

For Immediate Release

February 29, 2024

Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

CCSD celebrates National Maintenance Worker Day

Office of Communications

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Vanessa L. Denney, M.Ed.
Interim Executive Director of
Communications

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) celebrates National Maintenance Worker Day on March 1, 2024, but values the hundreds of trade technicians who serve the district every day. There are over 130 technicians supporting crafts such as HVAC, carpentry, electrical, vehicle maintenance, locksmith and plumbing.

In honor of the national recognition, CCSD highlights the Plumbing Department, overseen by Steven Lucchi, whose team works tirelessly to maintain and repair equipment in over 115 buildings and facilities. Their motto is “We do it for the children” because without functional facilities and equipment, students can’t learn properly.

Like most of his coworkers, Lucchi didn’t set out to be a plumber. Almost 20 years later, he is thriving in a career that he loves. Lucchi managed large-scale projects in New York for multiple companies throughout his career. After working in medical facilities through the COVID-19 pandemic, Lucchi looked at his future through a new lens.

After much thought, Lucchi and his family chose to relocate to South Carolina. They fell in love with Summerville where he briefly worked with Berkeley County School District before coming to CCSD where he serves as the Plumbing Foreman, leading a team of 12 plumbing technicians.

The team maintains all the plumbing in all CCSD buildings as well as kitchen equipment. From fire suppression systems, water wells, giant boilers, and high-tech equipment to eyewashes, toilets, and waste lines, Lucchi’s team responds to emergency service calls and routine maintenance.

“CCSD has 144 walk-in freezers and coolers, so we do much more than just plumbing,” Lucchi explained.

CCSD is a large district with multiple facilities, which results in dozens of service requests submitted each day. Despite that, Lucchi is proud of his team’s response time.

"The volume of requests we receive can seem overwhelming at times, but we remind ourselves that we are dealing with children who sometimes don't know better," said Lucchi. "In other words, if they can flush it, it gets flushed."

Service requests are addressed based on priority so that schools can remain in operation and there is little to no disruption to learning. The plumbing shop runs three shifts so that repairs and maintenance can be done at all hours and on weekends.

"We do whatever it takes to keep our buildings functional," said Lucchi. "Every so often there are material and parts delays, but my team will work around the clock to address a minor repair or a major emergency."

Lucchi is also proud of the combined experience on his team. Jerome Wine, who is a product of CCSD, graduated from Garret Academy and was hired on with CCSD as a plumbing shop apprentice when he was a senior in high school. Upon graduation, he was hired full-time in the plumbing shop and has been working for the district for 22 years.

"I love giving back to the school district that gave to me," said Wine. "I love my job. I come in every day, ready to work. I am dedicated to what I do, even on my days off. We do what we do, for the kids. It would be complete chaos in these buildings if things were not functional. It is important to get it done and do it right."

Tom Frazier has worked in the plumbing shop for the last seven years. He got into the industry when he moved to Charleston to work for a national chain. Fourteen years later, he joined CCSD and he loves it.

"The kids are great," said Frazier. "They are fascinated with the work we do and often interact with us, asking questions and watching us curiously. It is a lot of fun. I love my job, and the guys I work with, and the kids we serve make the work meaningful."

Lucchi said senior leadership in Facilities Management has created a culture where employees feel valued and supported. He explained that Steve Hamer (Associate of Facilities Management), Rob Rivers (Director of Facility Maintenance), and Jeff Tisdale (Maintenance Officer) set the example for the rest of the team.

"I can ask anyone on my team to do anything that is needed, and 10 times out of 10 times, they will say yes," said Lucchi. "There is nothing greater than having a team like that. At the end of the day, knowing that as a team and individually, we have accomplished something that ensures the operation of our facilities is something to be proud of."

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

###

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.