

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD recognizes Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC - May is recognized nationally as Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the contributions, achievements, and rich cultural heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our community and across the nation. At the Board of Trustees meeting on April 29, 2024, Charleston County School District (CCSD) took an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the diverse cultures, languages, traditions, and histories of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which have greatly enriched the fabric of our district.

According to the [National Archives](#):

"The roots of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month can be traced back to 1976, when Jeanie Jew, President of the Organization of Chinese American Women, contacted government officials in response to the lack of Asian Pacific representation in the U.S. bicentennial celebrations that same year. The observance began in 1979 as Asian Heritage Week, established by congressional proclamation. In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George Bush signed a proclamation making it month-long for that year. On October 23, 1992, Bush signed legislation designating May of every year Asian Pacific American Heritage Month."

The theme of this year's AAPI National Heritage Month is "Advancing Leaders through Innovation." CCSD is growing the leaders of tomorrow. The district's student body is comprised of 937 students who identify as Asian American and Pacific Islander. They attend 62 schools throughout the district and represent cultures, including these Academic Magnet students.

Natasha Akery, a teacher at Academic Magnet High School worked with students to compile a video that was featured for the board.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.