



CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Year in Review
2021-2022

Charleston > excellence is our standard
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART
OF OUR WORK!

INTRODUCTION



Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent
Charleston County
School District

It is with great pleasure that we present our successes from the 2021-22 school year in this annual CCSD *Year In Review*. After several years of adjustments to deal with the issues related to the pandemic, we finally had a full school year with the most normal conditions we have had in three years. This publication features each of the schools in CCSD and highlights the recognitions, awards, and special accomplishments of the past year in our school district. We have nationally-recognized schools, state winners in various competitions, state champions, and locally-recognized programs that add to the quality of education in the schools of Charleston County. I hope you will take time to look at every page and see the variety of activities and learning opportunities that we have in CCSD.

I became Superintendent of CCSD in January of this year, and I have seen first hand the amazing students and employees throughout our county's schools. As you look through the publication, you will see the variety of school highlights showing the well-rounded experience that we offer students. For each of the awards and accomplishments pictured and mentioned, there are hundreds of other students and staff members working tirelessly to make learning in CCSD a special experience.

I am very proud of the picture that this *Year In Review* provides, and we will build on these successes. As we move forward, my top priority is to significantly improve the number of students who are reading on their expected grade level. To show our commitment, we have dedicated a large portion of next year's budget from both local funds and federal funds to improving students' reading. It is my sincere belief that when more students are reading well, the success stories on these pages will grow even more.

We have much to be proud of in CCSD, and I hope that as you enjoy this *Year In Review* you will also share that feeling of pride.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Kennedy". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Don Kennedy
Superintendent

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CELEBRATION

Hursey students treated to stunning performance for fundraising efforts



Students at Malcom C. Hursey Montessori School were treated to a dance performance as a reward for surpassing a school-wide fundraising goal.

Students raised almost \$17,000 for the 2021 Fun Run. The school-wide goal was \$10,000.

Local performers Kyle “K’Otic” Johnson and Lamar “Aero” Hunter treated students and staff to a combination of break dancing, stunts, and acting. The big finale included K’Otic jumping over a row of seated students and a teacher.

The high-energy dance duo has performed for 15 years and has credits that include MTV’S Sweet 16, Made, American Ninja Warrior, and local commercials.

PUMPKIN PATCH COMES TO MOUNT PLEASANT ACADEMY



Field trips were limited this year because of COVID-19 protocols. So Mount Pleasant Academy brought the annual Pumpkin Patch experience to the school. It was a pumpkin extravaganza for all grade levels. Students got to choose a pumpkin, weigh it, decorate it and participate in fun Halloween activities and crafts.

Beckham hosts school dedication and Coast Guard JROTC Congressional Establishment ceremony



Lt. Junior Grade Ron Blake



Beckham color guard



Rear Admiral Megan Dean

Lucy Garrett Beckham High School (LBHS) opened its doors in Mount Pleasant in the Fall of 2020. Currently serving grades 9-11, the school was officially recognized, October 8, 2021, as being the only Coast Guard JROTC unit in South Carolina and the third in the nation. The celebration was also held to dedicate the school.

Principal Anna Dassing explained that the pandemic delayed the dedication ceremony but created a blessing in disguise by allowing the ceremonies to be combined.

About the school

Beckham will accommodate 1,500 students once all four grade levels are housed in the 242,000 square-foot building. The 44.1-acre campus is located at the former Wando High School site.

Spaces in the new school include two gymnasiums, a performing arts center, student commons, collaborative learning areas, classrooms, science labs, and specialty spaces for Career and Technology Education programs. The facility also houses a state-of-the-art media center with a makerspace.

The state-of-the-art facility is a true reflection of the vision Lucy Garrett Beckham had for the school. As a district official, the former Wando High School principal had been tasked with overseeing the design and construction of the new East Cooper high school. Beckham passed away unexpectedly in December of 2015.

The role was passed on to Anna Dassing, who considered Beckham a mentor.

“Lucy always put students first,” said Dassing. “She instilled that in me and hundreds of other educators. Her motto was always ‘do what is best for the students,’ and that motto lives on today here at Beckham. Her impact was mighty and we will honor her with this building and all that we do inside it.”

About the Coast Guard ROTC

A congressional undertaking spearheaded by former S.C. District 1 U.S. Representative Joe Cunningham and Majority Whip, S.C. District 6 Congressman James Clyburn. On

July 8, 2020 an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was passed that establishes Coast Guard JROTC programs in high schools across the country. It took Principal Anna Dassing several years to get that needed approval, but 2021-2022 will mark the program's inaugural year.

“Master Chief Kevin Leask and I are very excited to see where the cadets can take the program in the years to come,” said the JROTC program's commander Lt. Junior Grade, Ron Blake, United States Coast Guard ret. “As a high school NJROTC and The Citadel graduate, the LBHS CGJROTC program means a great deal to me. I know the skills and benefits a program like this can provide cadets is invaluable. It puts them leaps and bounds ahead of many of their classmates. We are very appreciative of the super supportive administration and staff here at LBHS and look forward to the excitement that will be the Coast Guard JROTC program.”

According to Commander Clay Cromer, JROTC Program Manager for the Coast Guard, this establishment marked a significant moment for the Coast Guard.

“The Coast Guard stands with the other branches of service,” said Cromer. “The program may be small, but we're officially on a big stage. With a supportive administration such as this at Beckham, we will surely see growth in the program. I am glad we have had the opportunity to partner with the establishment.”

The program teaches citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment.

The Pillars of the Coast Guard JROTC program, referred to as COAST, stand for citizenship, operations, advancement, service, and team.

“These pillars remind us of what we're doing,” said Cromer. “Our mission is to develop service-minded citizens.”

Statistically, cadets who participate in JROTC through their senior year, forty percent will serve with a branch of the United States Armed Services.

“It is bound to happen when you have mentors like the JROTC leaders across the country,” added Cromer. “Our nation's youth have a lot of options but it is our hope that they will ultimately choose to serve their country.”

CLARK ACADEMY SUCCESS DAY



Students and staff at Septima P. Clark Academy enjoyed the inaugural Clark Academy Success Day on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. The day was filled with uplifting and motivational speeches from nationally renowned speakers, Tony L. Owens and Reginald B. Beaty of The Foundation for Educational Success, about the importance of education and success and professional development for teachers. School leaders look to continue celebrating and inspiring success on Clark Academy Success Day for years to come.

CCSD school counselors honored during National School Counselors Week



Brenda Jenkins at
Northwoods Middle



Rachel Washington at
Northwoods Middle



Destiny McCoy at
Ashley River Creative Arts



Mary Haigler at
North Charleston Creative Arts



Mary Reynolds at
Jane Edwards Elementary



Christina Bottomley at
James B. Edwards Elementary



Shujuan Shannon at
CE Williams, North Campus



Sarah Westervelt at
Northwoods Middle

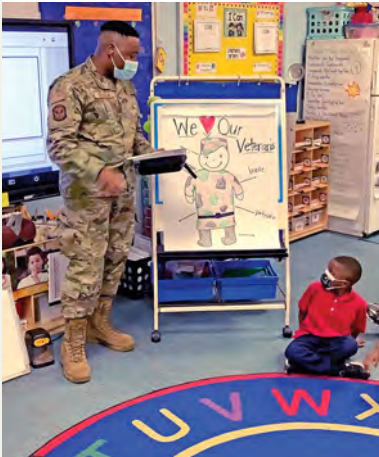


Carolina Park Elementary

CCSD
celebrates
our veterans!



James. B. Edwards Elementary



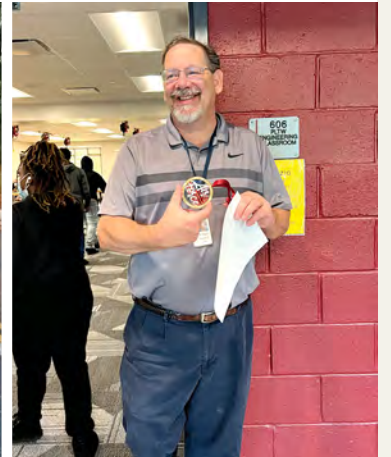
Pepperhill Elementary



Wando High



Hunley Park Elementary



Baptist Hill Middle High



Lambs Elementary



Ladson Elementary



Laurel Hill Primary

CCSD celebrates National Bus Driver Appreciation Week

In partnership with Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Transportation Services and First Student, Inc.



Shelia Gabrysh, Earnestine Campbell, Gloria Snipe, Ethel Doctor, and Hanna Garrett are all bus drivers east of the Cooper and collectively have almost 200 years of service between them. Gabrysh has been driving for 31 years. She believes in always putting her students first. Every year at Christmas she chooses a couple of needy families in the area and purchases gifts for their students.

Campbell has also been driving for 31 years. She considers her District 1 students as family. She even goes as far as to assist them personally when she can.

Snipe has 31 years under her belt. She drives both regular education students and special needs students. She always has a smile on her face.

Doctor has been driving a school bus since the 1970's. She always has driven special education students. She has a heart of gold and keeps a place in her heart for all of her students.

Garrett started in 1992 and always puts the safety of her students first. She maintains a soft spot in her heart for all her students.



Marvin Jenkins has been a driver for 25 years. He is dedicated to his students, safety, and transportation. Jenkins is not only a driver he's also a safety trainer for more than 21 years and a third party tester for First Student. He is a driver with many hats, including having the entire West Ashley area memorized.



Yvonne Perry has been driving for 42 years. She started with Charleston County originally and is still driving for First Student and working in the school with Child Development and kindergarten students. Perry has always worked as a true professional and has maintained a high level of enthusiasm throughout the years.



Barry Gadsden, Betsy Scott, and Johnny Stewart have over 60 years of driving experience between them. Their backgrounds are diverse but the one common denominator is their love of children and their willingness to serve their communities.

Gadsden is passionate about driving the bus and has been driving for over 20 years. He is retired military and an elder in his church. Gadsden has been driving since 2001 and is always on time and dependable.

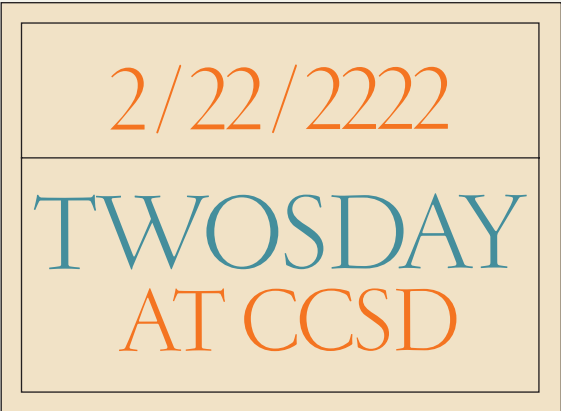
Scott is special needs driver and a driver-trainer. She's been driving for more than 26 years. Scott is very dependable and reliable.

Stewart is retired military and has been driving since 2001. He was once recognized for driving safely for a million miles. Scott is outstanding and very dependable.

All across Charleston County School District students and staff celebrated “Twosday” 2/22/22 with **COSTUMES, PARTIES, BOOKS, CLASSROOM WORK AND MORE**



Buist Academy



Charleston Progressive Academy Twin Day



Chicora Elementary



Ladson Elementary



Memminger Elementary



Sullivan's Island Elementary



Springfield Elementary

Cario students earn a Young Hero grant



Students at Thomas C. Cario Middle School were awarded a 2022 King-Size Hershey Heartwarming Young Hero Grant for \$500. The grant money was used to engage 50 youth as volunteers in Global Youth Service Day (April 29, 2022). Grants for Global Youth Service Day projects focus on inclusion, empathy, and connections.

Cario's project, "Reaching over the river with KINDNESS" benefitted their peers at Morningside Middle School as they settled in for a week of state testing.

Kristen Lewis is the instructional coach at Morningside and explained that the students improved on their winter test scores, and Cario students wanted to help them keep that going. A small team, spearheaded by eighth grader Bella Samuelson brainstormed how they could best use the grant money to accomplish that.

The team determined that decorating Morningside, their sister school, with posters and signs of encouragement might lift morale during testing. They also organized other students at Cario to put together "test survival kits," complete with letters of encouragement, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, candies, and more. Cario teachers even wrote letters of encouragement to their colleagues as well.

Members of the Cario PTO learned about the project and were so impressed, that they donated to the initiative.

After weeks of planning and preparation, students arrived on the Morningside campus, on May 6, 2022 to decorate the halls and pass out goodies.

Sheila Osborne, Instructional Coach at Cario, and seventh grade math teacher Traci Peters chaperoned the project but essentially allowed the children to take the lead.

"The idea was to reach out to a sister school to raise morale and excitement the week of state testing," said Osborne. "District-wide there is a middle school initiative called 'Make it Happen' which is designed to encourage others, inside and outside of school. 'Reaching over the river with KINDNESS' was an extension of that."

Eighth grader Angel Mitchell was also a team leader for the project. She asked fellow Comets to volunteer in sorting, bagging, and decorating.

"This brought classmates together that may not have otherwise interacted," he said. "It also gave us a chance to give back to our middle school peers who also may need that extra boost during testing week."

Eighth grader Emerson Benkoski said participating made her feel like she accomplished something in her community and made people happy.

"I think what we are doing is very important because we are helping others that don't have as much as we do," said Benkoski. "We have a lot of privileges throughout our school and community compared. This project is very thoughtful and I feel it will make Morningside very thankful for us to think about them and care for them."

Samuelson agreed.

"I truly feel like our world is made a better place when its people give back to the community," said Samuelson. "Not because we feel like we have to, but because we can find the goodness in our hearts to think about others and help who we can."

Peters described the project as an amazing accomplishment.

"It is wonderful to have our school children recognize and appreciate what they have and be so motivated to help and encourage others," said Peters. "Kids helping kids is what real teaching is all about-building the whole person!"

"With all that is going on in today's world, I believe taking one step at a time in doing our part can improve the environments of all schools in our district," added Samuelson. "Making one student smile is a victory on its own."

"I am very proud of our students and staff," said Principal Sharon Randall. "Experiences based on giving and helping others build community for our school and now with our sister school, Morningside Middle. This is a great learning experience for all involved, and I hope we may continue and build upon these partnerships in the coming years."

"To me, giving back to my classmates and peers is a very rewarding and fulfilling feeling," added Benkoski. "It is a great way to get to know your community, boosts self-confidence, and makes me feel happy. I can't wait to do more exciting projects like this for the people around me in the future."



CCSD NUTRITION SERVICES CELEBRATES SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY

Nutrition Services team members are an essential component of Charleston County School District (CCSD). They demonstrate sincere dedication to ensuring that students receive high-quality, delicious meals every day, including today, Friday, May 6, 2022, which is the School Nutrition Association's School Lunch Hero Day.

CCSD Nutrition Services leaders point to the team of employees that work at Springfield Elementary and the Montessori Community School as an example of dedication and "school lunch heroes." Manager Carolyn Chisolm-Jones, along with Food Service Operators Rowena Isidro, Francine Engrew, Roberta Wells, Sharon McClenney, and Trella Gates, work diligently to provide breakfast, lunch, snacks, and supper to approximately 630 students.

Like many of the district's Nutrition Services team members in other schools, the Springfield/Montessori Community team has continued to work through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"From vendor shortages of food and supplies to challenges with staffing, this team has remained committed to being

'School Lunch Heroes' for the students they serve," said Walter Campbell, CCSD's Executive Director of Nutrition Services. "Ms. Jones and her team have dealt with illnesses among their co-workers and their families, but that hasn't stopped them from coming to work and providing service with a smile each day."

Jones also led her team through a successful routine audit of their program from the South Carolina Department of Education and scored 100 on their DHEC Inspections. The team at Springfield routinely decorates their serving line for various occasions and ensures that students are exposed to unique foods during holiday seasons throughout the school year. These activities result in students at Springfield Elementary and Montessori Community School receiving a quality dining experience.

"Thank you, Ms. Jones, Ms. Isidro, Ms. Engrew, Ms. Wells, Ms. McClenney, Ms. Gates, and all of our Nutrition Services team members in CCSD for all you do to serve our students," added Campbell. "You are our 'School Lunch Heroes' and an important part of our school families."



A.C. Corcoran families get to "Make It and Take It"



Staff members at A.C. Corcoran Elementary School welcomed parents and family members in March for a pair of Make It-Take It events.

Parents, grandparents, and family members worked on projects with their children, then listened to teachers and staff members read books in multiple languages. Guardians also received resources they could take home to continue working with students at home.

The district's Office of Translation and Interpretation Services, Office of Family and Community Engagement, and ESOL Department provided support for A.C. Corcoran.

LAUREL HILL PLAYTIME



Laurel Hill Primary School's Child Development program participated in a unique activity after wrapping up their unit on exercise. Students received a visit from Go Play Fitness. Students were able to climb, tumble, and scramble on equipment inside a tiny house. Each class had 30 minutes of play and it was a big hit.

EDUCATOR AWARDS

Thrift named Lowcountry Regional Librarian of the Year

Jennifer Thrift, the teacher-librarian at Charles Pinckney Elementary School, was named the Lowcountry Regional Librarian of the Year on November 29, 2021, by the South Carolina Association of School Librarians. This is her 17th year in the position that she describes as a true passion. Thrift was also named a Library Journal Mover and Shaker in 2019, served as president of the Charleston County Association of School Librarians, and currently serves on the Charleston County School District (CCSD) Library Advisory Team.

“Mrs. Thrift creates a positive, nurturing environment where her students feel confident and fearless,” said Principal Tiffany Henderson. “She provides a sense of security, where each child does not feel intimidated about learning. Innovation, technology, and arts integration are key components that she uses to drive student achievement and excitement for learning in her media center.”

Christy James, CCSD’s Library Media Services Coordinator agreed.

“Jennifer exemplifies a true teacher-librarian, with a special emphasis on the teaching piece,” said James. “She takes her instructional role very seriously with both students and staff and has extensive knowledge of standards, curriculum, literacy, technology, and instructional practices. This is an invaluable combination in a school library.”



Lowcountry Librarian of the Year



Wendy Nix, Jennifer Thrift, and Christy James

Thrift said the Pinckney library is more than a place to check out books, it is a community where all are welcome. She focuses on building relationships, so this is the place students and teachers want to be.

“This is a true classroom and the only difference between me and a traditional teacher is that I teach all of the students in the school,” said Thrift. “Additionally, I collaborate with my colleagues so that what I am teaching is in tandem with what students are learning in their core subjects.”

“We are fortunate to have a flexible schedule for our media center, so she is able to spend her days collaborating with teachers and teaching lessons,” added Henderson. “She frequently shares her research and technology expertise during teacher collaboration time while also managing the circulation of library books.”

Thrift said she was honored to be recognized.

“I am humbled to represent the profession and the Lowcountry,” said Thrift. “It is truly an honor to be recognized by my peers across the state.”

Dr. Marsha Neal named a finalist for the 2022 STEM Educator of the Year

Deer Park Middle School sixth grade math and science teacher, Dr. Marsha Neal, was named a finalist for the 2022 STEM Educator of the Year. This award is for teachers who are making a significant difference in the lives of students across the state by providing excellent curriculum, encouraging lifelong learning, and inspiring a passion for STEM beyond the classroom and into the future.



West Ashley's AJ Barnes named CCSD 2021 Teacher of the Year



Principal Ryan Cumback and TOY AJ Barnes



2021 Teacher of the Year AJ Barnes



Ryan Cumback, AJ Barnes, and Gerrita Postlewait

Adam “AJ” Barnes is Charleston County School District’s 2021 Teacher of the Year. Barnes teaches AP European History, US History, and coaches baseball at West Ashley High School (WAHS). This is his fifth year at the school.

Barnes is humbled by the honor and will use the opportunity to promote and foster collaboration across the district between teachers and various high schools.

The announcement came via a surprise visit Thursday, August 26, 2021, from former Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait and a caravan of district officials. Selected from over 80 school-based teachers of the year, Barnes will help lead the CCSD Teacher of the Year Roundtable during the 2021-2022 school year.

Barnes follows 2020 honoree, Lakevia Mills of St. John’s High School.

Barnes was honored to have been selected among his colleagues.

“This isn’t about me, though,” said Barnes. “This is about this amazing school and our community here in West Ashley. This is representative of the district and the incredible students we serve. This represents how we ended last year so successfully despite the challenge and how even more successfully we kicked off this school year.”

Barnes and four other finalists were selected through a multi-step process that began with a review of their applications by the outgoing Teacher of the Year Roundtable. Once the finalists were chosen, each of the

five teachers gave a tour of their school to a panel of judges, provided a model lesson to be critiqued, and participated in a thorough interview process.

Barnes is motivated to improve the learning experience for students across CCSD thanks to his own experiences in high school and college. He was a high school athlete and played baseball at Otterbein University in Ohio. His teachers and coaches were positive role models.

“I had one teacher who was passionate about teaching,” said Barnes. “He was just as intense and passionate in the classroom as he was on the field. For him, the whole student mattered. Through him and many other coaches and teachers, I learned the importance of relationships and how to overcome adversity. I was taught those tools at a young age and I have carried them with me ever since.”

Principal Ryan Cumback describes Barnes as someone with a positive attitude and an unwavering commitment to make a sincere difference in not only the lives of his students, but also the greater West Ashley community.

“Mr. Barnes is an incredible educator and coach,” said Cumback. “He’s an advocate for every student at West Ashley High School regardless of whether or not he teaches them. Mr. Barnes is humble and selfless and consistently puts the needs of others before his own.”

In addition, Abigail “Abby” Best from James B. Edwards Elementary School was named the 2021 CCSD Teacher of the Year Runner-Up.

Best holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with add-on certification in Early Childhood Education from Anderson University and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. She earned her Master’s degree in leadership from The Citadel while teaching, and taking on various leadership roles and positions throughout the school and community. She has served as Grade Level Chair and as a member of the Principal’s Cabinet. Last year she was a third grade virtual teacher.

Other finalists for 2021 CCSD Teacher of the Year include Candace Bare (Ladson Elementary School), Katie Johnston (East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies), and Vickie Klatt (St. Andrew’s School of Math and Science).



Barnes and family

2021 ROOKIE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Payton Gehrs-Schultz



Rebecca Patsalos



Alexis Porfilio



Kathleen Remley

District celebrates four Rookie Teachers of the Year

Charleston County School District (CCSD) honored four first-year teachers in August to celebrate the 2021 Rookie Teacher of the Year awards.

Alexis Porfilio (Sullivan's Island Elementary School), Rebecca Patsalos (Angel Oak Elementary School), Kathleen Remley (Thomas C. Cario Middle School), and Payton Gehrs-Schultz (East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies) were all honored with a surprise visit from Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait and district staff.

The CCSD 2021 Rookie Teachers of the Year represent the top first-year teachers at the early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school levels. Each teacher was nominated by their principal for embracing Charleston County School District's vision for teachers who truly exemplify the best in their school. After being selected by the schools, the rookies wrote essays in which they described the ways that they meet the needs of their students and their students' families. These applications were rated by a team of veteran educators who had the difficult job of finding the top Rookie Teachers of the Year.

"To be recognized as an outstanding first-year teacher is quite an honor," said Terri Nichols, Associate Superintendent for CCSD. "Not only is an educator's first year in the profession filled with a lot of firsts, last year they had the added challenge of navigating virtual learning during a pandemic and they were fantastic. These wonderful 'rookie' teachers are an asset to our district and to the teaching profession."

"To be recognized as an outstanding first-year teacher is quite an honor. Not only is an educator's first year in the profession filled with a lot of firsts, last year they had the added challenge of navigating virtual learning during a pandemic and they were fantastic. These wonderful 'rookie' teachers are an asset to our district and to the teaching profession."

— TERRI NICHOLS, Associate Superintendent

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022

Teachers of the Year

A.C. CORCORAN ELEMENTARY
Brittany Fichter

ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH
Natasha Akery

ANGEL OAK ELEMENTARY
Robyn Markovic

ASHLEY RIVER CREATIVE ARTS ELEMENTARY
Judi Beaudrot

BAPTIST HILL MIDDLE-HIGH
Allie Tronoski

BELLE HALL ELEMENTARY
Katherine Cotter

BUIST ACADEMY
April Bonneau

BURKE HIGH
Karen Thompson

CAMP ROAD MIDDLE
Noel Bridges

CAROLINA PARK ELEMENTARY
Stephanie Ethridge

CCSMS
Teresa (Jandi) Withrow

C.E. WILLIAMS MIDDLE NORTH CAMPUS
Sara Holstein

C.E. WILLIAMS MIDDLE SOUTH CAMPUS
Bonnie Johns

CHARLES PINCKNEY ELEMENTARY
Carol Gurrieri

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
Christopher Selby

CHARLESTON DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
Tanisha Martin

CHARLESTON PROGRESSIVE ACADEMY
Laura Shaw

CHICORA ELEMENTARY
Brittany Mitchell

COOPER RIVER CAS
James Dean

DANIEL JENKINS ACADEMY
Rosa Jonson

DEER PARK MIDDLE
Nakia White Hazel

DRAYTON HALL ELEMENTARY
Angelique Kochera

E.B. ELLINGTON ELEMENTARY
Alice Debrow

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL
Dawn Althen

EAST COOPER CAS
Melissa Beyel

EDITH L. FRIERSON ELEMENTARY
Taylor Bensinger

ESOL
Becca Nexsen

GIFTED & TALENTED
Greg Thomas (Sullivan's Island Elementary)

HARBOR VIEW ELEMENTARY
Angela Vaughan

HAUT GAP MIDDLE
Kenneth Huttner

HUNLEY PARK ELEMENTARY
Alichia Leavy

JAMES B. EDWARDS ELEMENTARY
Ashley Pomposelli

JAMES ISLAND CHARTER HIGH
Emily Crocker

JAMES ISLAND ELEMENTARY
Suzanne Baranski

JAMES SIMONS MONTESSORI
Lauren Martin

JANE EDWARDS ELEMENTARY
Marcia Fields

JENNIE MOORE ELEMENTARY
Candace Harvey

JERRY ZUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
Adam Bevins

JULIAN MITCHELL ELEMENTARY
Chak Or

LADSON ELEMENTARY
Dawn Murdaugh

LAING MIDDLE
Laura Owen

LAMBS ELEMENTARY
Dorothy Rogers

LAUREL HILL PRIMARY
Danica Dickerson

LIBERTY HILL ACADEMY
Rachel Crow

LUCY BECKHAM HIGH
Nicole Forrester

MALCOLM C. HURSEY MONTESSORI
Deetz Hanna

MAMIE P. WHITESIDES ELEMENTARY
Patricia Smoot

MARY FORD EARLY LEARNING & FAMILY CENTER
Blair (Amanda) Hranowsky

MATILDA F. DUNSTON ELEMENTARY
John Farrelly

MEMMINGER ELEMENTARY
Kory Roberts

MIDLAND PARK PRIMARY AND EARLY LEARNING
CENTER
Angelica Chavez

MILITARY MAGNET ACADEMY
Carla Ferrette-Clark

MINNIE HUGHES ELEMENTARY
Andriette Dent

MORNINGSIDE MIDDLE
Jacqueline Townsend

MOULTRIE MIDDLE
Julia Kuehn

MT. PLEASANT ACADEMY
Ari Tuttle

MT. ZION ELEMENTARY
Casey Sullivan

MURRAY-LASAINÉ MONTESSORI
Polly Schultz

NORTH CHARLESTON CREATIVE ARTS ELEMENTARY
Juan Ruiz

NORTH CHARLESTON ELEMENTARY
Casey Engleking

NORTH CHARLESTON HIGH
Bryanna Smalls

NORTHWOODS MIDDLE
Nathalie Bennett

OAKLAND ELEMENTARY
Brooke Maguire

ORANGE GROVE CHARTER
Jackie Turner

PEPPERHILL ELEMENTARY
Tabitha Strong

PINEHURST ELEMENTARY
Hillary Crosby

R.B. STALL HIGH
Maurice Grant

SANDERS-CLYDE ELEMENTARY
Ilona King-Wilson

SEPTIMA P. CLARK ACADEMY
Brian Shields

SIMMONS-PINCKNEY MIDDLE
Barbara Harpe

SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY
Taylor Steele

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL OF MATH AND SCIENCE
ELEMENTARY
David Wingard

ST. JAMES-SANTEE ELEMENTARY-MIDDLE
Casey Marlowe

ST. JOHN'S HIGH
Samantha Dale

STILES POINT ELEMENTARY
Kate Weller

STONO PARK ELEMENTARY
Nathalie Melvin Rodriguez

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND ELEMENTARY
Natalie Harden

THOMAS C. CARIO MIDDLE
Joel Crosby

TURNING POINT ACADEMY
Arlyne Shine

WANDO HIGH
Jason Sox

W. B. GOODWIN ELEMENTARY
Sarah Swain

WEST ASHLEY CAS
Robert Woods

WEST ASHLEY HIGH
Sandra Cannon

Nathalie Bennett of Northwoods Middle named CCSD 2022 Teacher of the Year



2022 CCSD Teacher of the Year

Charleston County School District (CCSD) surprised Northwoods Middle School teacher Natalie Bennett with the announcement that she was chosen as the 2022 CCSD Teacher of the Year.

Kory Roberts of Memminger Elementary School, was named runner-up.

"I am just truly blown away," said Bennett. "It is such an

honor to be recognized by just my staff here and then the district as a whole. There are so many amazing educators that are giving their heart a soul every single day, and I am so honored to represent them and to be here doing what we do every day, giving our heart to our children."

Bennett is a sixth grade math teacher at Northwoods Middle School and has been an educator for 13 years, holding various positions in North and South Carolina. She holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a minor in Biology from Wake Forest University.

What sets Bennett apart from her colleagues is her commitment to creating a welcoming environment where her students feel safe to learn and grow. Accomplishing this means participating in activities and organizations inside and outside of the classroom.

"I am so excited for Ms. Bennett," said Principal Keturah Gadson. "I am so fortunate to have her as a teacher at Northwoods Middle School. Each day, Ms. Bennett strives to transform students' lives by being the teacher who motivates scholars to unleash their highest potential."

Her professional memberships include Girl Scouts of the United States of America and Girls Scouts of Eastern South Carolina (volunteer).

Bennett's participation in school activities is extensive. She served as a School Improvement Council committee member while teaching at W.B. Goodwin Elementary and Pinehurst Elementary Schools; she was a member of either the PTO/PTA at all of the schools she taught in; was the Grade Chair of Goodwin, and is now in that role at Northwoods. Throughout her career, Bennett has served

as a Professional Development leader on various topics.

Bennett's recognitions are numerous and include being named a "Tireless Teacher" at Northwoods, a Personalized Learning Leader Cohort, Teacher of the Year nominee at Pinehurst, SC Science P.L.U.S. Institute participant, and a Wake Forest University 2005 Hall Award Winner (presented for excellence in student teaching to one graduating elementary teacher each year).

"What I am most passionate about is twofold: retaining teachers and helping students reach their full potential," said Bennett.

Bennett hopes to use this platform to emphasize the importance of teacher retention, especially in Title 1 schools.

"Ms. Bennett is an inspiration to all who work with her and her devotion to the profession and Northwoods Middle School has few rivals," said Gadson. "We all know that teaching is a tough job, but Ms. Bennett's commitment to using her skills and relationship with scholars to be a difference in their lives is unwavering. Her gracefulness and genuine interest in doing what is best for her students, colleagues, and the community we serve are demonstrated in all that she does."

Gadson added that being named Charleston County School District's Teacher of the Year highlights Bennett and her amazing work, but said that Bennett freely acknowledges this opportunity and honor isn't just about her.

"She recognizes that there are many who serve with her to support our scholars and they all deserve a voice and praise," said Gadson. "That perspective is what lets us know she is the perfect representative for our district's teacher of the year."

Kory Roberts

Roberts teaches fifth grade and is a third-year teacher. He graduated from College of Charleston in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Additionally, Roberts was part of the "Call Me Mister" program and is a Boys With a Purpose Advocate.

FINALISTS FOR 2022 CCSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Natasha Akery



Nathalie Bennett



Kory Roberts



Chakadasovavan Or



Ashley Pomposelli

2022 ROOKIE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



District announces four Rookie Teachers of the Year

During May, just before the end of the school year, district staff members surprised four teachers in Charleston County School District by announcing that they are 2022 CCSD Rookie Teachers of the Year.

Congratulations to these rising stars of education: Anna Berent, Laurel Hill Primary School (2022 Early Elementary Rookie Teacher of the Year); Christopher Green, Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School (2022 Elementary Rookie Teacher of the Year); Katelynn Kitts, Camp Road Middle School (2022 Middle School Rookie Teacher of the Year); and Latter Rosendary, North Charleston High School (2022 High School Rookie Teacher of the Year).

R.B. Stall nurse honored by national organization



Kat Bouziane

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) named R.B. Stall High School's Kat Bouziane as an Outstanding Nurse for Students with Disabilities. Bouziane has been a school nurse at R.B. Stall since the start of the 2018-2019 school year and is in her fifth school year overall with Charleston County School District (CCSD).

CCSD Nurse Liaison Liz Brady explained that Bouziane supports school nurses across the district who work with students with developmental disabilities and medical complexities. This support includes working

with the CCSD Nursing Services Department to develop best practice policies and procedures that are safe and comprehensive for students with disabilities.

"Kat travels across the district to provide hands-on training to school nurses and support staff," explained Brady. "This training could be for medical procedures such as catheterization or simply to help nurses with best practices for communicating with and moving students. She also provided CCSD school nurses with cultural competency training on disability culture."

While working with CCSD, Bouziane completed the LEND (Leadership Education in Developmental and Related Disabilities) Fellowship at MUSC. During her fellowship, she wrote the manual "New School Nursing: A Model of Care to Meet the Needs of Students with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities." Bouziane has presented her manual at both regional and national conferences.

"We are so proud of Kat's work and dedication to all of our students," added CCSD's Director of Nursing Services, Ellen Nitz. "She demonstrates how to provide excellent and individualized care to students with disabilities every day."

Bouziane graduated from the University of North Florida with a Bachelor's in Public Health in 2014 and earned her degree in Nursing from the State College of Florida in 2016. After graduating from nursing school, Kat volunteered at Gandaki Regional Hospital in Nepal where she worked with adults and children with disabilities.

"Kat is a nurse who knows each student's favorite team, activity, and song," said Brady. "The students love her and look forward to spending time with her."



Bouziane celebrated

"We are so proud of Kat's work and dedication to all of our students. She demonstrates how to provide excellent and individualized care to students with disabilities every day."

— ELLEN NITZ, Director of Nursing Services

SOA MUSIC EDUCATORS AWARDED AT STATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Two Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) music educators were recognized by the South Carolina Music Educators Association (SCMEA) at the February professional development conference in Columbia.

Dr. Christopher Selby was named to the SCMEA Hall of Fame and Kenneth Turner was awarded the National Band Association's "Citation of Excellence" Award.

Selby directs SOA's high school orchestras and Turner is the high school band director.

Under his direction, Selby's orchestra students performed at the 2019 Midwest Clinic, and they won the 2016 ASTA National Orchestra Festival's top award of Grand Champion in the competitive public school division.

In addition to teaching and conducting, Selby is a published author and served two separate terms as the President of the state's Orchestra Division, and president of SCMEA from 2011-2013. He is currently the chair of the American String Teachers Association K-12 Committee.

"It was such a surprise and honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for the South Carolina Music Education Association," said Selby. "I have loved serving the SC music educators in this organization over the past 22 years, and it is also a wonderful feeling to be recognized for that work."

Under Turner's direction, the SOA Wind Ensemble was a

featured performing ensemble at the 2022 SCMEA In-Service Conference, and both of his SOA Jazz Bands received a Superior with Distinction at the SCBDA State Jazz Performance Assessment. The Jazz Band at SOA also recently placed more students in the SC All-State Jazz Band than any other school in the state.

"The SCMEA Conference is an opportunity for music teachers from across the state to share ideas, network, and support each other," said Dr. Denisse Santos, Director of Visual & Performing Arts for CCSD. "The various workshops and sessions provide opportunities for inspiration and learning of new ideas that teachers can take back with them and implement in their own classrooms. There is also an opportunity to listen to performances from the top performance groups in the state."

Several CCSD music educators hosted conference sessions for attendees including Selby and Turner. Others include Margaret Selby, Laing Middle School Orchestra teacher; and Santos. Suzanne Reed, middle school band director at SOA, guest conducted a piece at the concert as well.

"This year, we had the opportunity to hear two extremely talented groups of students from SOA that were featured at the conference," added Santos. "I am so proud of the students and teachers from both groups from SOA, and extend my congratulations. This year's conference was truly an uplifting experience."



Dr. Christopher Selby



Kenneth Turner



SCMEA conference attendees

Springfield Elementary School Principal surprised by Lowcountry Live



Lowcountry Live (WCIV Channel 4) surprised Springfield Elementary School Principal Megan Williams. She was recognized for her outstanding service. She was nominated by a parent at Springfield.



PRINCIPAL OF ANGEL OAK EARNS HONOR FROM PALMETTO STATE ARTS EDUCATION

Angel Oak Elementary School's principal, Judith Condon, made a decision to invest in the arts when she arrived at the school in 2017. That investment led to a range of opportunities for the students, and eventually, recognition for the school at the state level. Condon is the 2021 Palmetto State Arts Education (PSAE) Arts Administrator of the Year Award.

The honor goes to administrators who demonstrate a commitment to arts programs, make a difference in the lives of South Carolina's school students, and uphold the mission of the PSAE to advance learning in and through the arts for all students.

"I am honored to receive this recognition," explained Condon. "Our arts-integrated model at Angel Oak continues to be a driving force that supports overall school improvement, student engagement, and achievement. This award also recognizes the hard work of the teachers, staff, students, and families at our school as they work to think differently about curriculum, instruction, and assessment in order to serve this new generation of learners".

In addition to implementing an arts integrated model with fidelity, staff at Angel Oak provide accelerated arts opportunities in dance, visual arts, music (and more) in which students can participate. Related arts teachers participate in "AI Push" blocks to work alongside and collaborate with general education teachers to integrate learning. The school has built an impressive strings (orchestra) program, a STEAM makerspace class and supports a thriving drama club. Local partnerships with organizations including Engaging Creative Minds, the College of Charleston Opera, YoArt, Charleston Jazz, the Charleston Gaillard Center, Charleston Stage and Palmetto City Ballet have helped students to recognize the power of the arts in the school and the community. The school hallways also serve as an interactive gallery space for "The Faces of Innocence" photography project in collaboration with the Besharat Gallery in Atlanta.



Judith Condon

BAPTIST HILL DANCE TEACHER WINS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING AWARD

Melissa Murdock, Baptist Hill Middle High School dance teacher, won a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Action Award. In partnership with the NoVo Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, she was selected as one of 105 recipients from 800 applications nationwide and is the only CCSD educator to win this award.

Murdock used the \$1,915 award funds to attend Breathe for Change training, a yoga certification program designed specifically for teachers. Breathe for Change integrates social-emotional learning, meditation, and traditional aspects of yoga.

Murdock said her students, from 6th grade to 12th grade, love to meditate and do yoga; so much so that they ask for it daily.

"Yoga and meditation have been my gateway to teaching dance," said Murdock. "Students are much calmer, focused, and they're able to process and retain information and embody movement. Students have used breathing techniques as a way to ground themselves and settle in."

Murdock uses her training to teach meditation and yoga

to reduce class disruptions, outbursts, and frustrations. In addition, she teaches SEL strategies and techniques to colleagues so they can better support students in ways that are healthy, emotionally, and culturally responsive.

Anya Smalls is a student in Murdock's class.

"I love that we are doing yoga," said Smalls. "Doing yoga relaxes you."

"I think how Ms. Murdoch addresses SEL, by using techniques that anyone and everyone can participate in, is great," said Principal Brendan Glaze. "SEL is a major focus in schools, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic. We need a variety of supports to provide our students with coping mechanisms and ways to deal with stress. I am proud Mrs. Murdock pursued this opportunity to encourage positivity at Baptist Hill."

"It helps my body do things that I haven't done before," added student Rubi Santos-Antonio. "It also helps me a lot when I'm stressed."

The students are not the only ones benefitting from SEL in action.

"I'm now able to offer yoga classes to the faculty and staff at Baptist Hill after school and share SEL strategies with them as well," said Murdock. "I'm also incorporating this knowledge in my graduate work on somatics in dance."



Melissa Murdock,

Burke, HBCUs provide important opportunity for band students

Burke High School, led by Band Director Linard McCloud, hosted the 17th Annual Burke High School Band Scholarship Fair. Approximately 60 students from 11 high schools across the state participated. Equally as many Historically Black Colleges and Universities from around the Southeast participated.

Once the day was over, McCloud estimated the high school students in attendance were offered about \$1.1 million in scholarships, which could turn into \$4.4 million over four years (if the students attend four years at the institution of their choice).

McCloud, a Burke High and Florida A&M University graduate, began inviting colleges to audition his band students after he became Burke Band Director in 1979. In 2001, he asked more colleges to participate, and in 2003, he asked more high schools to participate. Seventeen years later, Burke's band auditions have become a notable opportunity for band students, high school band directors, and college band directors throughout the state and Southeast region.

Brendon Johnson was a senior at Darlington High School in 2009. He attended the band auditions at Burke and was offered a band scholarship to attend Bethune-Cookman University. Johnson is now the band director at Darlington High School and brought 10 students to audition at this year's Band Scholarship Fair. He has brought students to the audition each of the past five years.

"This is very special," Johnson said. "It's an opportunity for a student to get thousands of dollars in scholarship money. They get to see the value of all the work they put in. It's a tremendous advantage to college directors who can audition multiple students in one place."

Anthony Jones, band director at Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC recognizes that advantage.

"I get a chance to reach out to the most talented students and they get a chance to see what we have to offer," explained Jones. "It's a great opportunity for networking and we don't have to travel from place to place. I've auditioned 18 students and I hope I get all 18 of them!"

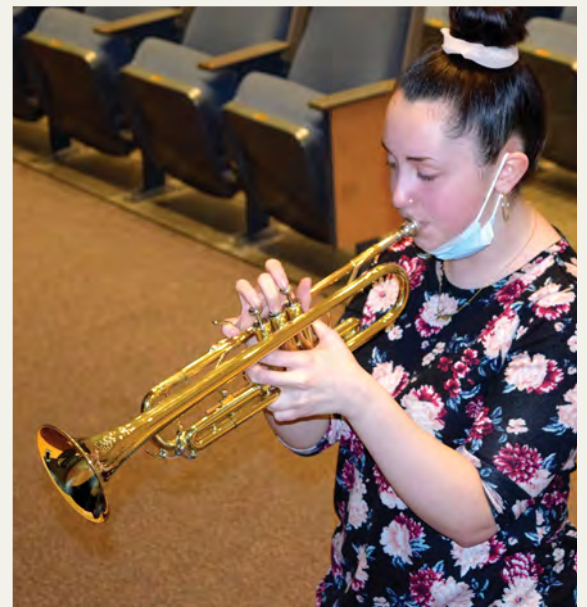
Mullins High School drummer Aaliyah Slaughter was among the students who auditioned. She hopes this experience will be open to all high school band students in the future, not just juniors and seniors.

"It would help younger students see how they need to grow," said Slaughter.

The auditions represent an opportunity for students at small schools in rural communities to get the exposure they might not get otherwise, McCloud said. With sponsors who might finance overnight stays for students and band directors that opportunity can grow, he said.

Iconic band director Lonnie Hamilton attended this year's scholarship fair as well. For 20 years, he molded young musicians at the former Bonds-Wilson High School, taught music to over 1,200 students during his teaching career, and secured 131 college scholarships.

"McCloud has done a tremendous thing," Hamilton said. "Nobody has done the math, but the economic impact in the Tri-County area alone has been immeasurable! McCloud deserves a lot of credit."



ATHLETICS



MMA goes back-to-back: Eagles capture second straight state title

Military Magnet Academy used a stifling defense to dominate Denmark-Olar, 35-20, in the South Carolina High School League A state finals. The Eagles forced more than 30 turnovers and held the Vikings scoreless in the third quarter to become the first basketball team (boys or girls) from Charleston County School District in 42 years to repeat at state champions.

Sabri Mitchell and Dream Watson paced MMA with eight points each.

The Eagles used a 6-0 run late in the first quarter to take a lead they would never lose and led 21-13 at the half.

MMA, led by head coach Danny Taylor, finished their historic season with a 27-4 record. They were already the first-ever CCSD girls' basketball team to make the state finals three seasons in a row. The last CCSD team to make the state finals three consecutive years was the Middleton boys (1972-1974).

Individual/Relay State Championships

FALL

Individual Winner (AAA)

Name: Kyle Hertwig
School: Academic Magnet
Year in school: Junior
Sport: Boys' Swimming
Event: 50-yard freestyle (21.41)

Name: Jack Troy
School: Academic Magnet
Year in school: Freshman
Sport: Boys' Swimming
Event: 500-yard freestyle (4:51.19)

Individual Winner (AAAA)

Name: Hannah Vroon
School: James Island Charter
Year in school: Sophomore
Sport: Girls' Cross Country
Information: Won with a time of 18:15

Name: Luke Nixon
School: James Island Charter
Year in school: Junior
Sport: Boys' Swimming
Event: 500-yard freestyle (4:41.95)

Name: Katie Grace Vandergrift
School: Lucy Beckham
Year in school: Sophomore
Sport: Girls' Swimming
Event: 100-yard butterfly (58.91)

Individual Winner (AAAAA)

Name: Jake Liebert
School: Wando
Year in school: Sophomore
Sport: Boys' Cross Country
Information: Won with a time of 15:42

Members: Charlie Green, Will Slowey, Mason Camp, Chase Healey
School: Wando
Sport: Boys' Swimming
Event: 200-yard medley relay (1:37.00)

Name: Sophie Frece
School: Wando
Year in school: Senior
Sport: Girls' Swimming
Event: 100-yard backstroke (56.11)

Name: Gil Shaw
School: Wando
Year in school: Senior
Sport: Girls' Swimming
Event: 100-yard breaststroke (1:04.07)

Members: Sophie Frece, Gil Shaw, Illy Lightfoot, Eliza Baxter
School: Wando
Sport: Girls' Swimming
Event: 200-yard medley relay (1:45.80)

Members: Sophie Frece, Gil Shaw, Eliza Baxter, Halle Schart
School: Wando
Sport: Girls' Swimming
Event: 400-yard freestyle relay (3:36.58)

SPRING

Individual Winner (A)

Name: Jayden Judge
School: St. John's
Year in school: Junior
Sport: Boys' Track and Field
Event: Discus (138'7")

Name: Tylashia Alston
School: St. John's
Year in school: Sophomore
Sport: Girls' Track and Field
Event: 400-meter race (1:00.91)

Name: Rowan Stroble
School: St. John's
Year in school: Freshman
Sport: Girls' Track and Field
Event: High jump (4'10")

Members: Tylashia Alston, Hannah Collins, DaNezia Sutton, Daeshia Buford
School: St. John's
Sport: Girls' Track and Field
Event: 4 x 400m relay (4:18.31)

Individual Winner (AAAA)

Name: Avery Belk
School: James Island Charter
Year in school: Freshman
Sport: Girl's Track and Field
Event: 800-meter race (2:17.34)

Name: Tia Lucas
School: James Island Charter
Year in school: Senior
Sport: Girls' Track and Field
Event: High Jump (5'2")

Name: Hannah Vroon
School: James Island Charter
Year in school: Sophomore
Sport: Girls' Track and Field
Event: 1,600-meter race (5:03.17)

Members: M.K. Huddleston, Alex LaRue, Avery Belk, Hannah Vroon
School: James Island Charter
Sport: Girls' track and Field
Event: 4 x 800m (9:46.17)

Name: Nicola Visser
School: Lucy Beckham
Year in school: 8th grade
Sport: Girls' Track and Field
Event: Pole Vault (11'7")

Individual Winner (AAAAA)

Name: Jake Liebert
School: Wando
Year in school: Sophomore
Sport: Boys' Track and Field
Event: 3,200-meter run (9:25.89)

Name: Hannah Togami
School: Wando
Year in school: Junior
Sport: Girls' Track and Field
Event: Pole Vault (13'1" - state record)

Name: Tucker Simon
School: Wando
Year in School: Sophomore
Sport: Boys' Golf
Information: Shot a -2 (142) and won in a playoff

FALL

AAAA

James Island Charter Girls' Cross Country
Terri Admore
Avery Belk
Kirra Borg
Anna Sofia Crews
Chloe Gilbert
M.K. Huddleston
Alex LaRue
Alice Taylor
Hannah Vroon
Head Coach: David Lee
Assistant Coaches: Joe Eshelman, Chris Bolus, Ed Carson, Kelly Kimball, Carson Stewart, and Keith Bartleson

Lucy Beckham Girls' Tennis

Season Record: 18-2
Defeated A.C Flora, 4-2, in state finals
ROSTER:
Piper Charney
Perrin Rogers
Ava Dawson
Annie Wilbourne
Lila Small
Roxy Ciesar
Kayla Fergus
Grayson Rowley
Mackie Black
Blythe Myer
Kate Daniel
Ellie Gitter
Ashley Smith
Grace Lindemuth
Kathleen Hook
Mia Liebenow
Addy Branham
Head Coach: Lizl Kotz

AAAAA

Wando Girls' Swimming
ROSTER:
Gil Shaw
Eliza Baxter
Kendall Bensen
Regan Leach
Halle Schart
Illy Lightfoot
Caitlin Mason
Mara Goodrich
Kate Green
Amadea Friedl
Caroline Bierman
Head Coach: Cheryl Durden,
Assitant Coach: Elissa Manchester

WINTER

A

Military Magnet Girls' Basketball
Season Record: 27-4
Defeated Denmark-Olar, 35-20, in state finals

Team State Championships

ROSTER:
Chazmin Bradley
Rykia Jakes
Jataya Brown
Kalein Davis
Ty "Froggy" Ferrell
Zanyiah Sanders-Smith
De'Jamari Pugh
Dream Watson
Jada Davis
Da'Nariyah Z. Williams
Morgan Richardson
Sabri Mitchell
Ashanti Ray
Head Coach: Nathaniel "Danny" Taylor, Jr.
Assistant Coaches: Courtney Reed, Melvin Cooper, Rebekah Brown, and Sheldon Reid

SPRING

AAAA

James Island Charter Girls' Soccer

Season Record: 20-1-2
Defeated Eastside, 5-0, in state finals
ROSTER:
Kayla McGary
Lilli Ray
Kate Ross
Hailey Boyd
Camille Perna
Olyvia Briggs
Taylor Hurteau
Mac Lehr
Hayden Rape
Carolie Arnold
Ellie Davis
Clara Etnoyer
Maddie Pope
Gabby Redman
Daphne Robinson
Alexis Spivey
Marley Walker
Ella Willits
Kitty Campbell

Head Coach: Kim Cohn
Assistant Coaches: Greg Webster, Greg Bennett, Kaitlyn Overla, Jonathan Bennett, Jenna Sneed

Lucy Beckham Boys' Lacrosse

Season Record: 18-1
Defeated Christ Church, 10-8, in state finals
ROSTER:
Cullen Turner
Grant Bushey
Garrett Coombs
Austin Constable
Grant Gallo
George McLaughlin
Bear Hankins
Ryan McCarthy
Ellis Keith

Connor Coombs
Bryce Rothwell
Niko Fokas
Web Perry
Evan Johnson
Chalmers Ballard
Davis Evans
Henry Brosey
Charlie Broucqsaault
Pete King
Cole Rountree
Chad Weis
Ryan Weis
Austin Walton
Wyatt Atkins
Flynn Wilson
Jonah Mack
Luke Barrett
Sam Lucas
Watson McLoud
Jake Leland
Will Hagberg
Head Coach: Parker Ferrigan
Assistant Coaches: Barney Ehrmann, J.J. Jefferies, Jamie Piluso, and Vince Fredericks

AAAAA

Wando Boys' Lacrosse

Season Record: 14-3
Defeated Nation Ford, 21-9, in state finals
ROSTER:
Connor Neal
Ian Peck
Bronson Fabrizio
Nico Boccabella
Luke Moore
Luke Tilden
Chris McTavish
Nickolas Cladakis
Max Truman
Caleb Spanos
Nathan Cooper
Garrett Mayer
Kieran Maurer
Dylan Boyce
John Buchman
Parker Kline
Caden Schier
Jameson Lowe
Sam Goss
Stephen Coker
Sean Carroll
Jack Parkin
Connor Caretta
Rashawn Joseph
Lucas Green
Bryce Scharling
Connor Maurer
Hudson McConnell
Sheridan Bittenger
Kai Correia
Rhett Hartnett
Peter Foulke
Carson Mallin
Connor Kraemer
Roy Knight
Dominick Polesovsky
Head coach: Lance Renes

Wando Girls' Lacrosse

Season Record: 17-1
Defeated Riverside, 10-9, in state finals
ROSTER:
Cassie Frye
Ryann Noonan
Bates Collar
Brooke Kaping
Maggie Parkin
Taylor Hamilton
Lauren Hamblin
Marin Fuller
Kayla Butler
Kelsey Bennett
Chloe Simmons
Delaney Harrison
Emerson Staples
Bridgette Prichard
Kate Maloney
Sophia Berg
Maddie Wood
Chrissy Mallon
Callie Powell
Katie Fasanaro
Ava deLyra
Head coach: Ed Reckdenwald

Assistant coaches:
Bryan Wood, Hailey Morris, Sophie Moore, Chelsea Reckdenwald, and Jessie Bunting

Wando Girls' Soccer

Season Record: 19-1
Defeated T.L. Hanna, 2-1 (F/OT), in state finals
ROSTER:
Kaleigh Bosak
Caroline Brinson
Macey Brooks
Morgan deBarros
Alyssa Graham
Taitum Maxwell
Isabella Pecunes
Caroline Richvalsky
Anna Sheppard
Hope Slimmer
Grace Waite
Kennedi Walker
Tory Cole
Lennon Leithauser
Kendall Smith
Kylie Cino
E.G. Dillard
Ansley Douty
Ashton Douty
Finley Dybik
Caroline Graham
Joy Slimmer
Sarah Diminico
Head coach: Shannon Champ

Assistant coaches:
Alex Dunnigan and Alexa Alchesky

ATHLETIC STATE CHAMPIONS

TRACK AND FIELD



Hannah Togami - Wando
High School Pole Vault
State AAAAA Champion



Jayden Judge -
St. John's High School Discus
State A Champion



Tylashia Alston - St. John's
High School 400-meter race
State A Champion



James Island Charter HS - 4x800 relay
State AAAAA Champion



Nicola Visser - Lucy Beckham
High School Pole Vault State
AAAA Champion



Avery Belk - JICHHS 800-meter
State AAAAA Champion



Rowan Stroble - St. John's High School
High jump State A Champion



Tia Lucas - JICHHS High Jump
State AAAAA Champion



St. John's High School 4 x 400 relay
State A Champion



Jake Liebert - Wando
High School Boys' Cross Country
State Champ

WANDO RUNNER CAPTURES SCHOOL'S FIRST-EVER INDIVIDUAL CROSS COUNTRY STATE TITLE

Jake Liebert made history for Wando High School on November 12, 2021, in Columbia. The sophomore won the South Carolina High School League AAAAA boys' cross country title and became the first student-athlete in school history (boys or girls) to win the individual state championship in this sport.

Liebert crossed the finish line with a time of

15:42. His finish helped the Warriors take sixth place as a team in the AAAAA state meet.

Liebert's performance is a massive improvement from last year when he finished 18th overall in this race.

He also won the Region 7-AAAAA title and AAAAA state qualifier this season.



ATHLETIC STATE CHAMPIONS – *continued*

TRACK AND FIELD



James Island Charter Girls'
Cross Country State Champs

JAMES ISLAND CAPTURES SECOND STRAIGHT TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL STATE TITLES IN GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

James Island Charter High School dominated the South Carolina High School League AAAA girls' cross country state meet, repeating at state champions with a 61-point victory over second-place Greenville in Columbia on November 11, 2021. James Island now has three team state titles in girls' cross country (2012, 2020, and 2021).

Six Trojans finished in the top-15 of the race, including sophomore Hannah Vroon, who defended her individual state title with a time of 18:15 (10 seconds better than her winning time last year). Avery Belk (fourth), Alice Taylor (ninth), Kirra Borg (11th), M.K. Huddleston (14th), and Chole Gilbert (15th) all finished in the top-15 to earn all-state honors as well.



Hannah Vroon - JICHS Girls'
Cross Country State AAAA Champion

SOCCER

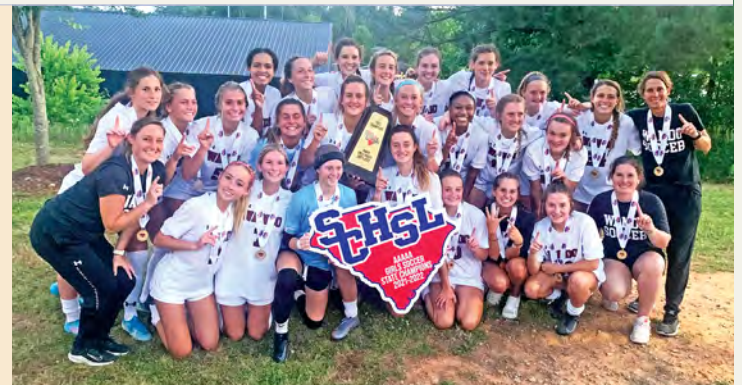
Wando girls take second straight state title in soccer in overtime thriller

The Wando High School girls' soccer program won the South Carolina High School League AAAAA state championship for the second year in a row, with an overtime victory in the state finals. The Warriors (19-1) captured the 2022 crown with a 2-1 victory over T.L. Hanna on Saturday, May 14, 2022, in Irmo.

Kylie Cino found the back of the net in the

second overtime period to give Wando the victory; Cino actually had the assists on the game-winning in OT for the Warriors in the state finals last year. Ansley Douty scored the other goal for Wando, which now has 12 state championships in girls soccer overall.

Shannon Champ now has eight state titles in her 17 seasons as the Warriors' head coach.



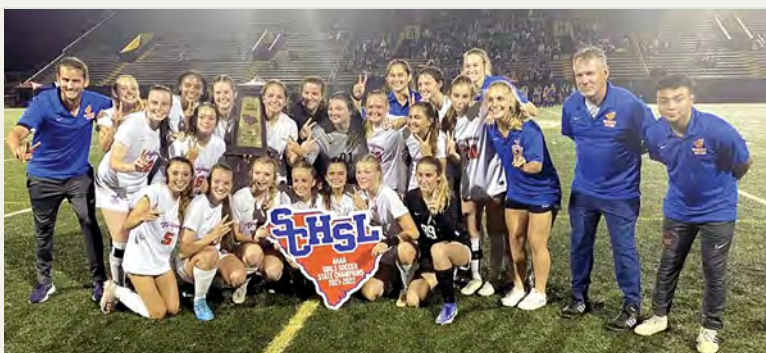
Wando Girls Soccer State Champs 2022

James Island Charter goes back-to-back in girls' soccer

James Island Charter High School is on top of the world in AAAA girls soccer, again. The Trojans took down Eastside, 5-0, on Friday, May 13, 2022, in Irmo, to claim their second straight South Carolina High School League state title.

Alexis Spivey and Kayla McGary both scored a pair of goals for James Island, and Taylor Hurteau recorded one goal in the victory.

The Trojans finished the season with a 20-1-2 record.



James Island Charter Girls Soccer State Champs 2022

ATHLETIC STATE CHAMPIONS – *continued*

LACROSSE

Lucy Beckham boys' lacrosse makes history with state championship

Lucy Beckham (18-1) captured the South Carolina High School League AAAA boys' lacrosse state title with a 10-8 victory over Christ Church in the finals on April 30, 2022, in Irmo. In just their second year of existence, the Bengals have a state championship.

Ryan McCarthy led the way for the Bengals with three goals.

This is the first boys' team title in any sport in school history.



Lucy Beckham Boys Lacrosse State Champs



Wando Girls Lacrosse State Champs

Wando girls capture first state title in lacrosse in over a decade

The Wando High School girls' lacrosse program finally broke through at the South Carolina High School League AAAAA level and won the state championship by edging Riverside, 10-9, in the title game on April 30, 2022, at Irmo. Kelsey Bennett scored the game-winning goal with 2:28 left in the game; it was her 70th goal of the season.

This is the Warriors' first state title since 2011 (first in AAAAA), and the second overall in program history.

Wando finished the season with a 17-1 record.

Wando boys back on top of the state in lacrosse

Wando High School's boys' lacrosse team dominated Nation Ford in the South Carolina High School AAAAA state finals, 21-9, on April 30, 2022, in Irmo. The Warriors (14-3) scored eight unanswered goals in the second half to pull away and win their first state championship since 2018; it is their seventh state title in program history.

Sam Goss led the way with six goals for Wando, and Bryce Scharling added four goals.



Wando Boys Lacrosse State Champs

SWIMMING

CCSD swimmers shine in SCHSL state meet



Jack Troy - Academic Magnet High School 500-yard freestyle State AAA Champion



Kyle Hertwig - Academic Magnet 50-yard freestyle individual (swimming) State AAA Champion



Luke Nixon - James Island High School 500-yard freestyle State AAAAA Champion



Wando High School 200-yard medley relay State AAAAA Champion

Swimming State Champions Swimmers from four Charleston County School District swimming programs combined to win five individual/relay championships at the South Carolina High School state meet earlier this week at the North Charleston Aquatic Center. This is in addition to the Wando girls taking home the AAAAA team state title and four individual/relay gold medals.

Wando boys

The Warriors' 200-yard medley relay team of Charlie Green, Will Slowey, Mason Camp, and Chase Healy captured the SCHSL AAAAA state championship with a time of 1:37.00.

James Island boys

Luke Nixon secured gold in the SCHSL AAAAA 500-yard freestyle finals thanks to his time of 4:41.95.

Lucy Beckham girls

Katie Grace Vandergrift won the program's first-ever individual state championship with a time of 58.91 in the 100-yard butterfly in the AAAA finals.

Academic Magnet boys

Kyle Hertwig defended his AAA state title in the 50-yard freestyle, recording a time of 21.41 (he won last year's event at 22.10). Teammate Jack Troy captured the AAA state championship in the 500-yard freestyle thanks to a winning time of 4:51.19.

The Wando boys just missed out on the AAAAA team championship, coming up short by four points (314-310) to J.L. Mann. Lucy Beckham's boys' and girls' teams also finished as runner-ups in the team standings in the AAAAA meets.

ATHLETIC STATE CHAMPIONS – *continued*

SWIMMING



Wando High School Girls' Swim Team State Champs

WANDO SWIMS PAST COMPETITION TO COLLECT FIFTH STRAIGHT SCHSL STATE TITLE

The Wando High School girls' swim team dominated the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) AAAAA state championship swim meet on Saturday, October 9, 2021, in North Charleston and rolled to the program's fifth straight state championship. The Warriors' won the team title with 412 points; Fort Mill was the runner-up at 297.50 points.

Veteran leadership was a factor for Wando, as 10 seniors helped lead the way to victory, and the program's seventh state title overall.

The Warriors also captured four individual/relay events: Sophie Frece won the 100-meter backstroke (56.11); Gil Shaw finished first in the 100-meter breaststroke (1:04.07); Frece, Shaw, Illy Lightfoot, and Eliza Baxter combined to take the 200-meter medley relay (1:45.80); and Frece, Shaw, Baxter, and Halle Schart won the 400-meter freestyle relay (3:36.58).

TENNIS



Lucy Beckham repeats as girls' tennis state champion

Lucy Beckham High School is only in its second year of operation, but the Bengals are already building a tradition of success with their girls' tennis program. LBHS captured its second straight South Carolina High School League AAAA team title with a 4-2 victory over A.C. Flora at the Cayce Tennis Center in Columbia on November 6, 2021.

Lucy Beckham picked up wins in singles play from Piper Charney, Perrin Rogers, Ava Dawson, and Lila Small.

TENNIS LESSONS AND COMPETITIVE PLAY PROVIDED TO SEVERAL CCSD SCHOOLS

Students at three Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools completed an eight-week tennis program designed in conjunction with the Lowcountry Youth Tennis Association (LYTA) to provide free tennis to children in the tri-county area.

Lambs, Matilda F. Dunston, and North Charleston Elementary School students participated in the afterschool program that is held at the Danny Jones Center in North Charleston.

In addition to receiving lessons and participating in competitive play, students at Danny Jones were introduced to and practiced with three professional tennis players who were playing in a Professional WTA event in Mount Pleasant. Students were also given free tickets to attend the Credit One Charleston Open on Daniel Island and watch professional matches. Also all of the players were invited to attend a Charleston RiverDogs baseball game. Some of the players will participate by going onto the field between innings and playing tennis to celebrate National Tennis Month in May.

The season culminated with an awards ceremony for players and their families, complete with ice cream, certificates, and trophies.

Dunston tennis coach John Farrelly has been a member of the LYTA for many years and has taught students the game. He said the goal is to introduce the sport to students who would otherwise not have access or means to learn the game.

“Tennis gives students the benefits of teamwork and exercise,” said Farrelly. “Additionally, it gives students the feeling of success that they can pass on into the classroom.”

Individual school programs receive equipment and lessons are free. Throughout the season, the three CCSD schools played against each other. The offering also carries over into summer when students can attend Academic tennis camp for \$5 a day (there are no-cost options as well).

The tennis program has a K-2 team and a 3-5 team. The K-2 players use the hockey rink at the Danny Jones complex and the 3-5 players use the tennis courts. All students are taught “10 and Under Tennis” which is a United States Tennis Association (USTA) countrywide program.

“Parents have embraced the tennis programs,” said Farrelly. “The goal is to expand to middle and high school so students can play in sanctioned tournaments and also develop a love for tennis which can be enjoyed for life.”

Farrelly added that parents appreciated having translators on-site at each match and at the award ceremony. Not only do parents receive weekly updates from the School Parent Liaison through the Talking Points App, but parents are able to access pictures of their children playing tennis and a weekly parent letter on the LYTA’s webpage.

“The parents and students are able to get to know each other,” said Farrelly. “Tennis also gives the kids something to talk about that is not school-related.”

Tennis is also promoted at Dunston where the school PE coach made it part of the curriculum and Farrelly also ran an introductory month-long tennis program at Dunston for students in 21st Century after-school program. Students attended once-a-week instruction. April Gift from the USTA was there on their final day to pass out prizes and certificates.

This was made possible thanks to the USTA donation of equipment. The kits include a digital curriculum, nets, 30 racquets, and more. Gift said the kits are an extension of their mission to create a better pathway to tennis for all grade levels. Kits are available by contacting Gift at gift@sctennis.com.

“I would like to give a shout out to the staff at the schools, parents, and LYTA members that are there every week helping at the facilities,” added Farrelly.

“We want to give students an opportunity to learn the game and learn it affordably,” said Gift. “A lot of kids don’t have opportunities because there is no programming. So this type of partnership allows for expanded tennis instruction at no cost.”

The Danny Jones facility is looking forward to a multimillion-dollar facelift this year. Farrelly is excited to have facilities that can be used and enjoyed by students and parents with opportunities to experience multiple sports moving forward.



Left – Students earned certificates and trophies for participation in afterschool tennis; Middle – CCSD’s Danny Jones tennis players and their families; Right – A CCSD students student participates in afterschool tennis



North Charleston Creative Arts students observe the Olympics

Mary Barr, Kindergarten Teacher, and Kenya Cummings, Teacher's Assistant at North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School gave their students an up-close glimpse of the Olympics.

In accordance with their state standard of "recognizing the significance of symbols of the United States that represent its democratic values, including the American flag" (K-3.1) as well as experiencing real-world learning opportunities, Mrs. Barr's kindergarten class has been discussing and watching the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

The class watched clips from the opening ceremonies, noting the Olympic torch, the many flags represented, watched our American athletes process into the ceremonies, and watched clips from skiing and snowboarding events. Barr's friend from attending the University of South Carolina works on the marketing partnerships team for the US Ski and Snowboard Team and sent some very exciting goodies to her class. Every student in the class received a US Ski and Snowboard folder, notepad, sticker sheet, pin, and bib worn by our US ski and snowboard athletes.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AT CAROLINA PARK ELEMENTARY



A Unified Special Olympics was held at Carolina Park Elementary School Friday, April 22, 2022. Thirty students were paired with a buddy and cheered on by the entire school as they marched to the event field.

Olympians were joined by their peers from Mount Pleasant Academy in competed in various activities before being treated to a pizza lunch from Migliori's Pizzeria, followed by an awards ceremony.

West Ashley students compete in Powderpuff games

Put a W in the win column for the Freshman at West Ashley High School. They took the top spot at this year's Powderpuff games. In this good old-fashioned competition, the freshman beat the sophomores. The seniors took down the juniors, and the night ended with a championship matchup where the Freshman won 30-0!!



CCSD recognizes more than 50 student-athletes on NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

Charleston County School District (CCSD) honors the student-athletes from the Class of 2022 who signed or will sign a National Letter of Intent on National Signing Day.

**THE FOLLOWING 54 CCSD STUDENT-ATHLETES REPRESENTING SEVEN CCSD SCHOOLS
AND A TOTAL OF TEN SPORTS ARE SET TO PLAY AT THE COLLEGE LEVEL:**



Academic Magnet

Oliver Abar – Haverford College - Lacrosse



Baptist Hill

Aiden Bailey – Milligan University - Bowling



James Island Charter

Trip Brown – Spartanburg Methodist College – Baseball
D.J. Dickerson – Fayetteville State University - Football
Hogan Garner – Clemson University – Baseball
John Grant – Coastal Carolina University - Football
Kayla Freeman – Spartanburg Methodist College – Soccer
Owen French – Spartanburg Methodist College – Baseball
Hannah Higgins – USC-Salkehatchie – Softball
Tia Lucas – North Carolina Central University – Track and Field
Lillian Ray – College of Charleston – Soccer
Jeb Stevens – Flagler College – Cross Country
Torren Thomas – USC-Salkehatchie - Softball



North Charleston

Evander Jones – Bluefield State College - Football



R.B. Stall

Ky'Juan Mack – College of the Desert – Football
Terrance Mitchell – Ramah Juco Academy – Football
Nathaniel Rock – Newberry University - Football



Wando

John Bagwell – Sewanee – Baseball
Piper Barnhart – Austin Peay University – Cross Country
Kendall Bensen – East Carolina University – Swimming
Kaleigh Bosak – Chattanooga – Soccer
Ben Bullard – College of Charleston – Baseball
Thomas Campagna – USC-Lancaster – Baseball
Morgan de Barros – USC-Upstate - Soccer
Ava deLyra – Clemson University – Lacrosse
Peter Foulke – College of Wooster – Lacrosse
Sophie Frece – University of Tampa – Swimming
Calder Garriss – The Citadel – Baseball
Lucas Green – Keiser University – Lacrosse
Thomas Ketchin – Anderson University – Baseball
Regan Leach – University of Lynchburg - Swimming
Branton Little – Wofford College – Baseball
Destynd “Des” Loring – William Penn University – Football
Gabe Major – William Penn University - Football
Caitlin Mason – University of New Hampshire – Swimming
Kieran Maurer – Anderson University – Lacrosse
Laurel Maynor – Converse College – Tennis
Langdon Moore – Allegany College of Maryland – Baseball
Isabella Pecunes – Providence Christian College - Soccer
Caroline Richvalsky – Chattanooga – Soccer
Halle Schart – Roanoke College – Swimming
Mary Shaw – UNC-Wilmington – Swimming
Jer Solinger – University of Northern Iowa – Football
Kennedi Walker – The Citadel – Soccer
Madison Wood – Florida Southern College - Lacrosse



West Ashley

Dravian Blake – Benedict College - Football
Jordan Hoppes – Columbia College – Softball
Gabriel Johnson – Muskingum University – Football
Jahleel Porter – Virginia Military Institute – Football
Sakharis Smalls – Benedict College – Football
Matthew Smith – Spartanburg Methodist College – Baseball
Zaye'Quan Smith – Bluefield State College – Football
Enuka Taylor – Guilford College – Soccer
Calib Thompson – Spartanburg Methodist College - Baseball



COMMUNITY AND PHILANTHROPY

Hootie’s Homegrown Roundup canceled, but not the donations

While Charleston County School District (CCSD) was not able to host the annual Hootie & Blowfish Homegrown Roundup this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they were still able to partner up with the band to support their students. Hootie & Blowfish donated supplies (via Walmart) to four CCSD schools: Charleston Progressive Academy, James Simons Montessori School, Lambs Elementary School, and North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School.

The back-to-school event traditionally provides services and back-to-school supplies for 1,000 students from CCSD Title 1 schools. The services and supplies are donated by the band Hootie & the Blowfish and various local community businesses that include the following: haircuts, dental evaluations, eye exams, and backpacks filled with school supplies.

Hootie & the Blowfish are one of the most successful music groups of all time selling over 25 million albums world-wide. The band believes they have a responsibility to use their celebrity status to help improve the lives of those in need, especially children. This type of philanthropic spirit led the band to establish Hootie’s Homegrown Roundup: Back to School Basics in 2007. CCSD greatly appreciates Walmart and Hootie & the Blowfish for donating their time, effort, and generous donations to supply students with much needed school supplies.



Left to right: Cadets celebrate; Principal Robert Perrineau and instructor Karla Ferreta-Clark congratulate a cadet; MMA cadets; Cadets react to their surprise gift of a personal laptop

MMA students surprised with new laptops at digital inclusion celebration

Forty Military Magnet Academy (MMA) students were invited along with their teacher Carla Ferrette-Clark to the Charleston Workforce and Digital Inclusion Day on Thursday, February 24, 2022. The annual event celebrated 10 years of Internet Essentials and preparing today’s workforce for tomorrow’s digital future. During the event, Comcast surprised the students with brand new personal laptops. Ferrette-Clark, MMA’s 2023 Teacher of the Year, was also recognized. Comcast is been committed to bridging the digital

divide and advancing future workforce readiness by expanding broadband access and connectivity in South Carolina’s diverse communities. COVID-19 accelerated the need for digital equity and internet adoption programs. In response, Comcast recently announced a \$100 million commitment to advance social justice and equality. Since 2011 and through the Internet Essentials program, Comcast has connected more than 10 million Americans and 35,000+ Metro Charlestonians from low-income families to the internet at home.

STUDENTS AT LAING EXPAND GO BABY GO PROJECT WITH COMMUNITY DONATIONS



Since 2018, Laing Middle School has partnered with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) through the Go Baby Go Project. The program provides modified ride-on toy vehicles for young children with mobility disabilities so they can move around independently.

Dr. Mel Goodwin, the STEM coach at Laing, oversees the project at the school. Students assemble the toy vehicles to meet the needs of specific patients based on input from the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and then donates them to the patients at MUSC to use while in the hospital

and once at home once they have been discharged.

“Our STEM program enables our staff and students to see a situation that could be improved and help bridge the gap between current reality and future possibility,” said Principal Jay Whitehair.

“I learned about the project at a national conference and thought this would be a natural thing for Laing to participate,” said Goodwin. “Independent mobility is so important to the development of young children that we now regard it as a basic human right.”

The first recipient was born with no legs and just one arm. To use the ride on vehicle, he needed a joystick. The students designed a joystick to replace the standard foot pedal which worked perfectly for the young child.

Since then, more than 120 Laing students have participated in the project, completing several dozen cars.

“We want to extend our reach throughout South Carolina,” said Goodwin. “To do that we have to increase our budget and expand our operations.”

Two students set out on a lofty fundraising mission at the start of the school year. Megan Hall and Lia Lieberman, both residents of Hamlin Plantation, went door to door with their pitch about the project and have secured \$1,000.

“I think this is a great story of kids wanting to help others, and taking personal initiative to make it happen,” said Goodwin.

“I am so proud that Megan and Lia have taken upon themselves to raise money,” added Whitehair. “Most importantly, they are trying to bring a sense of happiness to kids that otherwise might not have that opportunity. Megan and Lia are prime examples of why so many of us have chosen a career in education. My hope is they will provide inspiration to everyone reading this article that we as a community can come together to support a common good.”

Goodwin explained that \$5,000 will enable them to modify 24 cars in their effort to end adaptive play barriers. He hopes that the annual spring fundraiser, financial resources from MUSC, and community donations will help the team reach that goal.

“The real payoff is when you get to see the children use the vehicles and their expressions,” said Goodwin.

Hall, who is a seventh grader said she learned about the project after seeing an assembled car in the Fab Lab (STEM classroom) at school. She was intrigued and decided to join.

Hall and Lieberman spend their lunch period and recess in the lab with Goodwin modifying the cars as orders come in.

“My next door neighbor has special needs and I know how hard things can be for her and these kids, so I wanted to do something to give back,” said Hall. “It is exciting to see how happy these children are to receive these cars.”

Hall said it takes about a week to complete a car. Each child’s mobility issue is different so the cars are custom modified to feature either a remote control, joy stick, push button or foot pedal.

Lieberman enjoys the engineering aspect of the STEM projects and was inspired by the idea of working on such a project and helping others.

“With STEM, the purpose is problem solving,” said Lieberman. “This project helps solve problems in the real world. These toy cars can be life changing for a toddler. Participating in Go Baby Go is important to me because we’re changing lives.”

Goodwin agreed.

“Our students instantly get the point of the project,” said Goodwin. “They think about another child not being able to get around and they understand the significant impact that has on their lives. The importance of the project is so obvious at that point.”



Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary has successful fundraiser

Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School (ARCA) fourth Grade teachers and students completed a very successful My Furry Valentine fundraiser. The total amount of funds raised was \$552.90 as well as a truckload of supplies. The Charleston Animal Society awarded ARCA with their 2022 Animal Champion Award.



FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

Hunley Park teacher hosts Ukrainian family



The Burrills are hosting a family from Ukraine

Tanya Burrill settled into life in the United States with her husband just a handful of years ago. The young couple met while teaching English in Ukraine.

Today, Burrill is an ESOL (English as a Second Language) teacher at Hunley Park Elementary School where she is living out her passion for helping those most in need. Burrill is also doing that in her personal life. She and her husband have opened up their home and are hosting a Ukrainian family who sought refuge from their war-torn country.

Burrill was born and raised in Dnipro, Ukraine. Her grandmother always wanted to be a teacher and Burrill was drawn to the profession as well. She went to school for English and earned her Master's in English Language and Literature.

"It is very common to learn English in Ukraine," said Burrill. "I taught young children while I earned a degree to teach adults. It was fun and enjoyable but I wanted to take it to the next level."

Americans are not strangers to Ukraine, and there are many English Language instructors. While teaching adults, Burrill met her husband. He eventually wanted to return to the states and she accompanied him to North Carolina in 2016 where there is a large population of Ukrainians. Many of them speak Russian and Ukrainian and Burrill was able to assist them in many ways.

"I was able to see what teaching English looked like in the United States," said Burrill. "We moved to Charleston a year later and I researched opportunities with Charleston County School District."

Hunley Park needed a substitute teacher and with the help of Chris Hagy, the district's ESOL Coordinator, she was assigned the position. Then COVID-19 hit. Burrill used that opportunity to begin the state's Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE). While Burrill completes this certification, she is enjoying teaching K-5 ESOL.

"When you meet Ms. Burrill, you know right away that she

genuinely cares for people," said Principal Katchia Gethers. "She has a calmness and gentleness to her and makes everyone feel at home. That's a rare quality for a person to have."

When Burrill moved to America, she knew her challenge would be to find a way to teach English in the states.

"I have found a way and I love it," said Burrill. "Some of these children are vulnerable and face challenges American children may not. Having been an English learner myself I know how they must feel. Being able to help these students is like being a part of something really big. It's very rewarding."

Burrill's personal life has been too.

A country in turmoil

There are times when Burrill is homesick and wants to go home to visit her family. However, her emotions have been on a rollercoaster since February when Russia invaded Ukraine. Her parents, siblings, and extended family are all still there and she keeps up with them on group family chats, among other ways.

"Ukraine is a big country, so they are not in the worst of it," explained Burrill. "They are in a humanitarian hub and have not been occupied. The hospital there is treating wounded soldiers, and there are food distribution areas. We hope it stays that way until it is all over."

Burrill's family members have become accustomed to the random bombs that are dropped in their vicinity. There are constant alarms and the war has gone on so long they've memorized the sounds and understand when it is time to retreat for cover.

Others are not so lucky. Burrill has friends whose family members had to leave because they were in areas with Russian soldiers and tanks.

Burrill and her husband wanted to help where they could. They learned of a website called ukrainetakeshelter.com. The platform allows re-settlers to request room and board and offers an opportunity for citizens across the globe to open their homes.

"We've always been open in terms of our home," said Burrill. "We've hosted people before and when we learned of this international site helping Ukrainians who were seeking a place to stay, we knew what we needed to do."

The Burrill family is hosting a grandmother, an adult daughter, and an eight-year-old daughter. They evacuated Ukraine as conditions worsened. The family fled to the border and entered the United States through Mexico, eventually making their way to Georgia. Using the Ukraine Take Shelter website, the family contacted the Burrill's and they have been living with them for several months. The young girl was enrolled in school at Hursey Montessori right away and thrived during her short time there.

Burrill said the little girl fell in love with the school where she was showered with love and gifts from students and staff.

"I told them they could stay as long as they needed to stay," said Burrill. "They don't speak English, have very little

belongings, and no transportation. So we are serving as the middle man and helping them with anything they need to start their new life."

Principal Gethers knew Burrill's family was from Ukraine. When the attack on Ukraine began, Gethers started to ask her how she was doing and how her family was doing. Those check-ins were emotional for both of them.

"One day, when I was checking in, I noticed that she actually was smiling and seemed upbeat," said Gethers. "During our conversation, I found out that she had invited a family from Ukraine to live with her. She found a way to help those in need even when her own family was in need. I wanted everyone to know her story—to find hope in a world that causes pain and realize that the human spirit gets renewed every time we choose to love and lend a hand."

Burrill said the Charleston community has been amazing in terms of assistance and offers to help.

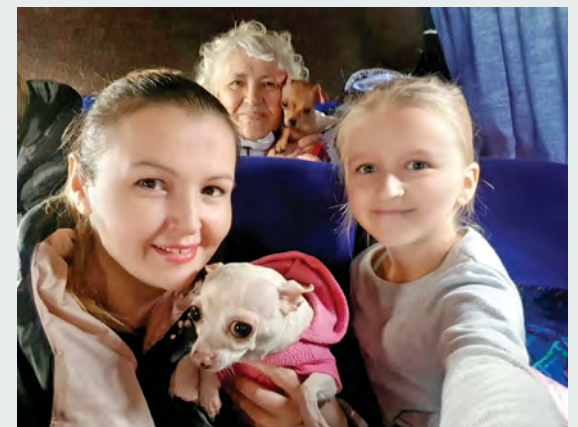
"We have had a lot of help from the community and my husband and I are fortunate that we have what we need to support this family," said Burrill. "We were even able to secure employment for the young mother so she can begin earning money."

There are some things that professionals in the community can help with, such as help with immigration filing, legal advice, and transportation.

"The grandmother has chosen to return to her hometown once it is safe to do so and the mother and child intend to stay in Charleston," said Burrill. "We may need legal counsel to help determine how all of that is going to work."

In the meantime, the Burrills and their new extended family are looking forward to summer where just maybe there will be less worry.

"If my family had to leave and needed a place to stay, I would hope someone on the other side would do the same for them and take them in," said Burrill. "We are honored to be able to help."



Family from Ukraine



Backpacks with goodies donated

Owens-Corning, a global company that develops and produces insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composites, partnered with Midland Park Primary School to donate back bags filled with goodies!



“Cool Cops” at Haut Gap Middle

The City of Charleston Police Department deployed their “Cool Cops” to Haut Gap Middle School for a day of “Pops and Cops.”



Buist Academy service project

Buist Academy completed a service project in which students collected canned goods to donate to the Lowcountry Food Bank from November 1 – 17, 2021. Over 3,000 items were collected and donated.

Office of Family and Community Engagement’s FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY EXPO



Charleston County School District’s Office of Family and Community Engagement held their first annual community expo, showcasing community and district resources for students and their families. Attendees had the opportunity to browse hundreds of vendors, attended breakout sessions highlighting curriculum, opportunities, community partners, and a nationally recognized keynote speaker. Breakfast, lunch, and childcare were also provided.

Other expos were held at individual schools throughout the year, as well. The purpose of each event was to provide parents and students an opportunity to learn about the schools, district departments, and community partners that can help support each family’s needs.

U.S. Senator part of celebration to highlight Vision To Learn Charleston

School-based vision health initiative will provide K-12 students throughout CCSD with free vision screenings, eye exams, and prescription glasses



Charleston County School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees and staff members joined U.S. Senator Tim Scott, City of Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg, and Vision To Learn Founder Austin Beutner at a celebration where 57 students at Stono Park Elementary School received new eyeglasses. Stono Park is one of many schools in the district that received school-based vision services through a collaboration between Vision To Learn, CCSD, and MUSC Health.

An estimated 10,000 children in Charleston County schools go to school every day without the glasses they need to see the board, read a book, or participate in class. Through this program, every student in CCSD will be provided a vision screening, eye exam, and – if needed - a pair of prescription glasses, free of charge, by Vision To Learn.

“At a time when our country is struggling to figure out what a just and equitable future should look like, this effort provides a good start,” said Austin Beutner, Founder and Chairman of Vision To Learn said. “Our mission is to make sure every child has the glasses they need to succeed in school and in life.”

Vision To Learn is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help kids in underserved communities get the glasses they need to see clearly at school. The program provides access to care to students on school campuses using a mobile vision clinic – an optometric office on wheels – staffed with licensed eye health professionals.

About one in four children, whether from a family with means or a family struggling to get by, will naturally need glasses. Children who need glasses and don't have them are more likely to be misdiagnosed with behavioral issues in kindergarten, be considered “slow” learners by 5th grade, and drop out of high school. Unfortunately, in low-income urban and rural communities, most children who need glasses don't have them due to financial constraints, language barriers, unresponsive health bureaucracies, or the simple fact there are no eye care professionals in their neighborhood. This program solves the

problem by bringing the glasses to the kids where they are almost every day—their local neighborhood school.

Here's how it works. Vision To Learn visits schools, where their staff teams up with classroom educators, school nurses, and public health departments to make sure every child receives a vision screening. For children who don't pass the screening, Vision To Learn vans, staffed with trained eye care professionals, visit schools to provide eye exams and glasses. All free of charge to the child and their family. Since launching in Charleston County School District this fall, Vision To Learn has provided over 800 eye exams and 670 glasses to students in nine schools.

Since launching in CCSD this fall, Vision To Learn has provided 810 eye exams and 670 glasses to students in nine schools.

Founded in 2012, Vision To Learn has screened over 1.2 million children, and provided over 320,000 eye exams and 257,000 glasses nationwide to students in 14 states and the District of Columbia.

Senator Scott helped students try on their glasses for the first time, to the applause of other students and school staff.

“We are thrilled that Vision To Learn has partnered with our district at this time when school-based vision services are so desperately needed,” said Don Kennedy, Interim Superintendent of Schools. “The COVID pandemic has made it even tougher for students to access the regular eye check-ups they need, leaving many of our students with uncorrected vision issues. This program is a perfect fit to fill the gap.”

Vision To Learn's program will help students in affiliation with MUSC Health, which provided capital funding for the mobile vision clinic, and offers additional choices to families for continuity of care, including specialized optometric and ophthalmologic care for students in need of more complex care following the initial “glasses” exam. As many as 20% of students who receive eye exams by Vision To Learn are likely to be referred for follow-up care to local community providers.

“The idea is to reach out to children who otherwise most likely would not receive any eye care to provide them with a screening examination and a pair of glasses free of charge to enhance their ability to learn,” said Dr. Andrew Eiseman, Professor, and Chair of the Storm Eye Institute. “MUSC, including our senior leadership, our children's hospital, and the Storm Eye Institute all 100% agree with that philosophy.”

“Stono Park is honored to partner with the Vision To Learn program,” said Stono Park Principal Kimberly Richards. “Eye care is a crucial part of taking care of the whole child, so in turn, they can be successful academically. This gift of vision screenings and eye exams helps our scholars to understand the importance of checking on your eye health regularly. The mobile vision unit, providing access while at school, and no cost of prescription glasses is a joy and gift to families!”

Vision To Learn's program in Charleston is a one-year pilot authorized by the South Carolina legislature. To continue service, the program is seeking a legal change allowing nonprofit mobile vision clinics to visit Title I school sites and help underserved children in the Charleston region. By acting in this year's session, the legislature would make possible an effort that will help children in schools in CCSD and nearby communities for years to come.

This program is made possible thanks to the support of a long list of generous funders, led by local philanthropist Henry Blackford, including Medical University of SC (MUSC Health), MUSC Children's Health, MUSC Health Storm Eye Institute, The Duke Endowment, Essilor Vision Foundation, Motley Rice, LLC, Roper Saint Francis Physicians Endowment, Ingevity, First Citizens Bank, SC Physicians Care Charity, Walmart, Charleston County, Amanda's Fund, Volvo US Car Operations Community Fund, TRUIST, The Ceres Foundation, Carolina Panthers, Henry & Sylvia Yashchik Foundation, Elizabeth Anderson Endowment for Children, and a number of family funds and individuals.

E.B. Ellington Elementary holds THE SCHOOL'S FIRST WALK FOR AUTISM



In honor of Autism Awareness Month in April, staff members at E.B. Ellington Elementary held the school's first Walk for Autism on Friday, April 22.

Teachers and faculty discussed the importance of awareness with students and ways that they can support classmates, family, and friends with autism.

Students in grades K-5 walked around the perimeter of the large field on campus.



Simmons-Pinckney Middle students graduate from Pathways to Leadership



Students at Simmons Pinckney Middle School were recognized as the first-ever sixth grade cohort graduates from the Pathways to Leadership program. The cohort was organized and coordinated in partnership with Charleston Promise Neighborhood and Doors to Dream.

Water Mission working with Sanders-Clyde



Thanks to Water Mission, students at Sanders-Clyde Elementary School participated in events to raise awareness about the global water crisis. The partnership began a few through the school's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) teacher, Lucy McCann.

To build awareness that 2.5 billion people in the world do not have access to safe water, Water Mission provided materials so students could learn more about the world's water shortage. For example, Sanders-Clyde scholars read *The Water Princess* by Susan Verde. After discussing how far some people have to travel to obtain safe water, fourth and fifth grade students participated in a relay race carrying water.

Then, on March 26, 2022, 30 Sanders-Clyde students and several teachers participated in Water

Mission's Walk for Water. Participants carried a bucket of water for three miles to represent the journey that so many individuals around the world travel to access safe water.

The following month, Water Mission volunteers visited the school's Engineering Club and presented the students with a challenge. Scholars had to design their water filters with materials (varying sizes of pebbles, sand, charcoal, etc.) to transform dirty water with debris into cleaner, clearer water. They worked in teams to design their water filters and had the opportunity for multiple trials if they were not happy with the first attempt.

"Our students enjoyed partnering with Water Mission for multiple informative and engaging activities," said McCann. "We look forward to working with them in the future!"

FOOD DISTRIBUTION – A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT



The food distribution was a collaboration with Jerry Zucker Middle School, the Community Resource Center of North Charleston and other business partners. One of the major partners gave away 208 turkeys.

PEPPERHILL ELEMENTARY'S COMMUNITY EXPO



Pepperhill Elementary School hosted a community expo for students, families, and the community.

Family Engagement at North Charleston Elementary



Family Engagement at North Charleston Elementary School happens year round through a variety of projects, programs, and activities. A crowd favorite was a trip to see the Stingrays play. Stingrays Family Engagement Night was made possible by Project Prevent, which provided the tickets.

ARTS

SCMEA REGION, ALL STATE BAND AND ORCHESTRA PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED



Charleston County School District (CCSD) Band and Orchestra students (see adjacent page) auditioned for the opportunity to participate in Region and All State ensembles, and received the honor of being selected as part of these prestigious opportunities. Region and All State ensembles are selected annually as part of a rigorous audition process and include students from all over South Carolina. Congratulations to all who were selected, and to their Band and Orchestra teachers who helped them prepare.

Regional and All State band and orchestra participants – continued from page 40

High School

Burke High School Band

Region Band
Jabori Carter

Charleston County School of the Arts High School Band

Senior All State Band
Jack Altenbach, Maria Alexander, Gabby Hylton, Soren Jones, and Severancerancent

Clinic All State Band
Madeline Church, Lucas Fetton, and Darby Horschel

All State Jazz Band (Richards Band)
Jack Altenbach, Tyson Gallerani, Gabe Goldman, and Bryce Waldron-Noren

All Sate Jazz Band (Tomaro Band)
John Lapolla, and Skyler Waddell

Region Senior Band
Jeremiah Collins, Nick Cook, Kasyiah Dunham, Joshua Feaster, Max Gair, Ellie Garner, Gabe Goldman, Gabriella Hylton, Soren Jones, Sydney Kahler, Will Lamar, Carolyn Macklin, Evy Massey, Alex Park, Aiden Rix, Martina Salinas, Ella Grace Sines-Thomasson, Abby Thornley, Flora Majkrzak, Austin Walton, and Addison Wood

Region Clinic Band
Ella Aikman, Emma Brubaker, Jackson Fox, Kylie Kothera, Kamrin Mungin, Zalynn Rodwell, Aaron Ruopp, Nick Severance, Skyler Waddell, Jason Wan, and Mia Voelker

Charleston County School of the Arts High School Strings

All State Orchestra
Carolina Agrest, Maria Alexander, Evan Baker, Devin O'Brien, Addie Black, Riley Borkowski, Gabrielle Chinnis-Limehouse, Giovanni Cusatis, Nash Doar, Decker Elam, Lena Fimian, Elaina Gable, Tyson Gallerani, Kayley Genova, Justin Gilliard, Nicholas Grayson, Eloise Hastie, Sophia Kozlowski, Alex Lim, Daniel Maniscalco, Margaret Moore, Peter O'Malley, Grace Pennington, Katilin Petersen, Emily Russell, Alex Selby, Kate Selby, Cyle Tang, Trow Weeks, Jade Williams, and Sadie Wood

James Island Charter High School Band

Region Band
Andrew Carriera, Maddie Chanthabane, Noah Counts, Corinne Crumpton, Tristan Donaldson, Mary Alice Fairey, Bashwyn Fitch, Lukas Garvin, Avery Gordon, Noah Maier, Joshua Nisoff, Alexander Palmer, Juliana Tinoco, Christina Vines, Gabriel Wohlfarth, and Shane Zbyrowski

All State Band
Kate Harper, and Christina Vines

Lucy Beckham High School Strings

Region Orchestra
Jackson Allison, Alyssa Almaguer, Caroline Campbell, Christian Curran, Caleb Davenport, Daniel Fletcher, Mila Ganaway, Jacob Hammond, Henry Giles, Jackson Haak, Lila Morrall, Lydia Plante, and Jason Sherrill

All State Orchestra
Christian Curran, and Lydia Plante

Lucy Beckham High School Band

Senior All State Band
Nathan Freeman

Clinic All State Band
Savannah Bowlin, Stephen Carlisle, Nora Dukes, Mia Liebenow, and Oliver Murrell

Senior Region Band
Wilson Collins, Marcus Lewis, and Cooper Snowden

Clinic Region Band
August Boozer, Stephen Carlisle, Matthew DeBarros, Nora Duke, Neil Durlach, Pete Harden, Mia Liebenow, Ryan Lockett, Donovan McClain, Oliver Murrell, Isabella Nichols, Presley Osborne, James Rosenthal, Ian Rutledge, Elsie Seay, Grange Simons, and Max Thomas

Wando High School Strings

Region Orchestra
Bella Bausano, Oliver Berle, Samuel Boyd, Joseph Brooks, Autumn Buchta, Kennedy Chisolm, Nicholas Cladakis, Alaina Crothers, Casey Fitzgerald, Anna Claire Hughes, Leila Ibach, Jackson Jones, Liam Kleckley, Molly MacKellar, Braden Mann, Annika Meetze, Mayla Merrifield, Justinian Murphy Abbott, Tyler Phan, Ashleigh SecorMiles Sullivan, Ian Suthon, Rylie Tart, Katya Tokarev, Madison Villafane, Trista Walter, and Jonathan Wang

All State Orchestra
Bella Bausano, Autumn Buchta, Leila Ibach, and Braden Mann

Wando High School Band

All State Band
Wes Baldwin, Kaitlyn Barnard, Bella Bausano, Annabelle Boozer, Brendan Breen, Blayne Burklow, Walker Cashon, Will Castellow, Claire Cathey, Logan Clements, Jackson Craft, Riley Craft, Carolyn Dang, Samuel DeSantis, Evan Furtaw, Julia Gaglione, Joseph Gaglione, Claire Gibson, Carter Gillespie, Giovanni Giuliano, Sam Henshaw, Alexa Hills, Luke Interrante, Ann Johnson, Edward Jones, Hugh Kennemur, John King, Caden Lagestee, Kiersten Miller, Peyton Moody, Devon Madelstumph, Emma Nodine, Wilson Orvin, Declan Paduani, Luke Phillips, Andrew Pitsis, Luca Ratliff, CJ Robinson, Bailey Samonte, Beckham Schou, Vivienne Sjolander, Nikolai Sjolander, Brooke Smith, Chase Snoots, Ren Takemoto, Annabelle Twomey, Finn Twomey, Lauren Wiggins, Jacob Winston, and Grace Zuo

Region Band
Lexie Allen, Claire Andersen, Kyle Angelich, Ethan Arthur, Miles Baldwin, Nash Baldwin, Katilyn Barnard, Conor Barton, Annabelle Boozer, Carter Brandt, Levi Broxom, Riley Bumgardner, Everett Busch, Blayne Burklow, Elijah Butler, Brooke Carlton, Cheyenne Lambton-Carr, Sophia Champ, Adam Chavez, Julia Cherry, Jacob Cox, Matthew Dang, Clara Danner, Devin Dietrich, Charlie Dentzman, Sara Embrey, Nathan Erenst, Isabel Favre, Nick Gergits, Claire Gibson, Michael Ferrara, Francesco Giuliano, Colsen Guy, Reagan Guy, Sela Guy, Breeden Hall, Corbin Harp, Sam Henshaw, Leila Hollingshead, Jackson Hooks, Sarah Hudspeth, Ethan Huff, Remington Joy, Leilana Kahalehoe, Pierson Kelley, Carson Kenner, Kathleen Kidd, Addy Rose Knotts, Fritz Kuester, Reby Levesque, Elise Lo, Avarie Lyon, Emerson Mackes, Sidonie Mahon, Kevin Maxted, Kiersten Miller, Peyton Moody, Chaz Mulligan, Devon Nadelstumph, Benjamin Nodine, Graham Norman, Cecilia Ollis, Erika Oltmann, Nicole Pace, Charlie Pratt, Luke Phillips, Kayden Pinto, Andrew Pitsis, William Ray, Colby

Reese, Logan Ryle, Eric Maciewjewski, Mackenzie Ring, Kennedy Rivers, CJ Robinson, Ryan Rodriguez, Beckham Schou, Brady Setser, Genevieve Sjolander, Brooke Smith, Adam Sokoloski, Noah Song, Samantha Spruill, Richard Stewart, Ren Takemoto, Cameron Thompson, Carleigh Torkian, So Takemoto, Anna Terry, Ryland Watson, Alexander Wiley, Zachary Wiley, Abby Wimer, Zachary Winston, Eleanor Yarbrough, Caleb Young, Avery Verzaal, Jeremy Zetrouer, and Meghan Zimmerman

West Ashley High School Band

Region Band
Ben Schell, and Makayla Stewart

Middle School

Camp Road Middle School Band

Region Band
Daniel Carreira, Collin Hlavac, Mikey Kardell, Leo Messia, Kynisha Middleton, Xavier Nutting, and Isaac Webb

All State Band
Mikey Kardell, and Xavier Nutting

Charleston County School of the Arts Middle School Band

All State Band
Ava Wolf, Julia Bates, and Calev Harrold

Region Symphonic Band
Charlie Cooper, Nadia Fox, Evelyn Gwin, Edward Hart, Sophia Hoffmann, Elijah Ellington, Simon Halberda, Nikolai Mackie, Celia Massey, Kaylin Mungin, Kyla Munoz, Gavriel Pekar, Sam Terrell, Abby Trolley, Kade Tumminia, and Elle Walton

Region Concert Band
Jenna Calafiore, Harrison Carter, Dante Criscitiello, Elliott de Hass, Sam Harris, Janai Smith, Kibru Stanfield, Emami McNeal, Addy Pryor, Javin Medina-Valencia, and Leo Voelker

Charleston County School of the Arts Middle School Strings

Region Orchestra
Sabreen Adem, J Edgard Batiz, Jordan Mae Bazzle, Annabella Cusatis, Luciano Cusatis, Santiago Calzada, Victoria Chan, Stella Dye, Lila Elm, Jacob Freligh, Kendrick Freligh, Juvon Gilliard, Ethan Hayre, Mercedes Griffin, Logan Jetter, Kenneth Joyce, Max Kai, Joshua Kozlowski, Paul Knox, Elijah Liu, Isaiah Liu, Mille Magee, Maisy McElroy, Maya Pehl, Michael Rayburn, Joseph Dorwart, Elliott MacDonald, Elliot MacDonald, Roger Martiznez, Jonathan Mei, Abbey Morea, Myles Owens-Walker, Reagan Passantino, Rayna Perez Prichard, Kate Selvitelli, Emma Stavrinakis, Zaida Stokes, Joseph Sun, John Stuckey, Alison Wager, Meghan Wells, Ava Whitener, Callie Williams, Clara Woolum

All State Orchestra
Victoria Chan, Luciano Cusatis, Lila Elm, John Gilliard, Kenneth Joyce, Elijah Liu, Elliot MacDonald, Jonathan Mei, Maya Pehl, Myles Owens-Walker, Rayna Perez Prichard, Kate Selvitelli, Callie Williams, and Ava Whitener

Laing Middle School Band

All State Band
Aubrey Gadson, Xander Gilbert, and Luke Spruill

Region Symphonic Band

Aaron Berkowitz, Lily Cunningham, Noah Davis, Joey Dixon, Grace DuBose, Amelia Evans, Mia Fletcher, Gage Hall, Anson Harrison, Austin Horry, Zanaya Howard, Ava Kaplan, Valerie Mejia-Gomez, Connor Manley, Peyton Miller, James O'Connor, Olivia O'Reilly, Chase Sargent, Caleb Trammel, John Tiller, Ava Torres, Eric Vera

Region Concert Band
Cannon Corless, Olivia Evans, Drake Fletcher, Lucas Johnson, Tate Kramarczyk, Oscar O'Neill, Gio Martinelli, Morgan Rogerson, Sam Wiesner

Laing Middle School Strings

Region Orchestra
Marshall Baker, Ava Daffron, Sanjana Gangaraju, Abby Huss, Brody Myles, Claire Sieverdes, Liam Rohrbacher, Kai Varitz, and Sylvi Wright

All State Orchestra
Sanjana Gangaraju

Moultrie Middle School Band

Region Band
Connor DuBay, Jaden Gethers, Gina Kim, Alaina Low, and Brandon Marcus

All State Band
All State Honor Band Members:
Rhys Brustoski

Moultrie Middle School Strings

Region Orchestra
Anna Dayan
Thomas C. Cario Middle School Band

All State Band
Noah Arnold, Jackson Bentley, Gideon Boyet, Evelyn Durkee, Graham Gregory, Thomas Haddigan, Tyler Heckman, Maria Lamberg, Nate Letoumeau, Alexa Maldonado, Marco Martino, Elizabeth Mellette, Noah Miller, Finn Northup, Nate Reese, Aiden Robinson, Brian Shay, Emma Smit, Ben Snyder, Minoru Takemoto, Makoto Thompson, Hanna Williams, Maxwell Winters, and Estee Yu

Region Band
Alivia Allen, Noah Arnold, Ryan Barnard, Duru Bayram, Jackson Bentley, Landon Blackmon, Tyler Blonshine, Dylan Brown, Jed Campbell, Greta Denning, Ayden Dehnkamp, Lucy Donohoe, Evelyn Durkee, Avery Doyle, Heather Ferraro, Libby Gibson, Graham Gregory, Mary Ella Grier, Thomas Haddigan, Torie Howard, William Kirlis, Natalia Klein, Kennedy Lagestee, Jackson Lamontagne, Emi Larsen, Hunter Landon, Emily McCain, Piper Macrill, Alexa Maldonado, Natasha Mann, Connor McDougle, Micah McDougle, Marco Martino, Ryan Myers, Zoe Norman, Braydon Norton, Cara Omo, Ace Piper, George Pishko, Katie Pratt, Nate Reese, Grace Rillorta,

Hunter Rinehart, Hollis Rivers, Emma Smit, Sasha Tomaich, Will Torkian, Andrew Tumminelli, Hanna Williams, Stryder Wilson, Daniel Yeomans, Erick Yu, Estee Yu, and Andrew Zuo

Thomas C. Cario Middle School Strings

Region Orchestra
Rebekah Appleton, Sameen Basunia, Fisher Bond, Aaron Gizzo, Ruby Gizzo, Bradley Rillo, Melina Su, Zachary Teachma, Makoto Thompson, and Maxwell Winters

All State Orchestra
Fisher Bond

Wando's chorus wins the gold at national event



Wando Chorus on stage in the performance hall



Senior Choir Officers Anna Scott Nuttall and Joseph Wiggins

Wando High School's chorus won the gold in a AAAA National Choral Competition in Orlando, FL. The Choir earned a Superior Rating for their performance and received the Best in Class Award for SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Base) Choir. The Choir earned 299 points out of 300 possible points from the judges for their performance.

"I am incredibly proud of our Wando chorus students," said Eric Wilkinson. "They worked hard to prepare for our Orlando festival performance and competition. This was a tremendous accomplishment considering all that we have been through in the past two years with the COVID-19 pandemic. This first-place finish in a national competition is a testament to our dedicated students and their phenomenal music-making skills."

Festival Disney gives middle and high school concert choirs, orchestras, and concert bands the chance to compete with other schools from across the country. Specially selected, nationally recognized adjudicators provide detailed, positive feedback to all ensembles through written and recorded comments as well as personalized feedback clinics following concert performances.

Wando's chorus had 91 students travel to Orlando to compete in the Festival Performance. Students performed three selections for the judges: "Lift Your Voice and Rejoice" by Victor Johnson; "Imbakwa" by Jim Popoulis; and "Jambo" arranged by Jacob Narverud. Wando Senior Emma Ridenhour was a featured soloist on "Imbakwa."



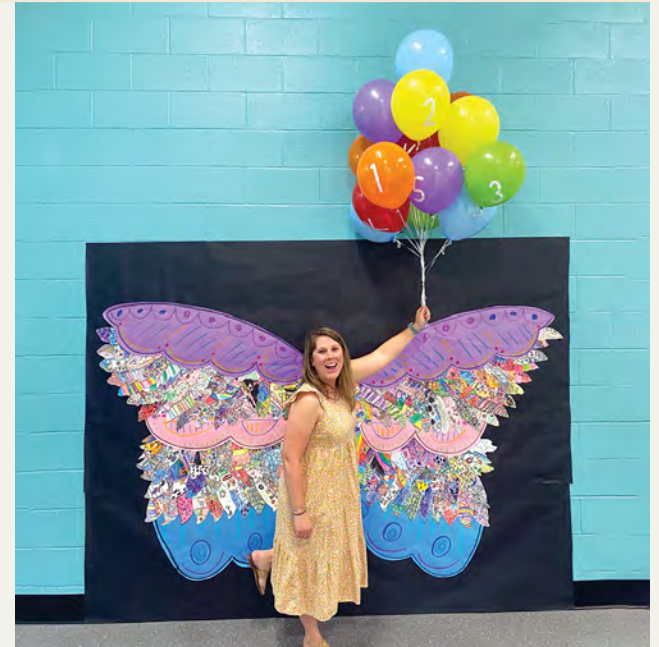
LAING MIDDLE JAZZ BAND VISITS JENNIE MOORE ELEMENTARY

Fifth grade students at Jennie Moore Elementary School were treated to a performance by the Laing Middle School Jazz Band who played popular songs that they all enjoyed. Many of these fifth graders look forward to joining the Laing Band when they get into sixth grade.

“WATCH OUR CREATIVITY GROW” ART SHOW AT STONO PARK ELEMENTARY



Stono Park Art Gallery



Mrs. Powell, Art Teacher

On May 3 2022, Stono Park Elementary held a “Watch Our Creativity Grow” Art Show impressing fellow students, parents and community members. Mrs. Powell, the art teacher transformed the multipurpose room into a beautiful art gallery filled with student’s CD-5th grade art projects from the school year. 1st grade students were inspired by many different mosaic artists to create their own large paper mosaic mural. Students first learned about texture creating their painted paper tiles then worked collaboratively to put together this artwork. Stono Park scholars school wide created clay projects displaying what they learned about form, 3D shapes and textures. Scholars were excited to see how the glaze has a heat reaction when fired in the kiln and changes colors. The self portraits were remarkable depictions of their self image. The beautiful art work was framed for purchase to fundraise for the Stono Park arts program.

Mount Zion Elementary students study fractured fairy tale *Rumpelstiltskin*

A representative from the Charleston Gaillard Center worked with second graders from Mount Zion Elementary School to study the fairy tale Rumpelstiltskin and a fractured version. Some of the many academic focuses were elements of a fairy tale, plot, point of view, and states of matter. Students colored puppets to retell the story on a stage, created bouncy balls, and did Q-tip weaving.



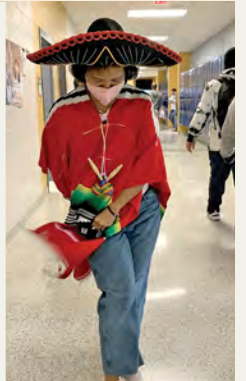
CULTURE

Hispanic Heritage Month at CCSD

Schools across CCSD celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with parades, parties, research, crafts, food, and more.



Baptist Hill Middle High



Burke High



Cooper River CAS



North Charleston Creative Arts



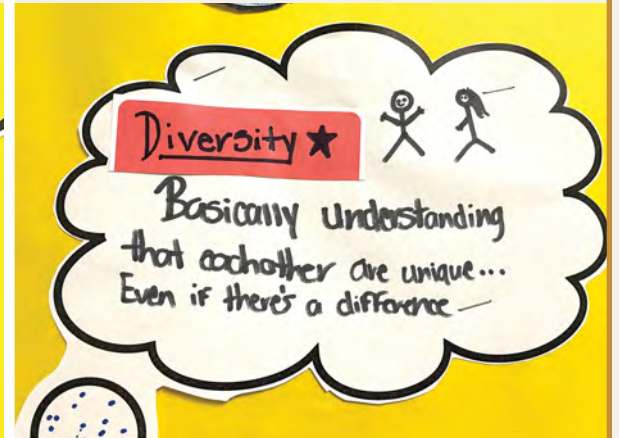
Northwoods Middle



Pinehurst Elementary



DANIEL JENKINS ACADEMY STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF EMBRACE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Daniel Jenkins Academy (DJA) students, faculty, and staff participated in a weeklong event emphasizing, educating, and inspiring all participants about the importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) earlier this month. The celebration included discussions and expressions of what diversity looks and sounds like, what it means to provide equity (as opposed to equality), and what it means to be inclusive of all individuals.

Students, along with faculty and staff members, expressed their ideas through illustrations and

words to highlight understandings of DEI and enhance DEI-themed bulletin boards throughout the building.

“Our staff worked hard to provide meaningful activities, and our students made good connections and showed deep thinking,” said Interim Principal Chad Ferguson. “We are excited to build on this work as we continue to make diversity, equity, and inclusion a foundation of our program at Daniel Jenkins.”

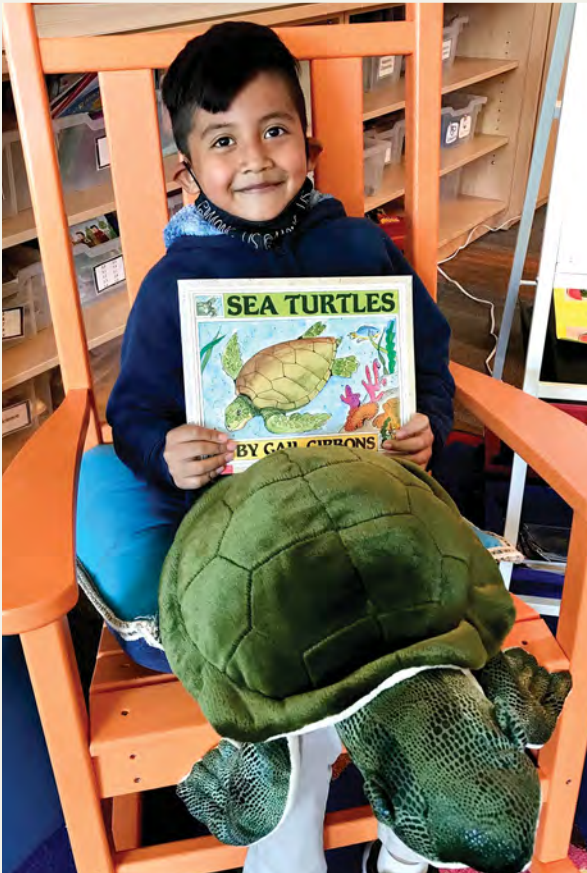
Month of the Military Child celebration at Lambs Elementary



As part of the Month of the Military Child celebration at Lambs Elementary, staff members, volunteers, and representatives from Joint Base Charleston welcomed students to school with a “High 5” line on Friday, April 22, 2022.

Later in the morning, the staff hosted a breakfast and ceremony to honor the students of the military. Chief Master Sergeant Rebecca Bateman (who has two students at Lambs) was the guest speaker

Dunston Elementary students learn about sea turtles and marine life



Second and third grade students at Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School learned about sea turtles and marine life in Charleston with Wounded Nature and their ESOL teacher, Ms. Ewert. These students were encouraged to share their learning with friends and family, practicing their English while they did so.



Fourth annual Peace Parade

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) and Memminger Elementary held their fourth annual Peace Parade in February. The students walked down Glebe Street into the Cistern Yard, promoting peace and happiness.

Native American Heritage Month at Stiles Point



Left – Classroom Totem Poles that represent nature and animal appreciation; Middle – Mrs. Smith on the Stiles Point Morning News presenting information about Native American Heritage; Right – Jennifer Smith’s students celebrate Native American Heritage Month

Jennifer Smith is a first-year Charleston County School District (CCSD) teacher at Stiles Point Elementary School. Like any good educator, she tries to give her students exposure to new and exciting experiences.

During the month of November, her students celebrated Native American Heritage Month. The class got an authentic experience, as Smith is a Hopi-Navajo Native American from the Southwestern Sandia Pueblo Tribe near Clovis, New Mexico, where the Clovis Point originated.

Smith’s maternal grandfather was born there and eventually moved South. In 2010, Smith visited the area and shared the experience with her husband, Frank Smith, (also a CCSD), and their son, Will, (a CCSD Kaleidoscope Mentor and College of Charleston student).

“On our trip, we witnessed the Tribal Council, a Tribal ceremonial dance, saw many original petroglyphs of our ancestors, visited the Pueblo dwellings, and visited the ancient tribal kiva used for religious ceremonies,” Said Smith. “It was a wonderful experience and opened my eyes to the continued needs of Indigenous people today. I learned the importance of our tribal symbols, the impact of peaceful, kind acts, and why our respect

for all nature is important in our culture.”

As a second grade teacher, Smith brings those values to her classroom daily.

“My students have participated in a Fall Potlatch Celebration of Kindness where each student made or brought small gifts to share with others,” added Smith. “We made a Classroom Totem Pole to show appreciation for nature and animals. We read *The Rough-Faced Girl* by Rafe Martin which is a Native American version of Cinderella, and wrote reflection papers about the Invisible Being in the story. We also completed a Helping Hand Challenge of 100 Acts of Kindness.”

Native American History Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the rich histories, diverse cultures, and important contributions of the nation’s first people.

“I chose to focus on the fact that not all Native Americans were savages and there to attack and harm others,” said Smith. “Many were helpers and there for good. The past cannot be changed, but the future can. Being respectful of all Native American traditions, and understanding cultural awareness can advance many generations to come.”

“On our trip, we witnessed the Tribal Council, a Tribal ceremonial dance, saw many original petroglyphs of our ancestors, visited the Pueblo dwellings, and visited the ancient tribal kiva used for religious ceremonies. It was a wonderful experience and opened my eyes to the continued needs of Indigenous people today. I learned the importance of our tribal symbols, the impact of peaceful, kind acts, and why our respect for all nature is important in our culture.”

– JENNIFER SMITH, Stiles Point Elementary School teacher

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

2022 National Merit Scholarship recipients

CCSD had a total of 30 semifinalists, 31 finalists, and 18 scholarship winners in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program

COLLEGE-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



Mary C. Compton
*National Merit University of
South Carolina Scholarship*



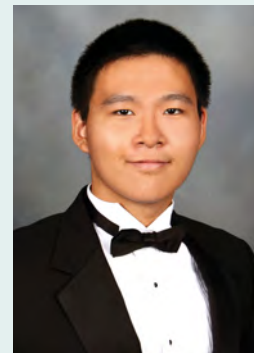
Kaylin L. Morris
*National Merit University of
South Carolina Scholarship*



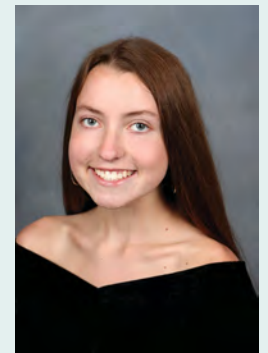
Randall C. Reed, Jr.
*National Merit Clemson
University Scholarship*



Anna L. Tangemen
*National Merit Loyola
University of Chicago
Scholarship*



David Y. Wang
*National Merit Clemson
University Scholarship*



Piper D. Wood
*National Merit University of
South Carolina Scholarship*

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL



Maddox R. Barron
*National Merit Vanderbilt
University Scholarship*



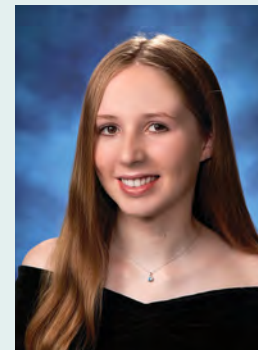
Bailey Chave
*National Merit Oklahoma
State University Scholarship*



Austin B. Foye
*National Merit University of
North Texas Scholarship*



Nolin P. Harris
*National Merit Purdue
University Scholarship*



Sarah G. Rickborn
*National Merit Rensselaer
Polytechnic Institute Texas
Scholarship*

COLLEGE-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS –continued

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



Elliot C. Catoe-Griffis
National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship



Ryan M. Kopanski
National Merit Clemson University Scholarship

\$2,500 SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



Asher L. Wallen
\$2,500 National Merit Scholarship

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



Eli A. Bundy
\$2,500 National Merit Scholarship

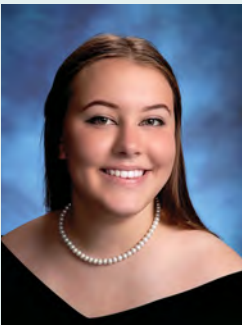
WANDO HIGH SCHOOL



Ryan L. Teachman
\$2,500 National Merit Scholarship

CORPORATE-SPONSORED

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL



Clarie E. Andersen
*National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine
and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship*



Akanksha S. Patwardhan
*National Merit South Carolina Sports Medicine
and Orthopaedic Center Scholarship*

About National Merit Scholarship Program

To become a Finalist, each Semifinalist had to complete a detailed scholarship application, which included writing an essay, describing leadership positions and contributions in school and community activities, showing an outstanding academic record, and being endorsed and recommended by a high school official. Semifinalists also had to take the SAT® or ACT® and earn scores that confirmed their performance on the initial qualifying test. From the Semifinalist group, about 15,000 attained Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists were chosen to receive National Merit Scholarships.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The majority of National Merit Scholarships offered each year are underwritten by some 400 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC's efforts to honor the nation's scholastically talented youth and encourage academic excellence at all levels of education.



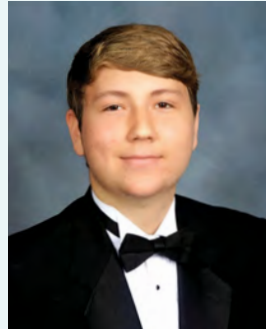
Congratulations to our 2022 CCSD Valedictorians!



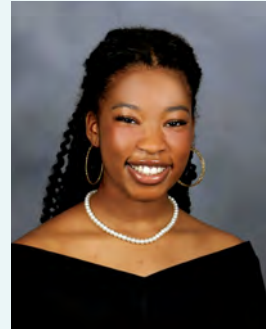
Huiwen Wang
Academic Magnet High



Thomas Chapman
*Allegro Charter School
of Music*



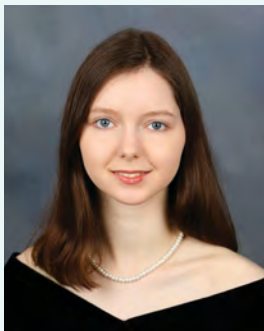
Aiden Elijah Bailey
Baptist Hill Middle High



Caitlin Morgan Forkerway
Burke High



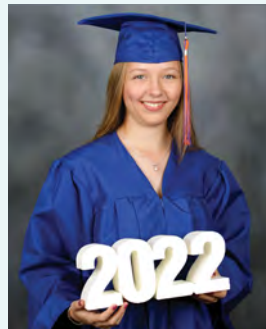
Darrian Wilson
*Charleston Charter School
for Math and Science*



Elaina Hope Gable
*Charleston County School
of the Arts*



Shaina Nadia Clark-Gable
Greg Mathis Charter High



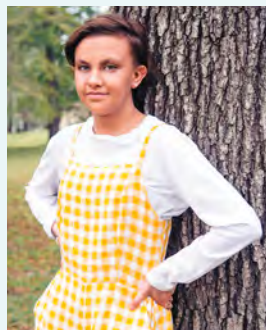
Claudia Anna Baicu
James Island Charter High



Byron Lionel White
Military Magnet Academy



Cindy Perez Ventura
North Charleston High



Abigail Eleanor Manuel
R.B. Stall High



Abigail Elizabeth Adajar
St. John's High



Ryan Teachman
Wando High



Sullivan Denver Markland
West Ashley High

Goodwin Student Earns Top Score On SC Ready Exam

Vanessa Gonzalez Ramos, a fourth grader at W.B. Goodwin Elementary School, earned a perfect score on her third grade South Carolina College - and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY).

The SC Ready program is a statewide assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics administered to students in grades 3–8 as required by the Education Accountability Act.

SC Ready exams are aligned to the standards for each subject and grade level. Standards specify what schools are expected to teach and what students are expected to learn.

“I cannot be more proud of our scholar, Vanessa Gonzalez Ramos,” said Principal Natasha Jones. “This is a special day at Goodwin to be a part of the kind of success that Vanessa had on such a high stakes test. It shows just what our students are capable of doing.”

According to the set performance levels, a student who exceeds expectations in the knowledge and skills necessary at a particular grade level of learning, as defined by the grade-level content standards, is well prepared for the next grade level and is well prepared for college and career readiness.

“As far as we know, Vanessa is the first students at Goodwin to earn a perfect score on SC’s Ready,” said Jones. “It just goes to show that with the right people in place and the support that she needed at home, great things can happen. With a little luck, she will not be the last Goodwin student to earn this honor.”

“Congratulations to Vanessa who worked very hard to earn this perfect score,” added CCSD’s Chief Academic Office, Karolyn Belcher. “Over the last few years, it has been hard for adults and students to stay focused on learning. Vanessa

showed what is possible if you work hard enough and have talented teachers working with you.”

Ramos was very happy with the outcome and said that others are capable of achieving the same outcome as well. “My advice is to listen to your teacher and do the work,” said Ramos.

When asked how she accomplished such a great score, Ramos said she listened a lot in class.

“In 2nd grade, I got into SAIL,” said Ramos. “All of this made me smarter.”

According to her third grade teacher Anna Grillo, Ramos is truly one of a kind.

“She is gracious, kind, and beautiful on the inside just as much as the out,” said Grillo. “Last year in class, she inspired me daily. She inspired me to be patient, and to look at life with an open heart. She always tried her best and accepted every challenge.”

Erin Carrino, her fourth grade English teacher, agrees.

“Vanessa is an incredible student, and I am so excited that she earned a perfect score on her SC Ready math test,” said Carrino. “She works hard every day, and her brilliance is contagious. Not only does she work to make herself successful, but she pushes others as well. She even motivates me to be a better teacher so that I can push her.”

Madison Clement is Ramos’ fourth grade math teacher. She describes Ramos as inquisitive, motivated, and resourceful.

“I am so fortunate to have Vanessa in my classroom,” said Clement. “She applies math concepts to improve herself and others every day. Her peers describe her as kind, smart, and determined. I am so proud of Vanessa for earning a



Vanessa Gonzalez Ramos (center) with Masimum Score Certificate of Achievement

perfect score on her state test.”

Grillo marveled at Ramos’ ability to motivate her classmates and show patience.

“That is something I had never before seen in a child,” said Grillo. “I am forever grateful to have been her teacher, and she made my first year of teaching an absolute privilege.”

CHAMP AWARDS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS



Alanah Alston
*St. James-Santee
Elementary-Middle*



Zion Smith
*St. James-Santee
Elementary-Middle*



Deja Commodore and
Jamison Simmons
Early College High School

Congratulations to Deja Commodore and Jamison Simmons, from Early College High School who were recognized as CHAMP awardees, as well as Zion Smith, and Alanah Alston from St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle. There were among many Charleston County School District students selected as CHAMPS.

The CHAMP Awards program is a partnership between Coaches for Character and Charleston County School District to recognize “struggling students who have done a lot of great things, overcome odds, exemplified character, made good grades, achieved amazing things but were never recognized.” It is an annual event that honors 70 Charleston County students. Two students were chosen from every eighth grade and twelfth grade. The award is designed to honor true “Unsung Heroes.” The nomination process, managed by Charleston County school counselors, focused on identifying and selecting students who often go unnoticed, even though they have accomplished wonderful things in their community, church, home, or school. Their selection is based on character, community service, academic effort, and overcoming odds.

WAHS SENIOR CHOSEN TO BE FEATURED AS A Profile of an SC Graduate

Nathan Goller-Deitsch, a senior at West Ashley High School, was selected to be featured as a Profile of a SC Graduate video by South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). He was nominated by Dr. Lindsay Hansen, a counselor at West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies (WACAS), where Goller-Deitsch is completing mechatronics courses.

The Profile of the South Carolina Graduate identifies three broad sets of attributes, as well as several specific related elements, that render the state's workforce competitive in the global marketplace. These attributes include the following:

- World class knowledge;
- World class skills; and
- Life and career characteristics.

This profile has been adopted as a model by a number of key state entities, including the SCDE, the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, and a variety of public school districts throughout South Carolina.

As part of the recognition, a videography crew from SCDE filmed Goller-Deitsch at the WACAS as he went about his day taking courses.

Hansen's nomination described Goller-Deitsch as an incredible student, person, and innovator.



"He spends his free time learning extremely complex computer programs and using his knowledge to benefit the future students, parents, and staff at our schools," Hansen wrote. "The way Nathan thinks is mind-boggling. Nathan is on the cutting edge of technology. He thinks globally and he is self-motivated. He never gives up and has a thirst for learning."

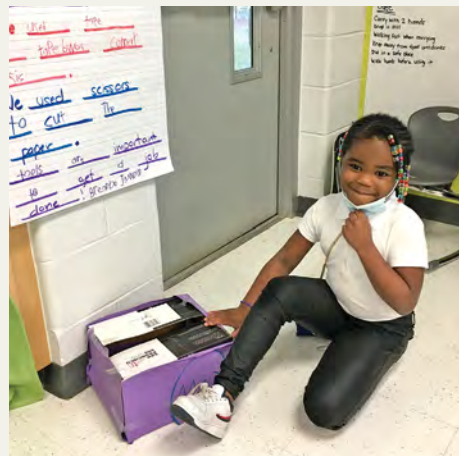
Goller-Deitsch develops complex coding and computer systems during his free time. He is the head programmer of the Robotics Team and he has contributed to many awards.

According to Hansen, he embodies every single quality in the world-class knowledge, world-class skills, and life and career characteristics categories.



Golden Spoon Winners

These students from Andriette Dent's third Grade Class were Golden Spoon Winners at Minnie Hughes Elementary School.



"Magnificent Things" at Chicora Elementary

Congratulations to Kathryn Paige's first graders for completing their Magnificent Things project. Check out their mailbox, pencil holder, decorations, and a letter board. This project is based on the new EL curriculum. Students first learned about tools and read the story The Magnificent Things. The students used habits of character, specifically collaboration, perseverance, responsibility, and initiative, to work with a team and build their own Magnificent Things for the classroom.



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD FOR COUGAR BAND

The Camp Road Middle School Cougar Band won the Outstanding Performance Award. The Outstanding Performance Award is the highest achievement for band programs in South Carolina. To earn this award, you must have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in all areas of your program. Points are earned through success in Region and All-State Band, Concert Performance Assessment, and Solo and Ensemble.

James B. Edwards wins CCSD's Battle of the Books competition

Students at James B. Edwards Elementary School won the third annual Charleston County School District Battle of the Books. They competed against 12 other teams at the event on the Burke High School campus. Teams competed in a quiz bowl, answering questions from 20 books on the 2021-2022 South Carolina Children's Book Awards nominee list.

Coached by Heidi Benton, the James B. Edwards team, called the Once Upon A Timers, competed in the finals against Drayton Hall Elementary School's Meteor Readers.

Benton said that her students prepared for the competition with diligence.

"The team came to the library to re-read the books during recess, and they met after school at each other's houses to create questions from the stories and quiz each other," Benton explained. "They showed great focus and initiative."

Battle of the Books is a reading incentive program for fourth and fifth grade students. The purpose is simply to encourage students to read good books and have fun while competing with peers.

Christy James, Charleston County School District's Library & Media Services Specialist, was the emcee for the district championship. The crowd included over 150 family and community members there to support their readers.

James explained that the championship is held as a culminating celebration for the district's Read Across America Week.

"This is the third year that CCSD elementary schools have competed in a district battle that even includes its traveling trophy," said James. "This is an exciting event that truly celebrates students' love of reading!"

District librarians comb through the South Carolina Children's Book Award list, choosing titles and writing questions that are asked of students and teams to test their knowledge of the books they have read.

Leslie Cooper, the librarian at Stiles Point Elementary School, organizes the event but said it takes an entire team to make it happen.

"Librarians start writing questions in May for the competition," said Cooper. "Teams were established in October, and the reading begins. There are multiple copies of each book on hand so that each team member can read the book they are assigned."

Teams were made up of five members, and they had to complete a reading list of 20 books by January. Teams competed against each other at the school level, and the top team from each school competed in

the district event.

"The Battle of the Books promotes a variety of diverse books that students might not automatically select but often find they enjoy," said Cooper. "The competition aspect also encourages students who didn't necessarily like reading to look at it differently. We see a big difference in our students as readers and in the activity of our libraries when children participate in this."

Cooper added another positive aspect of the competition was that electronic devices were not necessary and students could unplug.

"The competition results in students getting excited about reading, and that shows in the increased number of checkouts we see," said Cooper. "This year at Stiles Point, we broadcasted our school tournament to every classroom, and the kids loved it. Students are now asking about how to participate next year."

In addition to promoting reading, the competition promotes leadership, cooperation, and a sense of accountability.



JBE students at CCSD Battle of the Books

LADSON'S ROBOTICS TEAM RETURNS TO STATE TOURNAMENT



Ladson Elementary School's LEGO Robotics team is young, but their skill and teamwork made up for their lack of experience in the First LEGO League (FLL) Ace Basin Qualifier in Colleton County last week. The Bulldogs finished second overall out of 23 teams and advanced to the state tournament for the eighth time in 10 years. The Ace Basin Qualifier field was comprised of elementary schools, middle schools, home schools, and private schools from several counties throughout the Lowcountry.

Ladson took second place in both the Robot Run and the Core Value Skills competitions, despite all seven team members being in fourth grade and new to robotics and FLL.

FLL is a STEM-based program that inspires students to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding, and design skills through hands-on learning and robotics. The program also teaches public speaking skills, as the teams have to present their project to a panel of judges.

"We are extremely proud of the hard work these students have put into their team," said Lisa Hopson, Ladson data clerk who also serves as the co-head coach of the school's LEGO Robotics

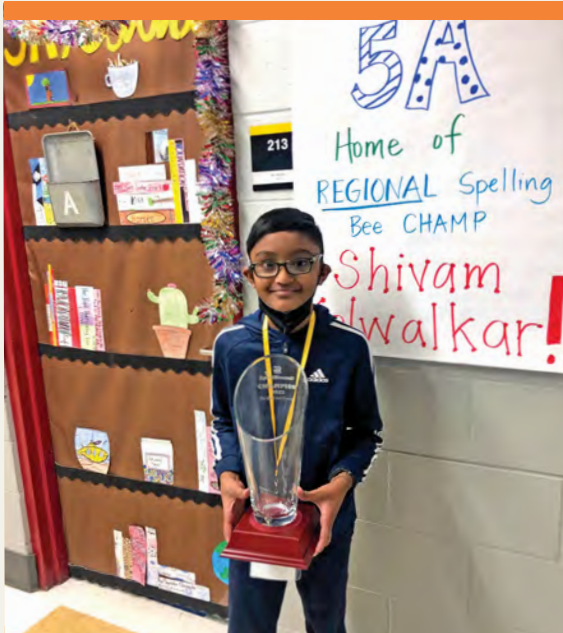
team. "They shined at competition showing teamwork and pride in themselves as well as cheering on the other teams. In the words of FLL, they brought their gracious professionalism, core values, and cooperation to the competition for everyone to see. Most of all, they had fun while accomplishing their goal."

Every year, FLL has a theme where the teams have to solve a real world problem; this year's theme is "Cargo Connects." Competitors had to rethink the global transportation system and explore ways of improving how to access and deliver needed and desired goods, making all communities more connected.

The Bulldogs explored a way to get fresh vegetables and fruit to consumers quicker. They spoke with experts in food distribution, specifically Anthony Mirisciotta from Grow Food Carolina, Lindsay Ferguson of Jebug Junction, and a South Carolina farmer, Jordan Hodgens. Following conversations and interviews, Ladson's Robotics team came up with a plan to install lockers in convenient locations in the community (like outside of school buildings). Farmers could deliver items directly to the lockers for pick-up and distribution.

"We are extremely proud of the hard work these students have put into their team. They shined at competition showing teamwork and pride in themselves as well as cheering on the other teams. In the words of FLL, they brought their gracious professionalism, core values, and cooperation to the competition for everyone to see. Most of all, they had fun while accomplishing their goal."

— LISA HOPSON, Ladson Elementary LEGO Robotics team co-head coach



Shivam Kolwalkar

Ashley River's Shivam Kolwalkar takes title at regional Spelling Bee

Shivam Kolwalkar of Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School won the 2022 Post and Courier Spellbound! on March 25, 2022, at the North Charleston Athletic Center. The fifth grader edged out a former Unicorn, Jordan Bazzle (now a sixth grader at Charleston County School of the Arts), for the title.

Kolwalkar spelled "cabaret" to lock up his spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

"Since the CCSD Spelling Bee, I studied the words for about 30 minutes every day, but sometimes longer on the weekends," said Kolwalkar. "I was nervous when I got [to Spellbound!]. I didn't think I was going to win, but I thought I could. When it got down to two people, I got more nervous. When I heard the announcer give me the word cabaret, I knew I was going to win!"

This is the third straight year a student from Charleston County School District (CCSD) finished first in Spellbound!

The 30th edition of Spellbound! included students from CCSD, Berkeley County School District, Colleton County School District, Dorchester School District Two, Dorchester School District Four, the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, Christian Home Educators Association, and the South Carolina Independent School Association.

"We are so proud of Shivam and will be cheering him on in the next round on the way to the National Bee," said Principal Michelle Conner.

C.E. Williams' Keerthana Samuel defends CCSD Spelling Bee crown with virtual victory

C.E. Williams Middle School's (South campus) Keerthana Samuel won Charleston County School's District (CCSD) Spelling Bee for the third year in a row.

"We are very proud of Keerthana," said Principal Kevin Smith. "Winning the CCSD Spelling Bee once is a great accomplishment. Winning it three consecutive years is almost implausible. Congratulations to her, the other winners, and everyone who participated. To have the confidence and commitment to compete is an accomplishment unto itself."

For the second year in a row, the competition was held virtually, facilitated by the online spelling platform created by Scripps National Spelling Bee. Samuel and the rest of the Top 10 spellers will be moving forward to Spellbound, the regional spelling bee hosted by the Post and Courier.

Samuels said the spelling assessment competition was easier than the other competitions because of the experience she gained in prior events.

"I did not feel as nervous as I was in my previous spelling bees," Samuels added.

Top 10 Spellers Include:

Jordan Bazzle, Charleston County School of the Arts; Claire Bidgood, Thomas C. Cario Middle School; John Graham, Moultrie Middle School; Charlotte Ham, Northwoods Middle School; Shivam Kolwalkar, Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School; Melisa Ruiz, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School; Keerthana Samuel, C. E. Williams Middle School (South Campus); Priyanka Sattur, Laing Middle School; Aaliyah Spencer, Jerry Zucker Middle School; and Ahmed Touma, Simmons-Pinckney Middle School.

Forty-two school bee winners, from fifth to eighth grade, participated in this year's district spelling competition. At the school level, school bee coordinators could facilitate socially-distanced, in-person competitions or use an online format.

CCSD's online spelling bee was structured just as last year's competition. Students had 30 minutes to spell 25 words. The online format allowed the student to hear the word and then provided the origin of the word, part of speech, and a sentence that the word could be used.

Samuel was able to spell every word correctly, making her the clear winner.

"I am honored to once again represent CCSD and C.E Williams Middle School," said Samuels.



Keerthana Samuel

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT AWARDS



Jennie Moore Project ADAM



Moultrie Project ADAM

CCSD INCREASING NUMBER OF HEART SAFE SCHOOLS THROUGH LIVE-SAVING INITIATIVE



Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Nursing Services Department works hard to keep students and staff safe and healthy. During the month of February, which is American Heart Month, the CCSD nursing team partnered with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to provide staff training at Jennie Moore Elementary School and Moultrie Middle School for cardiac emergencies. By completing the course, these schools earned their certification to become Project ADAM Heart Safe Schools.

Jennie Moore and Moultrie join North Charleston High School and Wando High School as the four schools that are certified with this organization. The CCSD Nursing Services Department's goal is to

have all middle and high schools certified by the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

"Project ADAM promotes teamwork and coordinates efforts to ensure staff members can quickly respond to a serious situation on campus, including the ability to use an AED (automated external defibrillator) effectively," said CCSD's Director of Nursing Services, Ellen Nitz.

Project ADAM affiliate sites assist schools and communities in establishing a practiced plan to respond to a sudden cardiac arrest. The organization also provides the foundation for a school to develop and sustain its program, including planning templates, a reference manual, and one-on-one consultation.

A certified Project ADAM Heart Safe School has successfully implemented a quality sudden cardiac arrest program of awareness, training, and effective emergency response to promote a safe environment for students, visitors, and staff as outlined within the Heart Safe School Checklist.

Project ADAM began in 1999 after the death of Adam Lemel, a 17-year-old Whitefish Bay, WI, a high school student who collapsed and died while playing basketball. Adam suffered a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), in which ventricular fibrillation occurred, a condition in which the ventricles cannot pump blood into the body. Defibrillation, or an AED, could have saved his life.

Academic Magnet High ranked #2 in the nation for third consecutive year

AMHS leads five CCSD schools in the top-25 in state rankings



number one in the country in 2019).

"I am honored to accept this recognition on behalf of our whole school community," said AMHS Principal Jacob Perlmutter (and alumni of the school). "A lot of people - students, faculty, staff, and parents - worked hard for this. They did the heavy lifting to contribute to Academic Magnet's long-standing tradition as one of the top schools in our nation."

In coordination with North Carolina-based RTI International, a global nonprofit social science

Academic Magnet High School continues to stay near the top of the U.S. News & World Report national rankings for the Best High Schools in the country. The national publication named Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) the second-best high school in the country for the third year in a row. This is the fourth consecutive year the Raptors made the top two on this list (AMHS was



research firm, U.S. News ranked approximately 17,840 public high schools out of the nearly 24,000 reviewed. This is the count of public high schools that had a 12th grade enrollment of 15 students or greater, or otherwise had sufficient enrollment in other high school grades during the 2019-2020 school year to be analyzed.

Academic Magnet is the second-best magnet high school in the nation for the third year in a row as well.

"At Academic Magnet, teachers create an environment which holds students accountable while at the same time fostering a welcoming environment for the students," said AMHS junior Vishwa Veeraswamy, who was elected executive president of student council for the upcoming school year.

Five schools from Charleston County School District are in the top-25 of the 2022 U.S. News and World Report rankings for South Carolina: Academic Magnet (1), Charleston County School of the Arts (2), Wando High School (5), Charleston Charter School for Math and Science (13), and James Island Charter High School (15).

Belle Hall recognized as 2021 National Blue Ribbon School



Belle Hall Elementary School earned a prestigious distinction as one of five schools in South Carolina named 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Belle Hall is the first school in Charleston County School District to receive this award in four years (Buist Academy in 2017).

The U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools (NBRS) earlier this morning.

The NBRS Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Every year the U.S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. Now in its 39th year, the NBRS Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Schools are eligible for nomination after five years.

"The entire Belle Hall Elementary School community takes great pride in this prestigious recognition," said Principal Kevin Conklin. "For over three decades, the teachers, parents, staff, and community members have collaborated to create this

extraordinary environment for students. Over the years, we've upheld our reputation of 'Rigor and Relationships,' which features high expectations and support for all learners bolstered by adults working together closely every day."

Conklin added they are starting to plan for ongoing celebrations this school year to highlight this prestigious accomplishment.



The coveted National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. The National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing an entry or flying overhead is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

"It takes a lot to make a school exceptional," added Instructional Coach Patricia Caddell. "It is no easy task. Belle Hall is an excellent school due to its inviting school climate, cohesive staff, community involvement, strong leadership, and rigorous curriculum. This is seen on a daily basis year end and year out."

Belle Hall Elementary started serving students in Mount Pleasant in 1990; the school's current enrollment is approximately 650.



U.S. News & World Report ranks several CCSD schools near the top of South Carolina

The U.S. News & World Report released their first set of rankings for elementary and middle schools (similar to their annual high school rankings), and multiple schools in Charleston County School District (CCSD) appeared near the top of the state. That includes Buist Academy, which is the number-one middle school magnet program in South Carolina. Buist is second in both the magnet elementary school and overall middle school rankings and fifth on the list for overall elementary schools. Of the 80,000 public elementary and middle schools U.S. News evaluated, just over 1,000 earned both awards.

“I want to congratulate the entire Buist Academy community for this accomplishment,” said Buist’s principal, Shawntay White. “I appreciate the extraordinary commitment and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and parents to maintain a positive and productive learning environment. Children are the heart of our work, and we will continue to foster hope and encourage academic excellence. It is an honor to share this recognition with so many phenomenal CCSD schools.”

THE FOLLOWING CCSD SCHOOLS ARE ALSO IN THE TOP-25 OF THE STATE FOR MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

Charleston County School of the Arts (second), Laing (fourth), and Haut Gap (eighth).

Four CCSD schools, Charleston County School of the Arts (fourth), Moultrie (sixth), and Thomas C. Cario (14th), and Laing (19th) join Buist on the overall middle school top-25 for South Carolina.

Ashley River Creative Arts (13th) joins Buist in the top-25 for elementary schools.

Following Buist on the magnet elementary school list is Ashley River (fourth), Jennie Moore Elementary (seventh), St. Andrew’s School of Math and Science (11th), and Sullivan’s Island (17th).

For each state, schools were assessed on their pupils’ proficiencies in mathematics and reading, as measured by state assessment tests. Half of the ranking formula was the results themselves; the other half was the results in the context of socioeconomic demographics. The top-ranked schools are considered high-achieving ones if they succeeded in educating all of their students. All data for the rankings are from third-party sources, including the U.S. Department of Education.

Two CCSD schools featured in national publication



Ladson Elementary School and North Charleston Elementary School were recognized for their community engagement efforts in this year's National Network of Partnership School (NNPS) Promising Partnership Practices handbook. In fact, North Charleston Elementary is featured on the cover of this year's publication.

North Charleston Elementary was the first school from CCSD to be featured in the annual NNPS handbook last year, thanks to their initiative, Painting on Purpose with Parents. This year, the Dolphins earned recognition for their participation and engagement surrounding ReadBowl 2021, an initiative encouraging students and their families to read together. One "team" from NCES actually won the state title for their level (Kindergarten through second grade). The school ended up logging a combined 51,678 minutes of reading.

Every student from the classes that won received a party with pizza, seafood, ice cream, and popcorn, along with and a copy of Malcolm Mitchell's book, *My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World*. Parents and guardians who attended the party also received a copy of the book for their home library and also enjoyed the feast.

"To be featured in the NNPS handbook for the second year is a major boost for our entire school community," explained North Charleston Elementary's Family Service Advocate, Tyra Johnson. "The recognition, along with the program's success, would not be possible without the dedication of our teachers, and the support from our students' families. We are truly building something special here at NCES."

The NNPS handbook is a collection of programs, events, and initiatives from schools across the country and the world. Forty entries from 14 districts in nine different states, as well as schools from Ireland and Scotland, are in this year's edition. The publication provides other schools with quality examples of community engagement from schools, which create better educational atmospheres and opportunities for students and their families.

CCSD has been part of NNPS (sponsored by Johns Hopkins University) since 2017; 40 of the district's Title I schools are involved with this network.

Ladson Elementary's Reading Patrol was recognized in the 2021 handbook. The Bulldogs' program also encouraged reading at home, but with officers and staff from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). In the past, the program involved deputies reading to children in the school and encouraging them to read for fun at home. COVID-19 changed the effort last year when Sgt. Kathleen McCullough-Mclean, then the School Resource Officer for Ladson Elementary, organized an effort to film deputies reading separate pages of a book, *The Biggest Snowman Ever*. The resulting video produced by CCSO's Public Information Office was shared with children and parents at the start of winter break in December. The school also gave copies of the book to children so they could read at home. Students and parents later assessed the program through at-home surveys. The program not only increased students' enthusiasm for reading but built positive relationships with local law enforcement agencies.

"To be featured in the NNPS handbook for the second year is a major boost for our entire school community. The recognition, along with the program's success, would not be possible without the dedication of our teachers, and the support from our students' families. We are truly building something special here at NCES."

— TYRA JOHNSON, North Charleston Elementary Family Service Advocate

LITERACY



Author presents book to students at Corcoran

Students at A.C. Corcoran Elementary School were treated to a guest appearance from author Dr. Tracy Williams and her son Quin. Williams is the author of “The Adventures of Quintarus - Introducing My Big Biracial Family.”

Quin, who is in third grade, is the main character in the book.

The book explores what it means to be biracial and takes an inside look at the Williams family. The couple have eight children and two dogs.

The idea to write the book came to Williams after Quin asked her why his skin was different from hers and his fathers.

Williams, who is a pharmacist by trade, travels to schools, book stores, and libraries promoting the book, which is the first in the series.

“These books help young readers identify with being biracial and understanding what that means,” said Williams. “It also introduces famous biracial people as inspirational leaders.”



Whitesides students participate in spelling bee

Third-graders were treated to their very own Spelling Bee in the library. Students at Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School love academic competitions!

SNAPDRAGON BOOK FOUNDATION RAISES MONEY TO DIVERSIFY SCHOOL LIBRARY ON EDISTO



The Snapdragon Book Foundation raised \$6,915 through a fundraiser for Jane Edwards Elementary School's library. The money was used by librarian Jill Smith to purchase new books. "We greatly appreciate the Snapdragon Book Foundation and the generous donors for supporting our school's goal of connecting students to the cultures of the world through books," said Principal Jarmalar Logan. "Our incredible teacher librarian, Mrs. Smith, continues to revitalize our library and library services in many ways. She has prioritized updating our book collection and this has made a positive impact on our school community."

The Snapdragon Book Foundation was created in December 2008 to provide funds to improve school libraries for disadvantaged children. Founded by a former school librarian, this foundation exists to put books in the hands of kids at a time when many schools are reallocating their funds to technology and audiovisual equipment.

"Jane Edwards Elementary School is a small, rural Title I school that serves a diverse community," explained Smith. "The school has 70 students from a wide variety of backgrounds and does all it can to help them learn about the world and the people in it. However, the library's book collection is aging and does not represent the reality of the students, the community they live in, or the world at large."

"This is such an incredible opportunity for the students at Jane Edwards," said Christy James, Library Media Services Coordinator for Charleston County School District. "Ms. Smith continuously works to provide a more inclusive and compassionate library collection and this generous gift from Snapdragon Book Foundation is going to add so many beautiful books towards this goal."

Books that celebrate inclusivity and diversity like "Amira's Picture Day" and "It's OK to be Different" will be read during storytime and featured in the library. Students will grow their compassion for others by reading "We Could be Heroes" and "Some Kids Use Wheelchairs."

These books will be recommended to classroom teachers as well as students, and prominently displayed for student checkout. In addition, Smith will engage in conversations with students about the diversity they encounter in the books they read together, and when appropriate, students will participate in novel engineering challenges, where students will identify problems from these stories, design realistic solutions, and engage in a design process while reinforcing their literacy skills.

Smith explained that she was compelled to apply for the grant after a PreK teacher came to her asking for books about children in

wheelchairs. The library only had one book on that subject. That led Smith to do a diversity audit.

According to the audit, the collection suffered from an inadequate representation of marginalized groups, like the student who is wheelchair-bound.

"She is not the only student who would be considered marginalized," said Smith. "We have African-American students who need to hear their own voices represented in the books they read. We have Hispanic students, some who have been here all of their lives, but others who came to America only a few years ago. I want them to see themselves in the stories that they are reading, but I also want other students to see characters like them in those same stories."

Smith hopes that through these books, her students will learn about the plight of others and, hopefully, come to find a part of themselves.

"This project will help students see themselves in books as well as letting them look through windows and learn about characters who live different lives, with an end goal of helping the students realize that we are not so different after all," said Smith. "Miss Jane Edwards, the school's namesake, knew this in 1954 when she said, 'reading is the key that unlocks the door to everything.'"

Summer Reading at Stono Park

Students at Stono Park Elementary School prepared for Summer Reading in a big way. Everyone made and took home an ocean-themed calming sensory bottle with a QR code for the summer reading login page - where there is an "Ocean of Possibilities!"



Reading Around the Bases

CCSD's "Reading Around the Bases" partnership with Charleston RiverDogs celebrated for sixth year



Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the Charleston RiverDogs, the Lowcountry's professional baseball team (and Single-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays) kicked off the sixth year of their literacy initiative, "Reading Around the Bases" at Murray LaSaine Montessori School this year. The program began during the 2016-2017 school year to promote fun and reading with second graders throughout the county.

Second graders from 23 elementary schools in CCSD participated in a 10-week baseball-themed incentive program. Every student received a Reading Challenge packet that included a scorecard, tracking sheet, and their very own personal baseball card.

To move around the bases on the scorecard, a student must have 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 visited schools in CCSD over the course of a few months to encourage and engage the students as volunteer readers.

"We continue to be impressed with and grateful for the effort the RiverDogs put into in this initiative, and for their continued support of our district," said CCSD's former Chief Academic Officer, Karolyn Belcher. "Credit goes to Christy James and our teacher-librarians as well. They do so much

work behind the scenes to make this a memorable and enjoyable program for our students."

The top-25 second graders from each participating school were honored at select RiverDogs' games.

"The RiverDogs are proud to continue this relationship with Charleston County School District that has existed since I have been a part of the organization," added RiverDogs President and General Manager Dave Echols. "Literacy and education are vital for the development of young members of the Charleston community, and we are excited to continue impacting students in the sixth year of this tremendous program."

READING WITH HOPE AT MARY FORD

Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Center hosted several "Reading with Hope" sessions throughout the year, complete with officers from the North Charleston Police Department in attendance!



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK 2022



Carolina Park Elementary



Minnie Hughes Elementary



Chicora Elementary



Mount Pleasant Academy



Ladson Elementary



Stiles Point Elementary



Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center



Springfield Elementary



Northwoods Middle



CCSD CELEBRATES NATIONAL LIBRARY MONTH

Once upon a time, libraries were all about books. Today, libraries serve as a community hub and a space for all people to connect with the resources they need, especially in our schools.

Charleston County School District (CCSD) celebrates libraries every day, especially during National School Library Month in April. Additionally, the CCSD Board of Trustees proclaimed April as National School Library Month.

During Library Week, various activities were planned for students

and staff as a way to “connect” them to their school library.

The theme for National Library Week 2022, “Connect with Your Library,” promotes the idea that libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband, computers, and other resources. Libraries also offer opportunities to connect with media, programs, ideas, and classes in addition to books. Most importantly, libraries also connect communities to each other. Overall, the theme is an explicit call to action - an invitation for communities to join, visit, or advocate for their local libraries.

“Libraries are truly the heart of our schools,” said Christy James, CCSD’s Library Media Services Coordinator and District Textbook Coordinator. “Our librarians have the unique role of serving every student and also working with every teacher. They lead by example with research and information literacy skills, but they also read by example with collections of books that allow all students to find what they need, feel safe to explore, and support curriculum needs.”

Libraries

Teacher-librarian Katherine Freligh said her space at Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center is the heart of the school. Staff can come to get a cup of coffee, chocolate, and a stack of books that are relevant to their current unit and/or ones that they and their students will fall in love with.

“I feel strongly that the library is not just the collection of books and materials, but is also the collaboration, professional development, and teamwork that I, as the teacher-librarian, can provide,” said Freligh. “The more creatively I can approach each problem presented to me, the more our library program can expand and better serve our students and their families.”

At Wando High School, teacher-librarians Tara White and Cindy Philbeck have embraced the idea of their space being a place for students to connect. The library is spacious and features group and individual seating areas, a lounge area, maker space areas, and classroom space for large groups. It caters to the needs of students in a variety of ways.

“In high school, the library serves as more of a resource to students, so we collaborate with teachers to ensure we are providing what students need,” said White. “It’s all about access. A library is not just about books. We have recreational materials, databases, and technology. We show students how to use those resources in an active way to complete their work successfully.”

You won’t walk into a quiet library at Oakland Elementary School, where the only thing you hear is whispers. In Mary Anne Mouthann’s library, it is loud.

“It is the complete opposite of the stereotype,” said Mouthann. “Right now, we’re working on a service project making dog toys from t-shirts donated by our teachers. The students are working together braiding and cutting up the shirts to make the toys, and that involves communication. We’re loud and proud.”

Philbeck added Wando’s library is often a safe space where students can retreat.

“Many students come into the library in the morning before the bell rings and during their lunch period,” said Philbeck. “They’re using that time as they want to, either finishing an assignment or socializing. The space lends itself to small group collaboration, too.”

The library at Camp Road Middle School is the starting point for many different tasks and opportunities.

Librarian B.T. Bouton explained that it is a place where teachers bring classes to collaborate, where ELA teachers bring classes to

find great books; a place for author visits; and maker activities. One example of that was a recent Black History Month project.

“Students did research on their favorite Black individuals and created life-size cut-outs of their heroes,” said Bouton. “We hung them in our window space in the library. This was a whole-community project for everyone to see and enjoy. I was the happy host by having this space to display their work, and I am honored to work with colleagues who recognize the value of using it.”

“As an Early Learning & Family Center, we have the unique opportunity to not only serve our little scholars but also their families,” explained Freligh. “I am finding new ways to create occasions for children and their caregivers to bond over early literacy. I have created materials for parents and caregivers to use while reading aloud to their children at home, collaborating on a guidebook of nursery rhymes for families to use while visiting the James Island Festival of Lights, and distributed calendars and choice boards with fun and easy literacy-based activities.”

As a teacher-librarian, Mouthann teaches six classes daily, creates the school newsletter, runs the news show, and the school website.

“I am a one-man show, so there has to be some structure, but there will never be any shushing and demands to whisper,” said Mouthann. “My students like that the library is predictable, but they also know that they will never be stuck doing the same thing. I work hard to give them a safe space with new and exciting things to do so that they will be invigorated and excited to come to the library.”

Wando has a diverse population of students, and the collection in the library represents the school’s community of learners.

“We use population data to drive our collection,” explained Philbeck.

“It is important to us that the students see themselves in the books we have to offer,” added White. “It is also important that they see other perspectives, different from themselves.”

Bouton buys specific books for students and recognizes that their interests may not be as mainstream as others.

“Every child has an opportunity to read a book that speaks to them,” said Bouton. “In middle school, we have very young students and then eighth-graders who are heading to high school and are a little more mature. I have to make sure all of those students find a book that engages them. It’s been nice that a combination of librarians and others are aware that we need books for every reader. The explosion of authors and topics that are so much more diverse than ten years ago is refreshing.”

Being a librarian

“Every single day I have the unique opportunity and challenge to meet the needs of a wide array of people, to figure out how I can best support them and their goals, and build a program that will reflect my students and help open the door to their future,” said Freligh.

“As a teacher-librarian, we are uniquely situated to build relationships with students across the years that they attend Wando, not just the one year they may have in someone’s classroom,” said Philbeck. “We get the privilege of truly getting to know them and are better able to support them as a whole learner.”

White agreed.

“We get to see their interest develop over time,” said White. “As professionals, we interact with all grade levels, in all content areas, and provide meaningful research materials and data for students so that they can be successful in all of their classes. We’re an extension of their classes.”

Mouthann was a high school English teacher for almost ten years before transitioning.

“There was always this assumption that all students could read and wanted to read,” said Mouthann. “In most of my classes, I had several students far below grade level. I didn’t have the training to meet the needs of the diverse learners and realized I could better do that as a librarian. As a librarian, I feel like I can help all students have their needs met and their values respected.”

In this role, Mouthann explained that she can coordinate with teachers to help students who need extra help in a supportive way.

“It is important to recognize that librarians are a source of knowledge, and everyone should seek knowledge, especially in an ever-changing world,” said Mouthann. “A library is a place of innovation, inspiration but most of all a place of comfort. A library is something to be valued and something to be embraced.”

Bouton said that the National Library Week recognition is important because librarians keep so much of the educational train on track.

“We are fortunate in South Carolina that districts are required to have a librarian in our schools,” said Bouton. “Students don’t miss out on instruction that supplements what they are doing in the classroom.”

“Our librarians are real-life superheroes, not only for juggling all they do each day, but mostly for the connections they create through their library spaces and inclusive resources,” added James.

STEM

CCSD students and educators at the Air Show & STEM Expo

Over 700 CCSD students and educators participated in the Air Show & STEM Expo hosted by Joint Base Charleston.

While some students attended as spectators, other students were part of the show!

Students from Military Magnet Academy and West Ashley CAS provided interactive robotics demonstrations, horticulture students from East Cooper CAS asked STEM questions for plant prizes, and leaders from the Liberty Hill STEM Initiative offered hands-on science activities.

Schools that participated include:

A.C. Corcoran Elementary School, Academic Magnet High School, C.E. Williams Middle School, Deer Park Middle School, East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies, James Island Charter High School, Laing Middle School, Military Magnet Academy, North Charleston High School, St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School, Stiles Point Elementary School, West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies, and Jerry Zucker Middle School.

The event offered a rich experience packed with exciting demonstrations on the ground and in the air above! Special thanks to the leadership at Joint Base Charleston for the opportunity for students from throughout the region to attend!



CCSD educators awarded 70 BEST grants

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce 144 teachers combined to earn 70 Bosch Eco and STEM Teacher (BEST) grants this month. The total value of the grants is over \$130,000.

BEST grants support innovative inquiry-based learning experiences. CCSD's projects span all grade levels and content areas. Some of the creative ideas include learning about the impact of pollution on our local watershed and exploring sound and vibration through string instruments.

One of the teachers who received a BEST grant this school year is Academic Magnet High School's Maria Desbrow. Funding will go toward hands-on learning as students use coding to build the circuitry for electronic toys and professional development for teachers on incorporating micro bits and coding in their subject areas.

"Students need hands-on experiences," explained Desbrow. "It's not that jobs have disappeared; they've changed. Current jobs require people to understand the integration between technology and computing while the curriculum focuses solely on memorization and computation."



Academic Magnet High School's
Maria Desbrow



Students with Charles Pinckney Elementary School's
Alethea "E.C." Setser

Three teachers at Daniel Jenkins Academy (DJA) collaborated on a grant to provide students with interdisciplinary learning in science, math, and social studies. Students in the Human Geography, Earth Science, Biology, and Algebra classes will engage in project-based learning by growing hydroponic crops. They will learn about food scarcity and the importance of urban, sustainable agriculture. In addition, they will perform experiments that address global limitations to land agriculture, including examining soil quality, water quality, desalinization when freshwater is not available, and examining weather patterns.

"Nearly all of the students in our school are living in communities with limited options to healthy food," said Timothy Sweeney, a social studies at DJA. "Many don't realize the impact of food scarcity on their health and community. This project has direct relevance to issues in their own lives."

Alethea "E.C." Setser, SAIL (Students in Accelerated Learning) teacher at Charles Pinckney Elementary, was asked by Bosch to be a champion this year based on her ability to receive a grant last school year. Mrs. Setster assisted 17 colleagues at her school and neighboring schools in applying for a winning grant. Funding will go toward innovative projects such as learning physics through pottery, studying characters in novels through 3D printing, coding, and robotics.

It's not that jobs have disappeared; they've changed. Current jobs require people to understand the integration between technology and computing while the curriculum focuses solely on memorization and computation."

— MARIA DESBROW, Academic Magnet High School teacher

East Cooper CAS students earn special opportunity with NASA

Students from East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) sent a school project to space. They recently learned their entry in the inaugural NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) TechRise Student Challenge was one of 57 proposals selected. This team of potential scientists and engineers will now have the opportunity to create an experiment that can operate and collect data from the edge of space aboard a Blue Origin suborbital rocket in 2023.

“Our team has done a tremendous job of designing their experiment,” said Chris Sjolander, East Cooper CAS Engineering teacher and NASA TechRise Facilitator. “The entire effort has been student-led and managed. Our students are creating the future of safe space travel right here in Mount Pleasant.”

The team at the East Cooper CAS designed a surface catheter/blood suction device. Each student in this group received \$1,500 to build their experiments and a NASA-funded spot to test them on the Blue Origin suborbital rocket flight in early 2023. The

team also will receive a suite of materials for preparing their payloads, access to flight simulator software, and technical support from experts.

Administered by Future Engineers, the NASA TechRise Student Challenge aims to inspire students to seek a deeper understanding of Earth’s atmosphere, space exploration, coding, and electronics, as well as an appreciation of the importance of test data. Nearly 600 teams applied, representing 5,000 students in grades 6 through 12 from across the country.

“At NASA, we educate and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers,” said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. “The TechRise Student Challenge is an excellent way for students to get hands-on experience designing, building, and launching experiments on suborbital vehicles. I’m so impressed we received hundreds of entries from across the country, and I want to congratulate the winning teams. I can’t wait to see these incredible experiments come to life!”



East Cooper CAS NASA Tech Team

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

at

Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies



Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) celebrated national Computer Science Education Week (CSEdW), an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science, advocate for equity, and celebrate the contributions of students, teachers, and partners in the field.

Darwin Shorters, computer science teacher at Cooper River CAS (and former South Carolina Career and Technology Education teacher of the year and Project Lead the Way national computer science teacher of the year) planned events for each day of CSEdW.

Students across the building participated in Hour of Code, Charleston Black Tech Meetup, and used EarSketch to code through music.

SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLNESS

Montessori Community wins district's ANNUAL WELLNESS AWARD

The MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness (BCCW) in partnership with Charleston County School District (CCSD), celebrated schools and their wellness efforts in April 2022.

During the 2021-2022 school year, 39 CCSD schools earned a Wellness Award.

The grand prize winner was Montessori Community School (MCS). As part of the grand prize, the entire staff at Montessori Community was treated to a healthy catered lunch, presented with a giant check for \$2,000, and a trophy.

This was the first time a CCSD Montessori school earned the top award. Physical Education teacher Ruth Sword championed the effort at her school, with the support of the entire faculty and staff. Sword has been at Montessori community for 12 years and said that wellness has always been a part of the culture of the school.

"The Montessori Community School established a culture of wellness throughout their 2021-2022 school year," said Sword. "All MCS students participated weekly in our school gardening program. MCS students have had the opportunity to attend field trips to local farms to learn about fruits and vegetables. As our MCS students get the opportunity to taste what they have grown, they are open to exploring these new healthy food options."

Sword explained that physical activity at MCS is also encouraged by participating in the South Carolina Walk to School day, physical activity breaks throughout the week, flexible seating in the classrooms, the MCS Color Fun Run, staff/student volleyball matches, and the Kids Heart Challenge.



Montessori Community School awarded grand prize

Runners up in the BCCW challenge were Harborview Elementary School (led by wellness Leader Heather Hord) and James Island Elementary School (led by wellness Leaders Meredith Barnette and Ginny Jones).

The MUSC BCCW School-Based Wellness Initiative was created with the goal of improving nutrition and increasing physical activity for students and staff by motivating districts and schools to make policy, system, and environmental changes through participation in the School Wellness Checklist.

"It's been a challenging year for schools, staff, and students, yet we've seen school wellness committees really commit to the initiative and thrive," said Angela Wicke Program Coordinator for MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness. "We are seeing a trend in relating social-emotional learning

with school gardening, yoga, mindfulness, art, and even STEM projects. It's really exciting to see all of the creative ways that schools are creating cultures of wellness through a concentrated commitment to this wellness initiative."

Wellness Awards range from \$250 to \$2,000. The award money must go into the wellness programs at each school to help grow and sustain their initiatives. In total, \$21,950 went to CCSD schools for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, CCSD schools received over \$32,000 in wellness grants this year

to fund initiatives such as school gardens, increased water consumption, kinesthetic classrooms, and movement throughout the school day.

"Participating in the MUSC BCCW School-Based Wellness Initiative is key to developing the whole school, whole community, whole child

model (CDC's framework for addressing health in schools)," said Holly Kut, CCSD Instructional Specialist for Health and Physical Education. "The School Wellness Checklist goes beyond the student health and wellness; it caters to employee wellness, which fosters higher morale, provides self-care opportunities, and community involvement supporting lifelong healthy learning. Happy healthy schools make happy healthy students."

According to Dr. Janice Key, Director of the MUSC BCCW, all participating schools did an outstanding job supporting wellness through healthy nutrition, adequate physical activity, and support of emotional needs.

"Healthy kids are better learners," said Key. "Studies have proven that healthier children miss fewer days, have improved behavior, and are more likely to graduate from high school. I am incredibly proud of the efforts made by the students and staff at Montessori Community."

"We are proud to implement this initiative across the state in 19 school districts," said Wicke. "CCSD is always a top performer and one of longest-standing districts. Many of the CCSD schools have been participating for so long, that the culture of wellness is now ingrained in their daily operation, resulting in healthier students, , and communities."

"As the physical education teacher and wellness coordinator at MCS, my goal is to create a love of physical activity and healthy eating through exposure to many different ways for my students to build a healthy foundation," added Sword. "As this healthy foundation is established, students are mentally and physically stronger individuals that are able to be productive citizens in our society."

Boeing and Charleston County School District partner with Medical University of South Carolina to expand mental health resources in schools

The Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) Boeing Center for Children's Wellness will expand to include school-based mental health support

The \$2 million combined investment from Boeing and Charleston County School District will support trauma-informed classroom training for teachers and tele-mental health through MUSC

The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] and Charleston County School District (CCSD) each announced a \$1 million investment in the Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) Boeing Center for Children's Wellness (BCCW) to expand the program's offerings to include resources addressing children's mental health in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding from Boeing and Charleston County School District will support the current school-based wellness initiative while adding mental health support offerings for schools in Charleston County. Supports will include training for classroom teachers to help children find appropriate coping mechanisms and ways to deal with stress as well as integration of MUSC Telehealth which will bring high quality, evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health services to children in a school setting. In addition, this funding will support the development of a plan to substantially change and improve the mental health system.

"Boeing is incredibly proud of this partnership because together we are building off the success of the MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness, the expertise of the Medical University of South Carolina, and the dedication and commitment of the Charleston County School District to students, staff, and families," said Jennifer Lowe, vice president of National Strategy and Engagement with Boeing. "With this investment, MUSC and the BCCW will be able to dedicate resources to children's physical and mental health while creating space for Charleston County School District to focus on their core mission of academic achievement."

"By coming together through partnership, MUSC, Boeing and the Charleston County School District have seen significant results in reducing childhood obesity and improving student wellness," said David J. Cole, M.D., FACS, MUSC President. "We are so grateful to our friends at Boeing and CCSD for believing in us, sharing our innovative spirit and remaining such important partners as we seek to improve the wellbeing of children and their families. These funds will make a significant difference in helping the MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness meet the increasing need for mental health support in schools."

"The provision of high-quality mental health services for our students and robust training for our staff is essential to ensuring our children have the tools they need to begin recovery from the impacts of COVID-19," said Rev. Dr. Eric Mack, CCSD Board of Trustees Chairman. "We know, undoubtedly, that our students have experienced profound loss in many, many ways this past year and we must find ways to join together as a community



The Boeing Company's \$1 million investment in the Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) Boeing Center for Children's Wellness

to wrap our resources and supports around our most important assets- our children."

Over the past decade, the MUSC BCCW, which reaches 17 school districts in South Carolina, has focused on wellness and obesity prevention by working directly with schools to implement programs that promote healthy eating, physical activity and social-emotional learning. The programs have demonstrated positive outcomes in connection to Body Mass Index (BMI), asthma, school attendance and suspensions/expulsions, and high school graduation rates. With Boeing's and CCSD's investment, the MUSC BCCW will expand school wellness to include more targeted mental health support by leveraging relationships with schools, state agencies and the hospital's vast expertise.

"The Boeing Company is once again leading the way in its support of our efforts to address the needs of children through working with schools. They supported our initial work to turn the tide of childhood obesity and have now recognized the current community need, improved mental health services," said Dr. Janice Key, Executive Director, Boeing Center for Children's Wellness.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RECOGNIZES CCSD



Charleston County School District (CCSD) was recognized for excellence in Facilities Management by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE). CCSD received four “Best in Class” awards through the Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign, a program of the USDOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Eight school districts were honored through this program, but CCSD was the only one to receive “Best in Class” in all four of the following categories:

- HVAC Inspection and Maintenance for Indoor Air Quality
- Efficient HVAC for Indoor Environmental Quality
- Ongoing Monitoring and Analytics for HVAC Performance
- Team Approach to Support Strategic Investments in Efficient and Healthy Schools.

“This is more proof that we have delivered the best possible building conditions to our children and faculty to power the district safely through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond,” explained Jeff Borowy, CCSD’s Chief Operating Officer.

These awards recognize K-12 schools and school districts nationwide that have implemented exemplary solutions for heating, air-conditioning, ventilation (HVAC), and other approaches that reduce energy consumption, improve energy efficiency, and enhance indoor air quality.

“We are committed to the health and safety of all our students, faculty, staff, and visitors who occupy our schools and facilities,” said Ron Kramps,

CCSD’s former Associate of Facilities Management. “While we have always focused on energy efficiency and indoor air quality, COVID brought these initiatives front and center. We are honored to be recognized for our dedication to the CCSD family’s wellbeing.”

“The ‘Best in Class’ recognition in all four categories of this highly competitive national program can be directly attributed to the vision, determination, and expertise of the Facilities Management Department and our contract partners,” added Borowy. “We would not have earned this honor without the support from our Board of Trustees, district leadership, and the taxpayers who passed the last two capital sales tax extensions.”

CCSD works in close coordination with Whole Building Systems, LLC (a Charleston-based company) to implement these more energy-efficient and enhanced air quality solutions. Whole Building Systems (WBS) has provided CCSD with design and commissioning services for HVAC replacement projects. WBS’ design for the new HVAC system at St. John’s High School resulted in significant cost savings.



Six CCSD schools win Recycling Education awards

Recycling Education grants were awarded to six Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

The Recycling Education grant program is available to all schools to promote awareness of the need to reduce waste and recycle whenever possible. The grant funds can be used to purchase supplies or for field trips to promote recycling within schools.

Stefanie Vandiver, SC DHEC environmental manager who coordinates the grant program is impressed with the applications they receive from Charleston County schools.

They consistently submit outstanding project ideas over the years to grow their sustainability efforts as well as start new sustainability efforts," said Vandiver. "CCSD schools' hard work is not only inspiring to other schools throughout the state but also boosts our recycling rates in South Carolina."

2021-2022 grant awards

- Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies received \$1500 for recycling containers to be placed in common areas.
- James Island Charter High School received \$1500 to purchase wall shelving, containers, and tables to recycle electronics.
- Lucy Garrett Beckham High School received \$1500 for supplies to create a larger school garden.

- Malcolm C. Hursey Montessori School received \$1496 to purchase supplies for the school garden and composting.

- Military Magnet Academy received \$1500 to purchase supplies for the school's "food forest."

- Wando High School received \$914 for TerraCycle Zero Waste boxes and a field trip to the Bees Ferry recycling facility.

"James Island Charter High's Career and Technology Education (CTE) classes include coding, engineering, web design, game design, animation, and networking repair," said Dr. Elizabeth Conley, a CTE teacher at the school. "This recycling grant will allow us to dismantle and recover more reusable electronic materials by adding recycling containers in our technology storage room."

"The Sustainability Club at Lucy Beckham strives to make the world a better place one student at a time," said Alex McCarrell, the club's teacher-sponsor. "We hope to grow our small community garden with the grant funds and begin composting as well."

Wando High School students will tour the Bees Ferry recycling facility to learn best practices.

"Using this information, we will apply our knowledge in creating more opportunities for recycling on our school campus, such as adding TerraCycle Zero Waste boxes," explained Alyse Silvia, Environmental Science and Biology Teacher at Wando.



Tree planting at Drayton Hall

Child Development students at Drayton Hall Elementary School helped Principal Brian Agnew plant a tree to celebrate their "tree unit." They were so excited and supportive when Mr. Agnew was digging the hole. Students learned about everything that a tree needs to grow and be healthy. Lowe's West Ashley donated the tree.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS



C.E. Williams Middle using bicycles to enhance students' well being

C.E. Williams Middle School's North Campus participated in Outride's Riding for Focus program.

Outride is a non-profit organization that provides an evidenced-based school cycling program, Riding For Focus, to improve middle school students' social, emotional, and cognitive health.

Riding For Focus is designed to provide schools with everything they need to get their middle school students riding, including bikes, helmets, teacher training, curriculum, and maintenance through local bicycle retailers.

"We are excited to partner with Ride For Focus to give our sixth grade students the opportunity to learn bike skills and safety," said Principal Maite Porter. "Through this grant, we will receive 20 Specialized (brand) bikes assembled by our

generous business partner Ride Bikes in West Ashley. Our P.E. teachers will complete training this spring and we will be ready to kick off in the fall of 2022."

Physical activity has an impact on cognitive skills such as concentration and attention, and it also improves student engagement and behavior, all of which are important components of improved academic performance.

The program also helps children learn how to ride bikes. On average, 20 percent of students at a middle school don't know how to ride a bike before the program. By the end of Riding For Focus, students who didn't know how to ride felt confident.

"It's been a challenging year and youth need a safe outlet to experience freedom and joy," said Lauren Freeman, Riding For

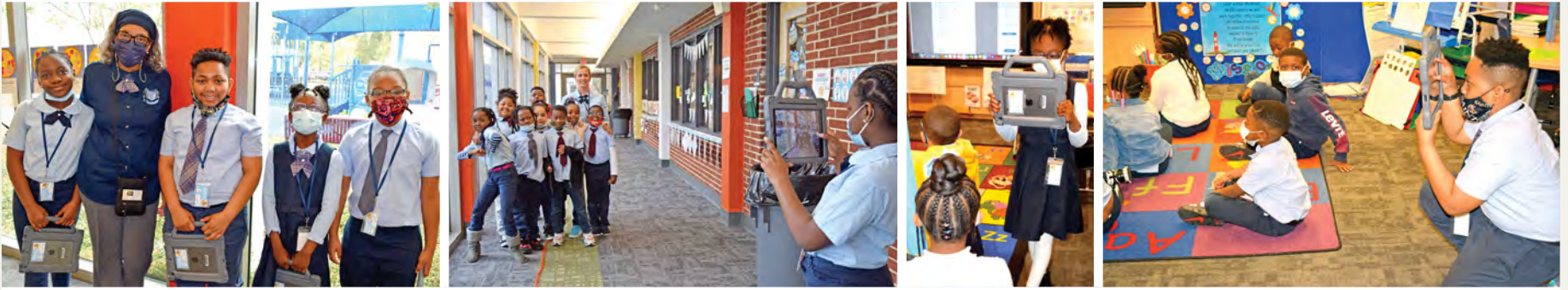
Focus Program Manager. "There's no better way to do that than by riding bikes. Students need bikes now more than ever and we at Outride are committed to getting more youth on bikes. We are so thrilled to be onboarding our 2021-2022 schools."

This is the third middle school in Charleston County School District to participate in the program. St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School and Deer Park Middle School are in their third and second year, respectively. The goal of Riding For Focus is to establish a sustainable school cycling program that will help students succeed, as well as grow and connect the community. More than 180 schools and 50,000 students across the United States and Canada are already benefiting from the program.

Eggs hatch at Oakland

Students at Oakland Elementary School incubated eggs and they hatched. The students got to handle the eggs and see the whole process





Left to right: CPA photography team; Fourth grader London Burnette; Kylie Sanders; Student photographer Jeremiah Williams

Student photographers capture the excitement of learning at CPA

Charleston Progressive Academy (CPA) is a Leader In Me School in which students are taught and encouraged to take ownership and leadership in all things. The ideology fosters responsibility and that starts at the top.

Valerie Muhammad is the technology teacher and tech liaison at CPA. She also handles the school's social media and publicity. As an elementary teacher, it is often hard to juggle classes and additional assignments. Muhammad realized that student photographers could be an essential component to fully capturing the essence of the school community and sharing that with the public.

So this year, Muhammad created and implemented the student photographer program at CPA. Four students were selected from dozens who applied through a real interview process. Students had to obtain recommendations, complete a sit-down interview, and describe why they would be a great fit for the job.

The students range in age from first to fifth grade and boast various degrees of experience in videography and photography. This four-person team captures moments around the school, such as special events, performances, and more. Those images and videos are then shared internally and externally as a way to showcase all the good things going on at CPA. In return for their commitment to the photography program, students are treated to training sessions throughout the year that goes beyond the basics of "point and shoot."

"Good news spreads when you're easily able to share it," said Muhammad. "These

captured moments are shared in conversations throughout the school community. Students see themselves in the images and become excited. When the team is on assignment, students are eager to have their picture taken and others are interested in a chance to join the photography team."

This year's team consists of a young man who owns his own camera and is often called upon by his church and community to photograph various events. Jeremiah Williams is in fourth grade and his dream is to go into law enforcement and become a crime scene photographer.

"I see this opportunity as a way to begin my training," said Williams. "I am learning to use various angles. I am also learning technical and professional skills I didn't know before. I have my own camera set at home and I love holding my camera and taking pictures. It's fun to get to do it at school, too."

Fourth grader London Burnette is on the team as well.

"I love taking pictures of my family," said Burnette. "I look for interesting angles and I like learning about lighting and textures."

Muhammad said the program provides a real-world experience for the team members. They all have a press badge that indicates they are CPA photographers on official business. They are allowed to go from assignment to assignment and must formally introduce themselves to teachers and staff and ask permission to shoot, before going about their work.

"In addition to photography, this has taught

them formal manners and public speaking skills that are essential in most situations," added Muhammad. "They know to be respectful at all times. When choosing the team members I had to consider students who could move independently throughout the school. It's a lesson in leadership – leaders are leaders wherever they are, even if no one is watching."

Picture-perfect moments pop up when you least expect them, so Muhammad allows the photography team to have their iPads with them at all times. When the students have captured special moments, she downloads them and posts them to social media, and the school website, and shares them on their school's internal television system.

"It is important to me to capture the good things going on at school so we can show that the students are well and good here," said Williams.

For the photography team program to be successful, it must be a collaborative effort, Muhammad explained. She communicates with the homeroom teachers of each team member so that they know when a student may be out on an assignment.

"Students may miss lessons so they must be willing to work ahead or take home extra homework," said Muhammad. "Everyone on our team is willing to make that sacrifice."

"It is sometimes a sacrifice," said Burnette. "I love schoolwork, so I don't mind."

Both Burnette and Williams agree that the opportunity has also allowed them to get to know so many more people in the school

building.

"The younger students look up to us and we set a good example for them to follow," said Williams.

"Also, I take great pride in seeing the kids smile when I show them their picture," said Burnette. "The parents smile too because they are proud of their kids."

Muhammad hopes to expand the program so that she can purchase new and advanced equipment and bring on more team members.

Just this week, Muhammad received a digital camera for students to use, thanks to a generous donation from a local resident on DonorsChoose.org

The DonorsChoose.org request was posted for Muhammad by a College of Charleston senior who's doing a grant internship with CCSD.

"We have the opportunity to grow this program into something bigger," said Muhammad. "It could serve as a feeder program for students wanting to join the yearbook or newspaper staff in middle school and high school. There is plenty of potential here for our scholars."

"As a Leader in Me Lighthouse School, we are giving our students lifelong skills by teaching them how to fish now," said Principal Wanda Sheats. "An African Proverb said, 'What you help a child to love can be more important than what you help him to learn.' We are exposing our students to real-world jobs that they enjoy and as a result, motivating them to learn."

MITCHELL STUDENTS STUDY SALTMARSH



Students at Julian Mitchell Elementary School hosted a community exhibit to showcase what they learned about the saltmarsh near their school. Hundreds of family members, friends, and school supporters attended. The “Saltmarsh Gallery Walk” was led by student-ambassadors so that visitors could ask questions and have an interactive tour.

This collaborative event was the culmination of learning about saltmarsh ecosystems across all grade levels and all classes throughout the year. Margeaux Coyne, Mitchell’s science lab teacher, helped coordinate the curriculum.

“We learned the science standards using the saltmarsh as a key focus for studying weather, storms, flooding, and how storm drains worked or did not,” explained Coyne. “Students focused on plants and animals, and the saltmarsh in collaboration with science educator and author Dr. Merrie Koester.”

The saltmarsh idea started last year with the creation of the book *Us and the Creek*, written by Dr. Koester and illustrated by scholars in Chak Or’s second grade class. This year, Koester provided a copy of the book to every Mitchell student.

Coyne invited students to use their *Us and the Creek* books as personal journals. They took notes in them throughout the year about what they were learning, such as high and low tide, marine animal sketches, and maritime maps.

Art teacher, Mary Beth DiNunzio, was given paints and canvas by Dr. Koester, and the students painted landscapes of Gadsden Creek. Students took photographs that were then used as inspiration for the paintings.

In the school library, pre-k and kindergarten students did research to write a song about periwinkle snails.

“Scholars were fascinated to learn that a snail can live its entire life on one blade of spartina grass,” said Edie Crook, teacher-librarian.

The learning didn’t stop there. In music class, with teacher Darwin Harvey, students practiced the songs that they later performed during the event.

Fifth grade students learned about the saltmarsh by playing the Estuary Keeper game. They then worked in teams to create their own board games to deepen and demonstrate their understanding of the saltmarsh.

“The event was wonderful,” added Coyne. “There were paintings, photographs, video, and interactive 3-D multi-sensory creations thanks to our gifted and talented teacher, Jessica Smith.”

James Island Elementary students share their perspective on Civil Rights Era with community



Lessons learned about the Civil Rights struggle in the 1960s by fifth graders at James Island Elementary School (JIES) turned into an art display that was made available for the community to view at the James Island Cultural Center. Shelby Joffrion, a fifth grade teacher at JIES, coordinated the effort, which is titled “An Exercise in Empathy.”

“These children and their families completed an incredible cultural empathy project that is simply breathtaking,” said Joffrion. “We did the program in February, but it is not just another ‘Black History Month’ project. It is so much bigger than that.”

Each child chose a photo from the 1960s, researched it, and recreated

it. Every student was then asked to interpret what was happening in the photo and how the actions within the image made them feel.

“When I tell you that the art they submitted is stunning, impactful, and empathetic, it seems like an understatement,” added Joffrion. “I am so proud of them.”

Joffrion made sure to stay in close contact with the students’ parents and guardians for this project.

“Including families in the planning and execution of the assignment is a big reason for this program’s success,” Joffrion said.

FIND YOUR BRAVE:

A journey of middle school journalists



SLED SRO Journalism



Journalism Court House

What do a South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) agent, SPOT - the Boston Dynamics Biomimicry Robot Dog, and a municipal court judge have in common? This is not the opening line of a joke. Instead, it is a way to highlight the interesting work that James Simons Montessori School students are doing in their weekly journalism mini-course.

Seventh grader Lamar Heyward, who is interested in a future career in law enforcement, invited senior SLED agent Richard Johnson to his school to conduct an interview. Heyward was able to model for his classmates the practice of asking open-ended questions that he then turned into an article for their school's Lit Zine, their literary magazine. JSMS Lit Zine uses the hashtag #findyourbrave as journalists uncover their voices and find the courage to ask questions that interest them.

As the popularity of the middle school journalism class and

Lit Zine grew, students were invited to a College of Charleston event, SPOT on the Bricks, where students had the opportunity to observe technological advances in biomimicry and ask pertinent questions. SPOT is the creation of Boston Dynamics and is an agile, mobile robot that was designed with biomimicry to mirror the actions of a typical domestic dog. Students had a front-row seat to this phenomenon and were able to report their experiences to their friends and classmates.

Additionally, middle school journalism students toured the Charleston County Municipal Court House and were able to interview Judge Susan Herdina and other staff members of the court.

Seventh grader Layla Jeffcoat is writing a piece on the Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and wanted to know more about what a local court system and structure looked

like. All of the students were able to ask thought-provoking questions and have the opportunity to learn more about a day in the life of a judge or court worker.

These real-world experiences are examples of the adolescent Montessori curriculum.

“Experiential learning has always been a cornerstone of our program”, said Jennifer Savage, James Simons literacy coach.

“Students extending their learning outside of the classroom and making real-life connections to what they are learning is an invaluable experience and an integral part of their growth and development as future problem solvers,” added media specialist and STEAM coach Rosie Herold. “We are all very proud of the work that our adolescents are doing and of the willingness of these outside organizations and individuals to support educating our future leaders.”

LAW ENFORCEMENT CLASS INCREASES INTEREST IN FUTURE POLICING CAREERS



Squad with security dog

Former Mount Pleasant Police Officer Jay Tronco has been teaching law enforcement at North Charleston High School (NCHS) for the last four years. The program is the only one in the district and is part of the Career and Technology Education program offered by Charleston County School District (CCSD).

Tronco built the curriculum from scratch using state standards. The program has grown in popularity among the students, and Tronco noted that the students who enroll are either curious about the class or have a true interest in becoming a law enforcement officer.

The program includes three classes: Intro to Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement I, and Law Enforcement II. To be a completer, students have to successfully finish all three of the semester classes.

Every year, Tronco asks his first-semester students their opinion about police officers. Their responses are usually negative. By the end of the course, many of those feelings have softened.

"As word got out about the class and what the students were learning, the beliefs about officers began to change," said Tronco. "The students are learning about their individual rights and the numerous career options they may have should they pursue it."

The curriculum includes Constitutional Law, search and seizure, traffic stops, a shooting simulator, handcuffing, baton use, CPR, and life-saving techniques. Tronco described it as very hands-on.

"I get the kids engaged in the class from the very start," said Tronco. "I let them put handcuffs on each other and on me. It's true training."

Tronco said that Principal Henry Darby has been a true cheerleader for the program. Darby was able to secure a police vehicle so that students could witness simulated traffic stops.

"The Constitution is something most people know very little about it," said Tronco. "That's the foundation of the class because as citizens we have so many rights and privileges. I show them what a legal search looks like and what an illegal search looks like. I teach them what cops can and can't do."

Tronco explained that he teaches his students that most police officers do the right thing but sometimes

they do the wrong thing and don't realize it, or don't know any better.

"That's why it is important to me that they know their own rights," said Tronco. "If they run into a situation, they know they have the right to say no in certain situations."

This year, NCHS partnered with Charleston School of Law to bring law students in to teach "Street Law." The Street Law Clinic at Charleston School of Law is an experiential learning program in which law students receive training in law-related education, and construct learner-centered lessons in law, designed to develop the critical thinking and cognitive skills of high school students.

The Street Law Clinic focuses on developing an understanding of the law, the legal process, the United States system of government, and effective citizenship. The Clinic includes examining the role of law, courts, fairness, and equality in our state and in our country.

Emily Ledford, a third-year law student, said that during the semester, the law students were learning how to teach effectively and engage the high school students. They went into the classroom to put their lesson plans and knowledge into action on Fridays at NCHS.

"I applied to the Street Law Clinic because I always considered being a teacher," said Ledford. "Street Law satisfied my desire to be an attorney and to experience teaching in the classroom."

Ledford said that she was able to build encouraging relationships with the NCHS students in her class. She saw that some of them had a genuine interest in law.

"Most students didn't realize how much the law affects their everyday lives," Ledford said. "For some of my students, their interaction with the law has not always been positive but the students learned that they have rights. My fellow law students' interactions with our students at NCHS created opportunities for really important in-depth conversations."

As part of the Street Law Clinic, after studying, discussing, and completing projects in criminal law, the students had to prepare for and conduct a mock trial. The students served as prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses, and jurors. Ledford said that the students seemed to enjoy the preparation and the actual trial. One student expressed her interest in attending law school and becoming an attorney.

"That was part of my goal in participating in Street Law," said Ledford. "If one student expressed an interest in law then I accomplished what I came to do. I wanted to show these students that there are so many opportunities in law enforcement and criminal justice."

Tronco was impressed with the students who seized on the opportunity to choose their roles.

"Some of their choices were surprising and others chose a role perfectly suited for their personality," said Tronco. "It was encouraging to see the students take what they learned and apply it to the mock trial and their individual roles in the exercise."

Debra J. Gammons is the Street Law Clinic Professor. She has been teaching at Charleston School of Law since 2009. She has been practicing law since 1992.

"I love the law," said Gammons. "I love practicing law and teaching law."

Gammons teaches criminal law classes, constitutional law classes, freedom of speech – first amendment classes, sex, gender issues, law classes, and trial advocacy classes.

Gammons explained that a third-year law student, Viraj Patel, approached her about teaching Street Law as a means to fulfill the law school's mission of "Pro Bono Populi" – "For the good of the people." Patel agreed to help and Charleston School of Law implement the Street Law Clinic.

"Our high school students benefit from interacting with enthusiastic, intelligent, and motivated law students," said Gammons. "When they see these adults achieving their goals, the high school students believe that they can also set and achieve their own goals."

According to Gammons, Street Law is not about memorization; it is about critical thinking and problem-solving when considering legal issues, community issues, and how to create positive changes.

"These are questions presented to NCHS students in Street Law," Gammons said. "These students, under the leadership of my law students, engage in discussions and projects to build their critical thinking skills. They engaged in having a mock trial and they will engage in a Legacy Project focusing on their ancestors and themselves to build a brighter future for themselves."

The CSL Street Law Clinic was one of five law schools selected to participate in the International Street Law Collaboration Project. They will be working with the Street Law class at National Research Tomsk State University in Tomsk, Russia, and their high school students to address social issues.

Law enforcement class – continued from page 78

“I tell my law students and the high school students that we live in the best country in the world,” said Gammons. “People risk their lives to be here. The majority of us had the privilege of being born here. We have the United States Constitution that forms a strong foundation for our freedoms. We also have responsibilities as citizens.”

Gammons added that partnering with NCHS has given Charleston School of Law the opportunity to fulfill its mission and give law students a way to have a meaningful impact on young students’ lives.

“In addition to their studying and reading law cases, they are interacting with real people, helping resolve real issues, and providing motivation for a bright future,” Gammons said.

“I am looking forward to a continued and expanded partnership with the School of Law,” said Tronco. “I can’t thank the student

teachers enough for taking the time to work with my students one-on-one and truly engage in each individual person.”

Broadening student perspectives

In Tronco’s four years of teaching this class, he has seen the most hesitant students, with a dislike for police officers turn into the most successful students.

“They’re not all going to be police officers or attorneys,” said Tronco. “The ones who show an interest will have a direct path in front of them if they desire to take it.”

“Many of these students deal with some very grown-up, serious issues at a very young age, and end up with ten lifetimes worth of law enforcement interaction by the time they get to me,” said Tronco. “Many have committed crimes, been victims of crimes, and been a witness to a crime. “Hopefully this class helps

mitigate preconceived notions and misconceptions about police officers and the law in general.

While local and state LE require you to be 21, there are a variety of programs where the age requirement is just 18. Charleston County Consolidated dispatch and Transportation Security Administration are options as well as Explorer programs for those that wish to learn more about the ins and outs of law enforcement at a local level.

Tronco hopes the success of the class at NCHS will encourage other high schools to replicate the model.

“Mr. Tronco is a superlative instructor who has put NCHS upfront in the efforts to recruit students - soon to be adults - to be top-quality law enforcement officers,” said Principal Henry Darby. “With his doing so, he is helping change the school and community culture for the better.”



INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER CHRIS SINGLETON VISITS NORTHWOODS MIDDLE

Students at Northwoods Middle School heard from local inspirational speaker Chris Singleton. He is known to the Lowcountry as the baseball star at Charleston Southern whose mother was tragically killed in the 2015 Mother Emanuel Church tragedy in Charleston.

He became a nationally-renowned speaker with a message of resilience, forgiveness, and unity following the loss of his mother. Singleton now shares his message with over 60 organizations annually. One of his children’s books, *Different – A Story About Loving Your Neighbor*, was a best seller in its category and has been featured by numerous outlets, including The Obama Foundation.

Singleton’s overall mission when speaking is to inspire his audiences with his story of resilience and to unite millions of people with his belief that, “Love is Stronger Than Hate.”

Clemson University and Frierson Elementary collaborate on project

Clemson University architecture students worked with scholars from Edith L. Frierson Elementary School. They collaborated on a building project with our fourth and fifth grade students where they constructed a display case to display architectural drawings and plans. The Clemson students also presented pavilion designs and in return, elementary students presented their own architectural plans to the Clemson team.





Left to right: Counselors assist with fun activities; JIES Junior Counselors; Counselors join in playing games as well

Junior counselor program at JIES Kaleidoscope one of many proving successful

Learning doesn't stop when the final bell of the school day rings. Every day in Charleston County School District (CCSD), several thousand students make their way to the district's after-school program called Kaleidoscope.

The program is designed to be an extension of the school day, where soft skills and leadership methods are taught through various activities.

Dr. Pamela Pepper is the site coordinator for Kaleidoscope at James Island Elementary School (JIES). Dr. Pepper is a psychologist by training and joined JIE Kaleidoscope last spring. Her goal is to utilize her clinical skills and training that will help children/youth learn skills that will take them through life.

Based on similar models used in Kaleidoscope programs across the district, Pepper created a junior counselor program for fourth and fifth grade students.

"One of the pillars of James Island Elementary School's vision is that our students will be Beacons to the future," said Pepper. "Upon visiting another Kaleidoscope program, I learned about having junior counselors provides an additional opportunity to teach soft skills such as leadership and responsibility that they can use in their future."

Pepper explained that interested students submitted an application that included basic demographic information, hobbies, interest, and previous experience with children. Students had to answer questions



explaining their interest in working as a junior counselor and what skills and qualities they possessed that would make them a good fit for the position.

Students had a deadline for the application, and Pepper and her assistant coordinator Kailah Binnom interviewed each applicant.

"We talked about examples of leadership at Kaleidoscope," said Pepper. "Some squirmed in their seats and some had real answers to hypothetical situations. They really had to problem solve throughout the process. It was tough to narrow down. They were all really good."

There were nine applicants and the top four were selected (two boys, and two girls). Their duties include leading groups and clubs, helping peers with homework, and reading. This year's ambassadors are fourth graders Henry Wyman, Isla Lawson, Nola Schullepp, and Ollie Jackson.

Additionally, junior counselors are required to abide by and demonstrate the rules of Kaleidoscope which are Safety, Order, Achievement, and Respect (SOAR). These rules are aligned with the JIES school-wide behavior expectations.

Wyman said he applied because he knew the position would teach him responsibility.

Jackson agreed and added that he is learning public speaking skills.

"I have the junior counselors attend weekly meetings about upcoming events, they make daily announcements, help take attendance, and help with other tasks or duties," said Pepper. "In doing so, they learn to be a role model to all students in the program."

Shelia Grier, West Region Expanded Learning Program Officer, added that the junior counselor program teaches not just leadership, but problem-solving, independence, public speaking, building positive relationships, self-confidence, and overall self-esteem to be a leader among their peers.

"Pam and others using similar junior counselor programs are teaching the kids 21st-century skills, where they are learning critical thinking and problem solving," said Grier. "Pam is intentional about teaching these skills to all students. The hope is that the younger students will look up to the junior counselors and be motivated to apply when they are in fourth grade."

Lawson, who has a younger brother, said she applied because she felt experienced in dealing with younger children.

“I like to help out the little kids with their homework and activities,” said Lawson. “I think I do well with kids of all ages.”

Schluepp is also an older sibling.

“I applied because I like having a job to do and getting to work with kids is really fun,” said Schluepp.

Pepper modeled her program after the long-running junior counselor program at Sullivan’s Island Elementary School (SIES).

Jackie Meade is the site coordinator at SIES and she accepts 10 students as junior counselors. They must apply for the position and those who get accepted are identifiable by a name badge hung around their neck with a lanyard.

The junior counselors at SIES work closely with the Kaleidoscope Kid Council which is an elected group of board members who serve as a guiding group for planning projects and activities.

Projects are STEM-centered and include cooking activities, arts and crafts, and more.

“The students help run the projects and help with homework,” said Meade. “We have a positive behavior system with good behavior tickets that they pass out. Every other Friday students can use those tickets in the Scope Shop and make purchases.”

While the junior counselor program is designed differently at JIES, the one common denominator is student input and implementation.

“They have to put forth the effort every day,” said Meade. “They can’t just come in and play and join their groups of friends. There is time

for that, but they are responsible for helping out and being a leader. Our counselors are set apart from the rest of the group, and can step into the leadership roles set for the day.”

The positive behavior system at SIES is also tied into the school’s expectations, called R.A.Y.S. which stands for Respectful, Always Responsible, Your Best, and Safe. Similar to other Kaleidoscope programs, it is an extension of the school’s environment.

Greer said that similar programs across the district are designed to fit the culture of that school, which is why each model is different.

“It’s a win, win for everyone,” said Meade who has been at SIES for 33 years. “It gives the older students leadership roles, and the younger students look up to them and aspire to be in their shoes one day.”

PARTICIPATING KALEIDOSCOPE SCHOOLS RECEIVE ALMOST \$500,000 IN BUILDING BLOCKS GRANTS

The Division of Early Care and Education at the South Carolina Department of Social Services awarded 13 schools a total of almost \$500,000 in grant money.

Child care stabilization grants were appropriated to states in the American Rescue Plan Act (Public Law 117-2) to help stabilize the child care sector via subgrants to child care providers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds must be used to support the key operating expenses of child care providers to help ensure access to child care for families. In South Carolina, these stabilizations grants are called “SC Building Blocks.”

The programs eligible to apply for the fifth round of SC Block Grant funding had to be enrolled in the ABC Quality Program and meet the Child Care Development Fund health and safety requirements.

ABC Quality is South Carolina’s statewide rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care and early education. ABC Quality is voluntary for child care providers and promotes excellence in meeting the total needs of children.

The following schools will receive funding:

- Belle Hall Elementary School
- Charles Pinckney Elementary School
- Charleston Progressive Academy
- Harbor View Elementary School
- Hunley Park Elementary School
- James B. Edwards Elementary School
- Jennie Moore Elementary School
- Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School
- Memminger Elementary School
- Mount Pleasant Academy
- Oakland Elementary School
- Springfield Elementary School
- Sullivan’s Island Elementary School

“We are so thrilled to have been awarded these grants,” said Jason Sakran, Director of Expanded Learning (Kaleidoscope). “If the pandemic revealed anything, it is the importance of high-quality child care to keep our economy and workforce moving forward. This money will be used to directly support our programs and students. It couldn’t come at a better time.”

“Qualifying under the new guidelines for the fifth round of the SC Block Grant is a tremendous win for our programs who are participants in the SC ABC Quality program,” said Ashley Peters, Program Officer for the Department of Expanded Learning. “These funds will allow us to hire more staff and position us to expand our enrollment to pre-covid numbers.”

Funding can be used on personnel, facilities, PPE, equipment, goods and services, mental health services, and past expenses.

DISTRICT NEWS

CCSD celebrates National Family Engagement Month



Charleston County School District (CCSD) is committed to promoting family engagement year-round and celebrates National Family Engagement Month every November. Through the Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE), the district expanded family outreach and support.

Over 40 years of research indicates students achieve at higher levels when schools and families support each other. Research also shows that when schools and families are engaged in meaningful two-way communication and collaboration, students have:

- More positive attitudes toward school
- Higher grades and test scores, which equals higher achievement
- Better attendance
- More homework completed
- Higher graduation rates
- Greater enrollment in post-secondary education

“This month and always, CCSD is grateful to parents and caregivers for the important role they play in their children’s education,” said Dennis Muhummad, Director of FACE. “November serves not only as a celebration of family engagement but also a reminder of the difference you make in your child’s learning.”

CCSD’s Division of Strategy and Communication reached out to schools to determine what their families believe engagement means to them. Parents and guardians weighed in to explain why school and family partnerships are beneficial.

“It has positively impacted our family in several ways,” said one mother of a Springfield

Elementary School student. “It helps us, as parents, lead by example showing our children how to interact with their school family. As a teacher myself, parent involvement, supporting the schools, teachers, and staff have proven to help students be responsible and respectful.”

A parent from C.E. Williams Middle School (North) said that family engagement is crucial because it helps to reinforce the school’s mission.

“I believe that our family has been positively impacted by having the opportunity to discuss things that are happening at school academically and socially,” she explained.

Engagement takes place in many forms. From events at school, on the weekends, and activities at home. The activities are meant to be fun and to make the most of those teachable moments.

For example, one mother from North Charleston Elementary School said that based on the activities she does with her children, she would encourage other families to create a time to cook together and eat.

“Many families do not have flexible schedules due to work and school,” the mother said. “This prohibits many families from sitting down to eat a meal together. My family tries to meet once a month to have a big family dinner.”

“When a student feels supported by both their family unit and learning system, they begin to gain confidence in themselves,” another parent from C.E. Williams Middle School (North) added. “This helps increase the students’ interest in learning more about a topic when they know that they are supported to ask questions at home and school.”

CCSD LEADS STATE WITH 21 AWARDS in SC/NSPRA's Rewards for Excellence

Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Division of Strategy and Communications, along with five schools, combined to receive a state-best 21 awards in the 2022 Rewards for Excellence program, sponsored by the South Carolina Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (SC/NSPRA). The honors include three "Best in Show" honors in the District Excellence in Writing category, School Social Media (Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies, and School Website (R.B. Stall High School).

SC/NSPRA recognized 119 programs and projects from across the state during a ceremony on Friday, May 13, 2022, in Columbia.

Rewards for Excellence recognizes outstanding communications and public relations efforts by South Carolina schools, school districts, and education agencies and associations. Public relations veterans with extensive experience in educational and business communications evaluated a total of 217 entries from the school and district levels.

The program features the following three main awards categories:

- Medallion (for comprehensive public relations programs)
- Golden Achievement (for a single project or an aspect of a comprehensive program)
- Publications and Electronic Media (for individual products designed to improve communication)



2022 CCSD RFE Winners

THE FOLLOWING ENTRIES FROM THE DISTRICT AND CCSD SCHOOLS WERE HONORED IN THIS YEAR'S REWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM:

District

Excellence in Writing - *It all starts with a conversation – Best in Show*
Excellence in Writing - *NCHS offers class on "street law" for aspiring lawyers*
Excellence in writing - *Pulse of CCSD – Child Development teacher brightens everyone's day*
Excellence in Writing - *Pulse of CCSD – Phillip Caston cataloging high school memories year after year at Wando*
Excellence in Writing - *Students at Laing expand Go Baby Go project with community donations*
Photography - *Laurel Hill "Snow Day" 1*
Photography - *Laurel Hill "Snow Day" 2*
Photography - *Learning how to raise farm animals*
Special Publication - *Valedictorian Booklet 2021*
Video (In-House) - *CCSD Minute January 22, 2021*
Video (In-House) - *Clemson School of Architecture Career Summer Academy*
Video (In-House) - *"Go Baby Go" at Laing Middle School- Stories of CCSD*

School

Newsletter - *Stiles Point Elementary School*
Social Media - *Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies' Facebook page - Best in Show*
Social Media - *R.B. Stall High School's Facebook page*
Video - *Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (Toys for Tots PSA)*
Video - *North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School (January iReady Challenge Winners)*
Website - *R.B. Stall High School – Best in Show*
Website - *Drayton Hall Elementary School*
Website - *North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School*
Website - *Thomas C. Cario Middle School*

"We are tremendously proud of the fact that CCSD won more communications awards than any other district in our state this year," said CCSD's Chief of Staff, Dr. Erica Taylor. "Our efforts are all about sharing news about the people and programs of CCSD to our employees, parents, and community at large. It is truly rewarding to see our talented and dedicated team of communications professionals and school staff members recognized by their peers in this way."

This is the second year in a row CCSD set its own record in the SC/NSPRA Reward for Excellence program; the district earned 17 honors in 2021.

SC/NSPRA is an affiliate of the National School Public Relations Association. The state chapter is composed of more than 140 school public relations practitioners, superintendents, and other educational professionals from across the state. The organization strives to foster development in the field of school public relations and to encourage meaningful community involvement in and understanding of the public school system.

First Men of CHS Teach candidates took to the classrooms



Ja'Quan Evans

Lamar Nelson

Michael Ford

Keon Stephens-Miley

Tyler Wright

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is committed to building a diverse teacher workforce as part of its mission to prepare all students to be global citizens. High-retention alternative teaching pathways have been created as a means of attracting diverse teacher candidates. Among them is the first-year program, Men of Charleston (CHS) Teach.

CCSD's Division of Human Resources launched Men of CHS Teach in January to recruit male teachers of color for teaching positions in early childhood and elementary education. Recently, CCSD partnered with the University of South Carolina to provide support via the Carolina Collaborative for Alternative Preparation program. That partnership has been the springboard for CCSD's Men of CHS Teach.

Ja'Quan Evans is among the first candidates recruited for this program. He graduated from Benedict College in December with a degree in Psychology. However, he learned about CCSD's Men of CHS Teach at a career fair at his school. Apprehensive about a future career with a degree in Psychology, Evans said he saw the program as an opportunity - both for a productive, rewarding career and as a way to give back. He noted he didn't have a Black male teacher until he went to college.

After graduating from college, Evans entered Men of CHS Teach in January and started teaching kindergarten at E.B. Ellington Elementary School. He finds the program expeditious and supportive. The Blythwood native is taking education courses online at the University of South Carolina while being mentored by experienced black male teachers in the Charleston area.

"I was a little hesitant at first," Evans said. "However, I love seeing the children's excitement. I'm blessed and thankful for this opportunity and recommend the program to anyone who has a passion for teaching."

The importance of Men of CHS Teach

The number of individuals entering the teaching profession continues to dwindle nationwide, said April Butler, CCSD's Human Resources Department's Director of Pathways to Teaching.

Nearly half of CCSD's approximately 49,000 students are people of

color. However, only four percent of the district's 3,600 certified educators are men of color; most of them teach at the middle or high school level.

Eric Stallings, a Pathways to Teaching support staff member, knows the importance of minority males in classrooms.

"I didn't see people who looked like me teaching in classrooms," said Stallings. "That motivated me to pursue a degree in education and become a teacher."

Stallings graduated from the College of Charleston and eventually taught English at Baptist Hill Middle High School. In fact, he was a CCSD Teacher of the Year finalist in 2017. Now he works at the district level, trying to recruit and support teachers.

Men of CHS Teach offer incentives to augment that kind of motivation and success. Candidates start the program as co-teachers with the benefit of earning full teachers' salaries. Butler emphasized that graduates with a Bachelor's Degree in any major and expectant graduates are also eligible to participate in the program. The program is also looking for men of color who perhaps may want to change careers.

Butler wants to connect with as many candidates as possible. The program is reaching out to churches, barbershops, shopping malls, and fraternities and sororities in addition to traditional venues such as college campuses and through newspapers and media outlets to identify candidates. Five candidates have already been recruited. Butler hopes to recruit 15 more by August.

State recognition

CCSD's Pathways to Teaching team was invited by the University of South Carolina (UofSC) to a Residency Exploration meeting on March 24-25, 2022. The invitation gave the team an opportunity to meet with partners from UofSC and Voorhees, representatives from state agencies such as the Commission for Higher Education, as well as human resources personnel from districts across the state. The time was centered around the work of alternative certification programs and residencies.

CCSD was commended for the innovative and intentional development of certification pathways (ie. Men of CHS Teach,

Classified to Certified, etc) that provide increased opportunities which address the teacher shortage and diversity of its certified teaching staff.

"Teacher residencies like Men of CHS Teach offer one of the best district human capital investments imaginable," said Karen DeMoss, Executive Director of Prepared to Teach. "The profound impact that Men of CHS Teach will have on the district by virtue of their status as teachers who look like the students they serve will be immeasurable, including long-term educational outcomes for the district's students succeeding in high school and attending college."

Financial benefits

Despite proclaimed low teacher salaries in South Carolina, starting pay for CCSD teachers with a Bachelor's Degree is about \$41,000 annually paid across 12 months - including unobligated summer breaks.

Teacher salaries increase with years of experience and advanced degrees obtained. Also, teachers are paid for doing other jobs in addition to teaching. The average CCSD teacher earns about \$60,000 annually. And as state employees, CCSD teachers receive significant benefits as well.

As the state's second-largest school district, opportunities abound for CCSD teachers, Butler said. For men of color looking for a great career, looking to change careers, or looking to change a child's life, CCSD's Men of CHS Teach represents vast opportunities.

Having two committed educators during the initial year in the classroom helps bridge learning opportunity gaps that COVID-19 exacerbated, improving student outcomes. Graduates of Men of CHS Teach will be prepared to accelerate student learning, which saves the district remediation costs and sets the youth of Charleston up for success. The training will also help the candidates avoid some of the first-year challenges many young teachers face, increasing retention and potentially saving the district roughly \$20,000 in turnover costs for each Men of CHS Teach graduate.



Dedication ceremony held to unveil Attaway-Heinsohn pocket park

Charleston County School District (CCSD) held a dedication ceremony April 21, 2022 to commemorate the iconic stadium that once stood where Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (CRCAS) is located. The stadium was named after Hubert Attaway and Alvin Heinsohn who were both public servants and active members of the North Charleston community.

Attaway was appointed the first Chairman of the Public Service Commission in North Charleston by the governor of South Carolina. The commission was the prime governing body for services in the community before the City of North Charleston.

Heinsohn was the Chairman of the Cooper River Parks and Recreation Commission which was also the predecessor of services now provided by the City of North Charleston.

The CRCAS is a state-of-the-art facility that offers students of North Charleston high schools an opportunity in career clusters including building construction, manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics, health science, media technology, information technology, and cybersecurity/pre engineering

The facility has been designed to adapt to the changing industry and business needs gives students college and career ready opportunities through this century. This project is part of the \$930 million school district infrastructure investment in North Charleston schools which represents more than 35 percent of CCSD's capital construction and maintenance investment across the district.

As part of that CCSD officials wanted to honor Attaway and Heinsohn with a street-facing pocket park that will remind students, staff, and community members of their legacy.



Unveiling ceremony



Attaway-Heinsohn pocket park dedication

CCSD celebrates the 2021-2022 retirees





Charleston County School District

2022
RETIREMENT
Banquet

Tuesday, June 21, 2022
5:30 p.m.

The Charleston Gaillard Center
95 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401









Golf tournament raises money for CCSD employees

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses in the Lowcountry and the state of South Carolina, this year's Mark Cobb Memorial/Ron McWhirt Golf Tournament raised more than \$15,000 for scholarships for students of Charleston County School District employees. More than 100 golfers participated in the 19th annual event at the Coosaw Country Club in North Charleston.

Mission, Values & Commitments



STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART
OF OUR WORK!



Our Mission

To educate and support every child in achieving college, career, and citizenship readiness

Our Vision

CCSD is a premier school system in which

- every child is supported in and out of school,
- every child succeeds academically,
- every child graduates from high school prepared for employment in the modern workforce or credential completion or postsecondary degree, and
- every student, teacher, principal, and staff member is valued and respected with the opportunity to learn every day.

Our Values

- SERVICE - We are selfless in support of our students and each other.
- INTEGRITY - We honor truthfulness, fairness, consistency, and transparency.
- INCLUSIVENESS - We treat each other with dignity and mutual respect.
- EQUITY - We target resources, support, and attention where the need is greatest.
- COLLABORATION - We are stronger when we work together on behalf of every child.
- EXCELLENCE - We make decisions that are student-centered, data-informed, and evidence-based.

Charleston County School District

DISTRICT PROFILE



Annual Budget
\$597,236,035



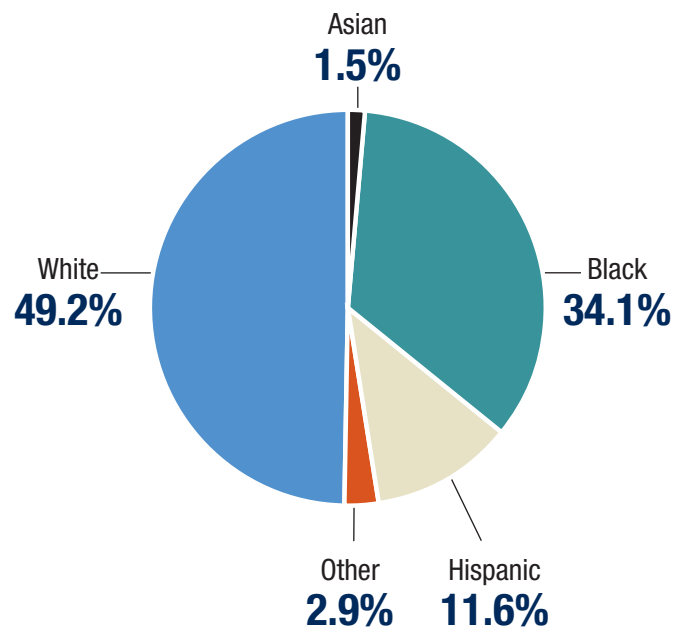
Number of Students
48,863



Number of Schools/Programs
142



Number of Teachers
3,613



Students Designated
English Language Learners
11.4%

Charleston County School District

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CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Congratulates

ALL FACULTY, STAFF,
STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

WHO MADE THE
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR
A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you!

