



For Immediate Release

February 28, 2023

Contact:

Janet Brown 843-764-2225

Media Release

Ladson hosts Donuts and Dreams for students and their dads

Ladson Elementary School

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Anita Huggins
Interim Deputy Superintendent

Jennifer Swearingen, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Superintendent
of the Elementary Learning
Community

Janet Brown
Principal

Charleston, SC – Ladson Elementary School recently held its annual Donuts and Dreams with Deputies and Dads on Friday, February 17, 2023. Over 80 dads, grandpas, uncles, and other special male adults were in attendance. Family Advocate Vanessa Smith organized the event.

“Family time means a lot and for quite some time, it has been my goal/vision to have dads and important male figures here at the school,” said Smith. “This is just the beginning, and I will continue this journey by encouraging the fathers to get or become more engaged in their children’s education and school environment.”

This was a meet and greet event, which included listening to and gaining knowledge and encouragement from deputies from the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO), Sean Wilson (Executive Director of Father to Father, Inc.), and Ladson Elementary Dads. They all focused on the importance of being involved in their children’s lives and the impacts that it causes. The fathers appreciated the presentations, messages, and most of all, spending time with their children.

CCSO Lt. Alan Ali spoke about the importance of fathers being dedicated to their children and maintaining a good relationship as they grow up. Ali reminded the audience that the Sheriff’s Office would always be there for them throughout this important journey.

“If there’s anything law enforcement can do to help them along the way, we are all in,” said Ali. “One way we’re achieving this is through community engagement.”

CCSO Detective Barry Goldstein encouraged the fathers to plan for their future and save for retirement. After the program, some of the fathers went to Detective Goldstein for more information about retirement and routes to take for future plans.

Sean Wilson (Executive Director of Father to Father, Inc.) motivated and inspired the fathers about the importance of building relationships with their children and making a difference in their lives. He also offered his contact information and resources about child support, fathers' rights, expungement, employment, and men's health.

"It's the parents and children finding out what's available in the community," said Sgt. Delmer Powell. "It's finding a way to get their kids out of the house and doing positive things. It's better overall for the community and for families."

"Many fathers elaborated on the testimonies and how they were positively impacted," said Smith. "They also asked about ways to get involved in the school. One of the fathers expressed that the event was beneficial and inspiring. He said the event made him realize he needs to spend more time with his son and communicate with his teacher. There were some fathers who even said they would be more than willing to volunteer their time and give donations to the school for activities and school supplies. Overall, the fathers were happy and grateful they were invited to the event."

For more information, contact Principal Janet Brown at (843) 764-2225.

###

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.