



For Immediate Release

December 16, 2020

Contact:

Sharon Randall, 843-762-2784

Media Release

Staff, community celebrate new facility for Camp Road Middle

Camp Road Middle School

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher
Chief Academic Officer

Joseph Williams, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent
Secondary Learning Community

Sharon Randall
Principal

Charleston, SC – Camp Road Middle School staff members and students, Charleston County School District (CCSD) officials, and community leaders gathered for a dedication ceremony to highlight the [newly-constructed school building](#) at 1825 Camp Road on James Island last night. The celebration included the dedication of the David Parler Gymnasium and J. Arthur Brown Media Center.

David Parler retired as principal of Camp Road earlier this school year. He was previously the principal of Fort Johnson Middle School for 16 years and has held various administrative and teaching roles in CCSD throughout his career as an educator.

J. Arthur Brown, who served as president of the NAACP in South Carolina, was involved in the desegregation of Edisto State Park and other public locations in the late 1950s, desegregation of the Charleston Municipal Golf Course in 1961, desegregation of Charleston School District in 1963, as well as organizing and leading multiple social movements such as sit-ins, boycotts, and participating in crucial court cases throughout the state of South Carolina.

“This was a very special ceremony,” said Principal Sharon Randall. “It was important to honor Principal Parler, the late Mr. Brown, and everyone else that had a part in the creation and construction of this school. We are grateful for this facility and the ability we have to serve all of our middle school students on James Island.”

The \$52 million project, which was funded by a “Yes” vote of the Charleston Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax Referendum of 2014, is built to serve 900 students in a 137,000 square-foot building. The facility has a core and expansion space for a future capacity of 1,200 students, if needed.

Construction and completion of the new Camp Road Middle School on the former Fort Johnson Middle School campus was anticipated for a long time. Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, the two middle schools in District 3

combined to form Camp Road Middle; the new school community was housed at the old James Island Middle School campus.

The new building is spacious, bright, clean, and colorful. The new furniture is color coordinated with the carpets, floors, and walls. The amenities include state-of-the-art technology in all classrooms: sound systems in the gym and all performing arts rooms, nine science labs, a performing arts wing, a 9,500 square-foot gym with a stage, and a 7,000 square-foot cafeteria, with outdoor dining for 60 students. The campus offers ample space for parking, buses, morning and afternoon car traffic, and green space for recess.

“The library on the second floor is prominent at the front corner and creates a tree house feel for the students inside,” said Robert Sturman, CCSD’s Interim Director of Capital Programs. “Our design firm, construction team, and program manager did an amazing job building the new campus. Faculty and visitors will have adequate parking on the campus and the students will enjoy a larger facility with an increase in natural lighting, play space and an array of colorful accents for a most enjoyable learning experience.”

The construction team worked in tandem with local and state agencies to open the school on time and within the approved budget. In addition to the construction management team, Cumming, the architect was Rosenblum Coe, and the general contractor was TQ Constructors. The Project Manager was Joe Christian and the Site Manager was Jack Duane.

For more information, contact Principal Sharon Randall at (843) 762-2784 or CCSD’s Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally-accredited school district that is 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 more than 50,000 students in 87 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.