



For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Stall unveils program to help students using navigational language instruction

R. B. Stall High School

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer
Associate Superintendent of High Schools

Steve Larson
Executive Principal

Charleston, SC – Starting this school year, R.B. Stall High School will welcome students to the Newcomers Center. The center will operate as an intensive English acquisition school within the school to help scholars acclimate to Charleston County School District.

The Newcomers Program is aimed at students new to the country (or that have been here less than 2 years) with unique academic and social/emotional needs.

“Many of the students at Stall come from rich cultural backgrounds and we sometimes forget that language is part of that,” said Executive Principal Steve Larson. “There is a temptation to accelerate students into learning our language, yet we need to be careful when doing so to ensure that it isn't at the expense of their culture.”

The mission of the center and the overall program is to create a safe, nurturing, and language-rich learning environment for multi-language learners new to the United States, supported by native language instruction.

“We want to provide these incoming students with the same level of care we provide our American born students,” said Larson. “Academic achievement and getting students ready for life after high school is at the center of our work, but ensuring a student feels valued and cared for is equally important.”

The program is designed to help students develop their English skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking by immersing them in meaningful language and cultural experiences. To do that, the center will provide a space to develop and foster a strong sense of community by engaging students' families and caregivers in their education.

Students are placed in the program through a registration process. Once accepted, they attend for up to three semesters, earning six or more high school credits.

“We recognize it can be exciting and scary coming into a new experience, and into a new country,” said Larson. “If we give students access to rigorous

learning in a sheltered environment that provides adequate language support, they can graduate with an uninterrupted educational experience.”

For more information, contact Steve Larson, at stephen_larson@charleston.k12.sc.us.

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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.