

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Eighth year of Reading Around the Bases will start this month

Office of Communications

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

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

Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the Charleston RiverDogs, the Carolina League affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays, are entering their eighth year of “Reading Around the Bases,” a reading program that uses competition and fun to encourage reading with second graders throughout the county.

Starting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, second graders from 19 schools in CCSD will begin a 10-week baseball-themed incentive program. Every student receives a Reading Challenge packet that includes a scorecard, tracking sheet, and a personal baseball card.

Students read a certain number of minutes to advance around the bases: 100 minutes for a single, 200 minutes for a double, 300 minutes for a triple, and 500 minutes for a home run.

Special guests from the RiverDogs are scheduled to visit schools in CCSD during the 10-week period to read to students and encourage them to rack up as many home runs as possible.

“Our district has experienced significant growth in English Language Arts over the past few years,” said CCSD Chief Academic Officer Michelle Simmons. “There are many reasons for that success, and we are confident this partnership with the RiverDogs is a factor in that success. We are so thankful for their consistent and unwavering support.”

This year’s kickoff event for “Reading Around the Bases” will be at Chicora Elementary School on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Charleston Southern’s head baseball coach, Marc McMillan, and a few of the Buccaneer players are scheduled to read to the students. Media outlets are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In addition to the fun and excitement during the 10-week program, the top-25 second graders from each participating school will be honored at a select RiverDogs’ game during the 2024 season.

"The RiverDogs are excited for another season of Reading Around the Bases to get underway," stated RiverDogs President and General Manager Dave Echols. "This program continues to be a staple of our efforts in the community each year. We know how important it is for children in our community to be excited about reading. The opportunity for our staff to play a small part in creating that excitement is extremely fulfilling."

For more information on "Reading Around the Bases," please contact Christy James, CCSD's Library and Media Services Coordinator, at (843) 790-3707, or Amanda Najera with RiverDogs at (843) 965-4146.

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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 49,000 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.