: Inside look at new Whittemore Park Middle School opening

[redacted]
August 1, 2024 ·

The Whittemore Legacy room causes tears of joy and a heart of gratitude for the beautiful display of our history!!! A privilege to be my father's legacy (Isaiah F. Lawrence Sr. WHS Class of '61). Congratulations Becky DeWitt , the Whittemore Alumni contributors, former educators, administrators, community, and the HCS Communication team who were instrumental in bringing this vision to reality. JOB VERY WELL DONE!!!
Congratulations Principal Quintina Livingston and the WPMS family on ribbon cutting ceremony, may you all have an amazing new school year in your new school/facility.— with **Quintina Livingston** and **Becky DeWitt**.

Feedback From the Public

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Questions?

Thank You

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www.horrycountyschools.net/whittemorelegacy