

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Ninety CCSD educators receive STEM grants

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce that 90 teachers are 2023 winners of a [Bosch Eco and STEM Teacher \(BEST\) Grant](#). The combined value of the grants is over \$160,000.

The BEST grants advance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and sustainability education in ways that inspire, excite, and engage students.

Bosch awarded 223 grants to teachers across the United States. CCSD teachers have consistently garnered the largest share of grants each year, far outpacing larger school districts such as Greenville and Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

"We are pleased to award the BEST grants to Charleston County School District as they share Bosch's commitment to support teachers' passion to provide high quality, hands-on STEM learning," said Kathleen Owsley, President of the Bosch Community Fund. "This partnership supports exceptional education in the Charleston area."

One of the funded projects is Memminger Elementary School's *Inquiry-Based Art Studio*, led by Schai Bilger. Students from ages 3 to 11 years old are challenged to be inquirers, risk takers, thinkers, and communicators to explore and expand their knowledge through an open-ended art classroom. Students will use the art classroom to discover, question, elaborate, and reflect on the art and design processes in order to execute their creativity through two and three-dimensional works of art.

"Students at this age level learn the most through interaction, play-based exploration, and practice with various materials," explained Bilger. "As students have access to relevant tools and materials they will make connections to STEM through art. The materials bought with this grant will impact students for years to come."

Another project on this year's list is Casey Marlowe's *Think Globally, Act Locally* which will take place in the media center at St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School. Students will explore the human impact on the environment as they read, "One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia" by Miranda Paul. The book illustrates how one woman created ways to reuse items and eliminate plastic waste in her community. Marlowe hopes students will

consider items they use in their daily lives that could be redesigned to eliminate waste and minimize human impact on the environment.

“Students will design waste-reducing inventions, thinking outside the box and thinking as the engineers and inventors of the future,” said Marlowe. “The project integrates literacy, engineering, environmental science, critical and creative thinking. Throughout the project, learning will happen in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic ways.”

For additional information, 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 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.