

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD and RiverDogs move into seventh year of "Reading Around the Bases" partnership

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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the Charleston RiverDogs, the Lowcountry's professional baseball team (and Single-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays), will start the seventh season of their second-grade reading initiative, "Reading Around the Bases." The program started in the 2016-2017 school year to encourage growth in literacy while having fun.

On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, second graders from 16 schools in CCSD will begin a 10-week baseball-themed incentive program. Every student will receive a Reading Challenge packet that includes a scorecard, tracking sheet, and their very own personal baseball card.

To move around the bases on the scorecard, a student must read a certain number of pages: 100 pages for a single, 200 pages for a double, 300 pages for a triple, and 500 pages for a home run.

Special guests from the RiverDogs will visit schools in CCSD over the course of the next few months to encourage and engage the students as volunteer readers.

"We appreciate the RiverDogs' consistent support for this program," said CCSD's Interim Chief Academic Officer, Michelle Simmons. "With Vision 2027 now in place, our goal of all fifth-grade students in the district reading on grade level by June 2027, having this level of encouragement in literacy from an established community partner is vital."

This year's kickoff event for "Reading Around the Bases" will be at Sullivan's Island Elementary School on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Special guest J.P. Sears, a former Citadel star and current Major League Baseball pitcher with the Oakland A's, will read to the students. Media outlets are welcome to attend.

The top-25 second graders from each participating school will be honored at select RiverDogs' game during the upcoming season.

"The RiverDogs are thrilled to once again partner with the Charleston County School District for one of our key community initiatives leading into a brand new season, as we have since 2016-17," stated RiverDogs President and General Manager Dave Echols. "We know how important it is for young members of our

community to find excitement when it comes to reading and take great pride in playing a small role in developing that excitement."

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.