

**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### Summer enrichment camps help prevent "summer slide"

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Communications**

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**Charleston, S.C.** - Charleston County School District (CCSD) offered [Summer Enrichment Camps](#) (SEC) for students in grades K-8 at 13 sites this summer with a focus on engagement, literacy, and mathematics. [The program](#) was designed to offer in-person, targeted instruction to help students recover any learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Data was used to identify students who could benefit from the summer sessions. Formal invitations were distributed to families and the response was encouraging.

At Memminger Elementary School, for example, almost 330 students enrolled. Laing Middle School boasted at least 80. In total, 2,000 students attended camps across the district.

Over 450 employees were brought on to make the camps possible. Timothy Hughes, a Summer Enrichment fourth grade teacher said that this additional support is an extension of the work teachers did during the academic year.

"The students enjoyed it and were excited to be around their friends," said Hughes. "I saw first-hand that this additional academic support was beneficial. As an educator, I will always advocate for students to be successful and I will serve in any capacity that I can to propel students forward in academics and in life."

Millie Tarrance is a rising second grader. Her favorite part about the camp was doing STEM experiments and the Charleston County Library's Book Mobile.

Twins Kimberly and Kourtney Rhodes agreed. The sixth graders said that camp was a fun way to meet new people and gave them a boost in their math skills.

SEC sites were strategically spread across the district to capture as many students as possible in a convenient way. Transportation was provided as well as breakfast and lunch. Families were also able to take advantage of the extended day Kaleidoscope option.

"The students are having a blast," said Susan Rawlings, ELA Literacy Coordinator. "Enrichment activities include everything from karate to coding to yoga. There is so much more to do beyond academics."

Megan Thornton, Laing Middle School's guidance counselor, said one of the goals was incentivizing the kids to want to attend. Part of that was making camp fun.

"We made our theme the Summer Olympics and students could earn points based on their attendance which then resulted in prizes like Chick-Fil- A, popsicles, candy, and other treats," said Thornton. "We also implemented a behavior system in the classroom that rewarded students for making good choices and finishing their work. They earned silver and gold medals to shop in the "Olympic Village."

Desmond Coakley, an eighth grader at Laing Middle School, especially liked playing basketball during enrichment time.

"Camp helped me improve my math skills and my reading, but being with my friends and meeting new ones was great, too," said Coakley.

Third grade teacher Dillan Smith said her students thrived.

"We did a deep dive into the material which I think helps them remember the content from the school year," said Smith. "The students are then able to retain that and develop a better understanding of what they learned."

She added that it was beneficial for the teachers too, who also get what is known as "summer brain."

"It was an opportunity for me to work on my instructional practices and learn from my fellow colleagues," said Smith.

Feedback is still coming in from the students and their families but for the most part, according to Smith, families were excited for the opportunity to provide their children with extra help.

Wendy Anderson, an assistant principal at Laing, and the program coordinator for the enrichment program added that parents were appreciative of the opportunity to better prepare their children for the upcoming school year.

"There were kids that truly enjoyed being here because they were around friends and challenged in ways that they wouldn't traditionally be during the school year,"

said Anderson. "Understandably kids would rather be doing something else during the summer that's why we did everything we could to make this fun. Students encountered some academic challenges due to the pandemic so it was important this summer, more than any other, to ensure they were caught up and ready for August 18th. I know we've done that here at Laing."

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communication at (843) 937-6603.

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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.