

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

CCSD celebrates National STEM Day

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) recognizes National STEM Day November 8, 2023 to celebrate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education throughout the district. The commemorative day promotes advancements in STEM fields and focuses on innovation, problem-solving, and critical thinking. National STEM Day encourages students to explore careers in these fields that support the future.

CCSD teachers receive over \$100,000 in STEM grant awards each year from corporate foundations such as Bosch, Toshiba, Dominion Energy and many more.

STEM education is offered to even the youngest students in CCSD. At Drayton Hall Elementary School, Karen Moore brings STEM into her preschool intervention class through sensory experiences for her young learners.

"I provide multiple opportunities for my students to interact and explore textures in a variety of settings," said Moore.

Moore's sensory center includes Play-Doh, rice, and shaving cream. She encourages her students with disabilities to access STEM through hands-on activities in order to grow curiosity and inquiry-based learning.

Alethea "E.C." Setser, an educator at Charles Pinckney Elementary, was recognized for her students' work with robots. Setser annually applies for grants to encourage innovation in her classroom.

"Students went from building robots straight from the kits to designing their own robots and computer code to help the robot solve a problem or complete a task," said Setser. "This allowed students to enhance their understanding of computer science, physical science, and technology concepts."

In a collaborative project with the S.C. SeaGrant Consortium, Mary Elise Marcy's students at Montessori Community School are growing one of South Carolina's most important sea plants, the *Spartina alterniflora*. This plant filters water in salt marshes and helps protect shorelines from weathering and erosion. Students grow new spartina from seedlings and, once they get big enough, plant them in depleted areas along our coast.

Millibeth Currie, who founded *Women in Charge: Engineering Women's Lives* at Moultrie Middle School, recently started "*Sutures with Surgeons*." Local surgeons volunteer to teach girls how to suture and expose them to career paths in medicine.

"This experience removes the mystery of medicine and expands their view on options to use STEM skills," said Currie.

For more information about CCSD's STEM programs and initiatives, 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.