



For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Mary Ford showcases HBCU pride in community parade

Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center

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North Charleston, SC – Hundreds of students from Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center walked and cheered in a parade around their school on Thomasina Boulevard to recognize Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) on February 23, 2024. The event celebrated academic excellence, cultural diversity, and community engagement.

The annual initiative involves the children in the festivities and integrates educational opportunities through their preparation. Throughout February, Mary Ford students research various HBCUs, exploring the rich history, notable alumni, academic programs, and cultural aspects of these institutions.

“The goal of this project is to instill a sense of pride and appreciation for the legacy and contributions of HBCUs, and to give our little scholars a glimpse of what their future may hold,” said Principal Loretta Hart.

The parade gave students a chance to proudly showcase their newfound knowledge about HBCUs through chants, music, and banners.

Parents and community members cheered on the students while the marching band (including the drumline) from Military Magnet Academy played music to set the stage. Gothic Lodge No. 212 members served as parade marshals and guided the children along the route to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants.

For more information, please contact the school’s teacher-librarian, Katherine Freligh, at Katherine.Freligh@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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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 of 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, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science,

technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.