

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Seven schools win art awards from Department of Education

Office of Communications

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

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

Charleston, SC – Seven schools in Charleston County School District (CCSD) have received Arts Curricular Innovation Grants (ACIG) through the South Carolina Department of Education.

Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School and Murray-LaSaine Montessori School, have been named a Distinguished Arts Program (DAP). Each school has received an \$18,000 grant award to bring artist residencies to the school, professional learning for teachers, and classroom resources for students.

E.B. Ellington Elementary School, Hunley Park Elementary School, Meeting Street @ Brentwood, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School, and Sanders-Clyde Elementary School also received a grant award through the Equitable Arts Advancement Program (EAAP). The \$12,000 grant awards will be used to bring artist residencies and classroom resources to the schools.

"If you visit any of these schools you will see how the arts have had a positive impact on school culture and students," said Dr. Shelly Goughnour, Charleston County School District (CCSD) Assistant Director for Visual & Performing Arts. "I applaud the visionary educators who applied for and won these competitive grants."

The purpose of the [Arts Curricular Innovation Grants \(ACIG\)](#) is to assist schools in developing and implementing arts initiatives that support quality arts education programs that significantly improve student achievement in the arts.

Congratulations to these outstanding schools and teachers:

- Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary:
Teachers: Laura Rittle and Cynthia Hines
Project: "Think Outside with the Arts"
Description: This project will enhance visual art curriculum by providing students a variety of mediums to explore the arts and design standards for sculpture. A week-long residency with artist Bob Doster will be held where students and teachers will create an oversized sculpture featuring student handprints that will be used to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the school and honor the founding principal of the school, Rose Maree Meyers.

- Murray LaSaine Montessori:

Teacher: Lindsay Linderman

Project: "Building Blocks for Musical Careers"

Description : This project will expand the available instructional materials in Murray LaSaine's fine arts departments and provide students with advanced technology that will allow them to showcase student compositions and achievements in the arts. Computer workstations, Digital Audio Workstations and DJ equipment will be purchased for students as well as the opportunity for students to work with a professional sound engineer.

- E.B. Ellington Elementary:

Teacher: Elizabeth Watson and Devlin Devaney

Project: " Elevating Ellington's Arts Experiences"

Description: This project will establish a new theater program and provide quality, hands-on arts education experiences for students to practice practical knowledge and skills through the arts. This will purchase theater curriculum for the school as well as access to high-quality materials for various arts classes.

- Hunley Park Elementary:

Teacher: MaryBeth Donlan

Project: " Critter Creator Club"

Description: This project requests funding for drawing, sewing, clay materials, and other various tools for the visual art room.

- Meeting Street @ Brentwood:

Teacher: Jessica Zhou Seymour

Project: "Little Pizz, Big Acro - Strings for All"

Description: This project will provide funding to start a strings program at the school. This will allow students to increase their skills in music reading and performance and allow students to participate in a musical performance using the instruments purchased.

- North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary:

Teacher: Jordan Thornburg

Project: "Hitting the Right Notes"

Description: This project requests funding for a class set of floor toms, various Orff instruments, as well as performance materials and written music works.

- Sanders-Clyde Creative Arts Elementary School:

Teacher: Faithe Yenawine

Project: "Adventures in Academic Arts"

Description: This project will provide first-hand experiences with high-quality art tools that will increase student achievement and engagement in the arts.

All schools with a strategic arts plan are eligible to apply for the DAP grant. All Title I schools are eligible to apply for the EAAP grant. For more information, contact Andy Pruitt at (843) 937-6583.

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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.