



Contact: Anthonette Dickens  
Phone: 757-923-5244  
Email: [anthonettedickens@spsk12.net](mailto:anthonettedickens@spsk12.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 15, 2025

**Nansemond River High School and Lakeland High School Receives National Recognition  
from Project Lead The Way for Their Commitment to Student Excellence**

SUFFOLK, Virginia—We are proud to announce that Nansemond River High School and Lakeland High School have been recognized as 2024-25 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished Schools. The Nansemond River High School Engineering program receives this recognition for the sixth consecutive year, and the Lakeland High School Biomedical Sciences program receives this recognition for the eighth consecutive year.

Both schools are among a select group of high schools across the U.S. to be recognized for their commitment to inspiring and engaging their students to unlock their potential through their PLTW Biomedical Sciences and Engineering programs. PLTW is a national nonprofit organization that creates transformative learning experiences and empowers students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills for future careers.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, both schools had to meet multiple criteria in the 2023-24 school year such as the number of PLTW courses available to students, the percentage of students enrolled in PLTW, and the percentage of students taking more than one PLTW course.

“We are proud to honor Nansemond River High School and Lakeland High School for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences through PLTW programs,” said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. “This achievement celebrates their dedication to student achievement and their focus on empowering students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in school and a wide range of post-secondary opportunities.”

PLTW high school programs prepare today's students for the careers of tomorrow by not only incorporating STEM skills into their learning but also building students' collaboration, teamwork, and communication skills so they can be ready for whatever path they take.

We extend a special thank you to Sarah McDonald, PLTW Biomedical Sciences teacher at Lakeland High School, and Dawn Roundtree, PLTW Engineering teacher at Nansemond River High School, for their leadership, dedication, and continued excellence in guiding students through these rigorous programs.

Both schools are part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a commitment to providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW's Distinguished Program Recognition, visit <https://www.pltw.org/pltw-program-recognition>.

For more information on Nansemond River High School's PLTW Engineering program or Lakeland High School's PLTW Biomedical Sciences program, contact the Suffolk Public Schools Administrative Offices at 757-925-6750.

###

### **About PLTW Biomedical Science**

[PLTW Biomedical Science](#) introduces high school students to medicine and human body systems, as well as the wide array of biomedical science careers. Throughout the program, students take on the same real-world challenges as biomedical science professionals, preparing them for careers in medical and health-related fields.

### **About PLTW Engineering**

[PLTW Engineering](#) empowers high school students to step into the role of an engineer and adopt a problem-solving mindset. Students engage in collaborative, real-life activities like working with a client to design a home, programming electronic devices or robotic arms, and exploring algae as a biofuel source.

### **About PLTW**

For nearly 30 years, Project Lead The Way (PLTW) has prepared PreK–12 students for careers, college, and life by equipping them with the STEM knowledge, credential preparation, transferable skills, and confidence to succeed. Our hands-on, real-world learning, deep industry partnerships and clear, scaffolded curriculum guide students from early career curiosity to postsecondary readiness. With strong professional development taught by a national network of more than 116,000 trained teachers in 12,200+ schools across all 50 states, PLTW enables schools to design scalable, future-focused programs that inspire students, empower educators, and connect learning to life after graduation. Visit [pltw.org](https://www.pltw.org) to learn more.

