

# The Post and Courier

## Letters to the Editor

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

### Problem students

Police presence, hall monitors and mentoring programs for high school students at North Charleston High School may be necessary after the brawl that ended in 26 arrests on Sept. 2, but the real answers to the problems will be found in early childhood years.

The kids causing trouble have poor social and emotional skills -- they don't know how to behave well, make good decisions or build healthy relationships. This learning can take place at home with good parenting, at school in a classroom, or after school, which is where "Wings for kids" does its work.

Early childhood education (academic, social and emotional) is where our community needs to invest its time and money. There is no better return on investment than education in the early years of a child's life.

Every day after school, WINGS weaves a comprehensive social and emotional education into a fresh and fun after-school program. Kids get this missing piece of their education and have a safe and fun place to be after school.

Today, we serve 300 kids attending elementary schools that feed into North Charleston High School. Although WINGS has been serving kids for 13 years, we didn't begin programs at these schools until last year.

Based on our research, these 300 kids will be better behaved than the kids who don't get WINGS. They also have a 40 percent better chance of graduating from high school. This will have a huge positive impact on the high schools they attend.

It's a lot cheaper and less dangerous making sure a house has adequate wiring when it's being built than fighting a roaring fire that results from the lack of attention early on.

Both the tenants and community suffer greatly.

Ginny Deerin

CEO/Founder

Wings for kids

North Charleston