



CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



INTRODUCTION



Gerrita Postlewait
Superintendent of Schools
Charleston County School District

I think we can all agree that 2020 will be a year to remember! We were faced with so many unprecedented events that refined our critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity skills.

I could not be more proud of the grace displayed in March when our teachers, staff, and principals had to make an abrupt pivot to address school closures due to COVID-19. Even more remarkable was the dignified response by the Class of 2020 in learning that their graduation celebrations would not be of the traditional sort. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the determination of every other student to continue to excel in academics despite the new and unfamiliar virtual platform.

Before COVID-19 we had numerous things to celebrate. For starters, we began the school year with the opening of three brand new school facilities – Burns Elementary School (Burns at Meeting Street), Dunston Elementary School, and Stono Park Elementary School.

Our Top Five Finalists for Teacher of the Year were announced and celebrated. Congratulations to Dr. Amy Bramble of Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School, Stephanie Ganacoplos of C.E. Williams Middle School, Lakevia Mills of St. John's High School, Mev McIntosh of North Charleston High School and Margo Quigley of Wando High School.

We unveiled a new Board mandated Cultural Competency training for all district employees. The official policy was adopted by the CCSD Board of Trustees on December 16, 2019.

At the national level, Academic Magnet High School was recognized as the country's #2 school by *U.S. News and World Report* and the #29 STEM high school by *Newsweek*.

For the second time in three years, Laing Middle School was one of ten schools nationally to receive the STEM School of Excellence Recognition by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association. Military Magnet Academy was one of only four schools in the nation to be named a Flying School at the National Youth-At-Risk Conference.

Additionally, Wando High School's band was a national recipient of the 2019 National Band Association Program of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award. CCSD had a total of 23 winners in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program this year. The students and educators in this district never cease to amaze me!

One of the greatest blessings of my professional life is the opportunity to advocate for our teachers and our students. Here's to 2021, the year we've all been looking forward to!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerrita Postlewait". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerrita" and last name "Postlewait" clearly distinguishable.

Gerrita Postlewait
Superintendent of Schools

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CELEBRATION



Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait welcomes students on the first day of school

Charleston County School District (CCSD) Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait visited schools Wednesday, August 21 to welcome students on the first day back to school for the 2019-2020 School year.

She started the morning at West Ashley Middle School, with a stop at E.B. Ellington Elementary School, Stono Park Elementary School, Deer Park Middle School, and Pepperhill Elementary School before stopping for a tour and lunch at the brand new Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School. The tour concluded with a visit to Edmund A. Burns Elementary School/ Meeting Street Academy @ Burns and Moultrie Middle School.



In the Whorl of Time

James Simons Centennial celebrations



The week of September 9-13, 2019 marked 100 years since James Simons Elementary School opened its doors. A pivotal part of Charleston's rich history, school leaders say James Simons has always been a place that represents hope, family, and community.

For example, it was one of the first schools in Charleston to desegregate. Five years ago, the first African-American children to desegregate a Charleston school, Oveta Glover and Barbara Ford Morrison returned to James Simons to officially dedicate the new building.

The new building was renovated to include the original, historical staircase that goes out to Moultrie Street, once again paying homage to the roots of James Simons.

Alumni and present students of James Simons alike have been very proud of the history there. This school has always honored the past while looking to the future.

The school partnered with conNECKtedTOO, a group of artists, educators, activists working with and for TINY Businesses, to create a spiraled mandala *In the Whorl of Time*, that was showcased in the historical entrance of the school.

The 1200 pieces were created under the leadership of artist Sonia Osio and educator Pamella Gibbs. Students and educators have been working on these pieces for the past year. The individual mandalas were created by classes at James Simons as well as a school in Ecuador and another school in Georgia. This collaborative effort came together to represent 1919-2019, the historical timeline of the school, race relationships, field trips to neighborhood TINY businesses by the middle school entrepreneurship class, family stories, and wishes for the future.



Brentwood @ Meeting Street

Sixth graders at Meeting Street at Brentwood unveiled their new uniforms this year.

Oakland Elementary Family Photo

It is tradition at Oakland Elementary School to take a school picture. Theirs is unique in that they call it a family photo. Students, teachers, and staff gather on school grounds and stand in position so as to create a peace symbol – symbolic of the school's culture.



BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS

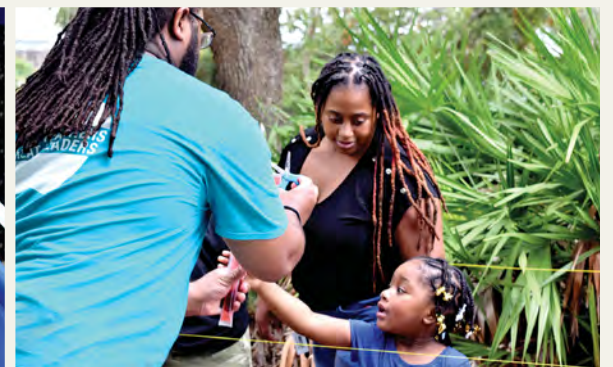
First Day Festival is another success



Students celebrated the upcoming start of the school year Sunday at the annual First Day Festival August 18, 2019. The free event for Charleston County School District families was hosted by the City of Charleston Mayor's Office.

Students received backpacks filled with school supplies and parents received information and resources for the upcoming school year.

Free entry to the South Carolina Aquarium and free boat rides were offered, along with swag and goodies from vendors from all over the Lowcountry.





Hooties Homegrown Roundup provides Back to School Basics for 13th year

Charleston County School District (CCSD) hosted the 13th Annual Hootie and the Blowfish Homegrown Roundup at Burke High School August 17, 2019 to help better prepare students for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Roundup provides services and back-to-school supplies for 1,000 students from CCSD Title 1 schools.

Services and supplies were donated by the band Hootie & the Blowfish and various local community businesses that included, haircuts, dental evaluations, eye exams, backpacks filled with school supplies.

Hootie & the Blowfish is one of the most successful music groups of all time selling over 25 million albums worldwide. 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.

The Roundup has helped over 13,000 students since its inception.





100th Day celebration

Students at Malcom C. Hursey Montessori School celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up in costume.

Julian Mitchell Elementary holds 11th Annual Holiday Market



The 11th Annual Holiday Market is a much-anticipated event for all of the students at Julian Mitchell Elementary School. Each year, through community donations, the school's Behavior Management Specialist, Reggie Terry, sets up a market for students to "shop" for items that will be given to family and friends during the holiday season. Each student chooses two items that are wrapped by volunteers so they can be presented as gifts. This is a day that students look forward to because it allows them the opportunity to give a gift to someone that is special to them. Fifth grade students look forward to the event as well; they help younger students find items and pair them with an adult volunteer that can wrap the gifts.

Balloons Over Broadway

Third grade students at St. Andrew's Math and Science read *Balloons Over Broadway* then researched the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. Students then worked in group to design and make balloons. Finally, they put on a parade for the school to see.





Exceptional Kind Students celebrated

A.C. Corcoran Elementary School celebrated Exceptional Kind Students for the Month of December.



Terrific Kids of Pepperhill Elementary

Pepperhill Elementary School celebrates Terrific Kids each month. Hooray to the March recipients.

RED RIBBON WEEK



Charleston Progressive Academy

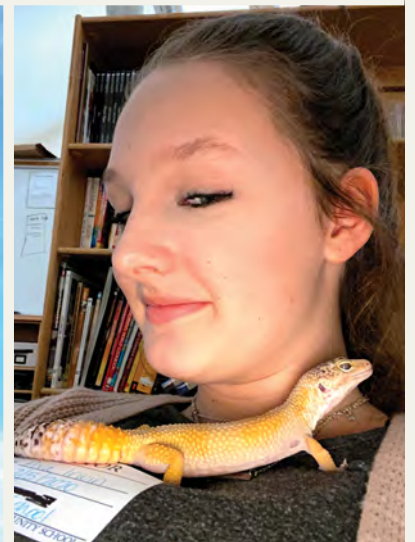
CPA leaders had a blast celebrating Red Ribbon Week 2019!



Edmund A. Burns Elementary

Students at Edmund A. Burns Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week.

Students at Camp Road Middle participate in Job Shadow Day



On February 5, 2020, over 600 Camp Road Middle School students participated in job shadowing at various job sites around Charleston and beyond. Several businesses, such as the Charleston City Police Department, The Citadel, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Federal Wildlife Service set up a day of shadowing activities for multiple students.

EDUCATOR AWARDS

Laurel Hill Primary administrator receives honor from national organization

Laurel Hill Primary School Assistant Principal Jason Sims was selected as one of 10 Lasting Legacy Scholarship winners for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)'s Annual Conference. More than 240 people from across the country applied for this honor, which goes to individuals who are identified as emerging leaders in early childhood education.

Sims is in his sixth year at Laurel Hill; he taught kindergarten and first grade there for four years and is now serving his second year as the school's assistant principal. He also spent 10 years as a kindergarten teacher in North Carolina.

Laurel Hill received its current Certificate of Accreditation from NAEYC in the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year; renewal means the school is accredited through the 2023-2024 school year.

Only 68 facilities in the state of South Carolina hold this high honor; out of those 68, Laurel Hill is one of only six public primary/elementary schools in the state to be accredited by NAEYC. In order to maintain this distinction, Laurel Hill must provide documentation of over 200 assessment items.

NAEYC accreditation is done every five years and is important to maintain since primary schools do not participate in standardized state testing. School leaders go through this process to show their dedication to providing the highest quality of education for early learners in the community.



Jason Sims

Haut Gap Middle Teacher receives grant award

Alexandria Cremo, writing teacher at Haut Gap Middle, was recognized with a Bright Ideas Award from Berkeley Electric Cooperative.

Ms. Cremo was honored during a ceremony hosted by Berkeley Electric Cooperative on September 25, 2019. She received a \$1,500 grant award.

Berkeley Electric Cooperative offers Bright Ideas awards annually. Ms. Cremo is the first CCSD teacher to apply for the grant award.

All teachers whose school is located in Berkeley Electric's service area (John's Island, Wadmalaw Island, and unincorporated Mount Pleasant) are eligible to apply for the grant award.



Alexandria Cremo

Successful Teacher Residency Program finishes third year



Kory Roberts is a first year teacher at Memminger Elementary School and a College of Charleston graduate



First year teacher Kristin Lindsay



Kory Roberts completed the CCSD Summer Residency Program with Master Teacher Megan Orchard

The Charleston County School District (CCSD) Summer Teacher Residency Program finished its third year; over 40 induction level teachers have completed the program.

The success of the program has been overwhelming. Last year, the Teacher Residency Program was named a finalist for the Dick and Tunky Riley WhatWorks SC Award.

CCSD's Summer Teacher Residency Program is designed to recruit and retain highly effective teachers in high-needs schools. According to Cherie Wash, Elementary District Instructional Specialist teachers from all disciplinary areas participated to include a physical education teacher and an art teacher.

"The program was created to support teachers in real-time, in the field," said Wash. "You can read all the books, but until you do it, you don't know what it is going to look like."

Korey Roberts is a first-year teacher at Memminger Elementary School. But he is no stranger to the 17 fifth-grade students he's teaching this year.

He was a student teacher in their classroom during his senior year at the College of Charleston.

"I wanted to participate in the Teacher Residency Program, so I could become familiar with the different faces in the district and learn who could help me throughout my career to implement various strategies I the classroom," he said. "The program helped me to target what I want from my students and narrow down how to control that and run my classroom. It was about being prepared."

Roberts considered the residency program as an extension of the four years he spent in the education program at CofC.

"It taught me strategies, behavior management, versatility, and professional development," he said. "Master teachers modeled things I wasn't certain on and allowed me to put my twist on it."

Megan Orchard, CCSD Teacher on Special Assignment

was his Master Teacher. She said the Summer Teacher Residency Program has been the most rewarding experience of her ten-year teacher career.

"By participating as a mentor, the program forced me to face my own practice and be even more reflective about procedures, lessons, and instruction," said Orchard. "I was enriched by working alongside the best and brightest master educators from schools across the county. Even more, I was inspired by working with our young new teachers, whose enthusiasm, ideas, and perspective gave a new rejuvenation to my approach. Within the program, teacher leaders were empowered to make critical decisions as professionals; we're able to implement instruction that was student-focused and enriching to our young mentees."

CCSD implemented the Summer Teacher Residency Program in June 2017 to provide targeted and enhanced professional learning for novice teachers, promote teacher leadership for master practitioners, and continue student learning through the summer. This learning lab paired experienced teachers from schools throughout the district with teachers who were about to start or recently started teaching in high-needs schools.

"The level of support offered through the program builds confidence and incredible relationships well beyond the three-week summer course," said Wash. "The program is intentional and thoughtful in providing what that teacher will need to have in place in their classroom. We teach the practicality of how it will look and feel through actual practice."

Each morning, teaching teams co-taught with a focus on culturally responsive instructional practices and innovative learning approaches that include adaptive and personalized digital content. In the afternoon, students participated in enrichment activities through CCSD's EPIC Program in partnership with Charleston Promise Neighborhood, allowing teacher teams to plan and reflect on the day's

outcomes. These teachers collaboratively developed and implemented a summer learning program for K-5 students at high-poverty schools.

Just under 75 students at Sanders-Clyde Elementary School participated in the first year of the program. In year two, the program was held at Mary Ford Elementary School and served 120 students from both Mary Ford and Chicora Elementary School.

The program was expanded and held at both Mary Ford and Goodwin Elementary Schools. Each site served over 120 students for the course of the program. In total, 22 Master Teachers have participated in the program. Of the 22, three teachers have relocated out of state, and all others (19) remain in the profession and employed by CCSD. All of the out-of-state teachers remain in the profession.

The total number of Resident Teachers is 43. Of the 43, 42 remain in the teaching profession and 40 of those in Charleston County School District. This year, 14 Master Teachers and 15 Resident Teachers participated.

As part of the program, teachers worked to promote a culturally responsive instructional practice that encouraged student agency, provide opportunities for professional learning for teachers to support recruitment and retention, to build capacity to differentiate learning across the district for educators and students and to accelerate student achievement.

The program was highly effective in increasing student achievement; it gave novice teachers the tools, strategies, and habits of mind for challenges in high needs schools; and provided leadership and mentoring opportunities for the district's highly effective master teachers.

Twenty-two CCSD schools had either Master or Resident Teachers participate in the Summer Teacher Residency Program.

CCSD Teacher of the Year Finalists

Charleston County School District (CCSD) officials surprised five unsuspecting teachers by announcing their selection of the Top 5 Finalists for 2020 Teacher of the Year.

The district's current Teacher of the Year, Jayuntay Williams, (West Ashley Middle School) presented each finalist with flowers and a certificate. Each finalist had the opportunity to check out a BMW from Rick Hendrick BMW of Charleston.

At each stop along the route, live announcements and updates were provided on the District's social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter (@CCSDConnects). Photos from the day can also be found there.

Special thanks to Rick Hendrick BMW of Charleston and the Charleston RiverDogs for their partnership with CCSD in recognizing and rewarding our teacher leaders through the Teacher of the Year process.



Mev McIntosh

Mahwish "Mev" McIntosh North Charleston High School

Mev McIntosh is a ninth-grade English Language Arts teacher at North Charleston High School (NCHS). She's had an extensive educational career to include the last two years at NCHS. She holds a BA from the College of Charleston, in English with a minor in Secondary Education and a Masters in secondary administration from The Citadel.



Dr. Amy Bramblee

Dr. Amy Bramble Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School

Amy Bramble is a fifth-grade math and science teacher at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Central Connecticut State University; an MS in Special Education from Central Connecticut State University; and an Ed.D in Educational Leadership from the University of Phoenix. She began teaching with CCSD in 2012 at Ashley River. She was named the Ashley River Rookie of the Year in the 2013-2014 school year.



Lakevia Mills St. John's High School

Lakevia Mills teaches Principles of Biomedical Science and the Human Body, and biology to 9th through 12th graders at St. John's High School. She holds a BS and a Masters in Biology from Virginia State University. She taught in the Charlotte Mecklenberg School District from 2014-2017 before joining CCSD six years ago. She serves on the School Improvement Council and the Regional Health Advisory Board.



Stephanie Ganacoplos

Stephanie Ganacoplos C.E. Williams Middle School

Stephanie Ganacoplos is a special education teacher at C.E. Williams Middle School. She has seven years of experience teaching various age groups across the country. She earned a Stella Adler Acting Conservatory, Chekho Theatre Performance Certificate, a BA in theatre with honors from James Madison University, and a Master of Education with endorsements in Learning Behavior Specialist, Early Childhood, and English as a Second Language from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Margo Quigley

Margo Quigley Wando High School

Margo Quigley teaches math to 9th through 12th-grade students at Wando High School (WHS) where she has taught for the last 12 years. She was nominated as Teacher of the Year at WHS two years in a row. She holds a BS in mathematics teaching from Clemson University; a Masters for teaching for math and science teachers from the College of Charleston; and an Masters in Administration from the University of South Carolina.

Educators of the Year – *continued*

Celebrating our
Teacher of the Year
Finalists



Dr. Amy Bramble



Stephanie Ganacoplos



Mahwish "Mev" McIntosh



Lakevia Mills



Margo Quigley

Educators of the Year – *continued*



Rodrick Bellamy, first year teacher at Northwoods Middle School



Sara Villarreal, first year teacher at Ladson Elementary School

DISTRICT BOASTS 30 FIRST-YEAR TEACHERS FROM COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

The College of Charleston (CofC) has long been a local producer of educators for Charleston County School District (CCSD). This year alone, 30 CofC graduates are first-year teachers in CCSD.

CofC alumni are in elementary, middle, and high schools across the district and are teaching across all of CCSD's geographic regions.

CofC has been educating aspiring teachers for nearly 90 years. Each year, almost a third of the graduating teachers choose to seek employment with CCSD thanks to a continued partnership between the college and the district.

According to Kevin Eakes, Assistant Dean of Assessment & Professional Practice in the School of Education, Health, and Human Performance, CofC works with the district to place educators via a seamless transition.

"Our students observe and teach under the guidance of some of the best teachers in the industry," said Eakes. "Many of them are CofC alumnus."

Eakes explained that many of those return for additional certifications and graduate degrees.

The reciprocal partnership between the college and the district is crucial to help teachers stay connected to emerging trends.

"We want to inspire the best teachers for our classrooms so that they can teach for tomorrow," said Eakes, who referenced American philosopher and educator John Dewey, "If we teach today's students as we did yesterday, we rob them of their tomorrow."

First-year teachers

Rodrick Bellamy earned a job as a sixth-grade teacher at Northwoods Middle School.

Bellamy grew up in Conway and attended Title 1 schools. He thrived in middle school, because for the first time ever, he had a black, male teacher.

“He looked like me,” said Bellamy. “That teacher, Mr. Cedric McKnight (now a principal in Sumter County) is the reason I wanted to become a teacher. My middle schoolers are at the age where they are forming identities and figuring out who they are. I want to be able to help influence some of those decisions.”

Bellamy said he is a teacher to show students who look like him that they can be/do what society says they cannot.

“I am a teacher [So I can be] a positive male role model to students who may not have one in their lives, and more specifically a positive black male role model,” said Bellamy.

His path led him to tour CofC and connect with admissions counselors who arranged for him to participate in an overnight visit with a CofC student. That’s where he got to experience CofC first-hand.

“I absolutely fell in love with the small feel and the community support systems that were already forming to help me thrive,” said Bellamy. “I knew the College of Charleston was definitely the place to be.”

Bellamy said that after he enrolled he got involved in various organizations that helped mold him into the person he is today.

“Teaching Fellows, Call Me MiSTER, and ultimately, the Summer Teacher Residency Program turned out to be great support networks that taught me to be my best self, and my best self as a teacher,” said Bellamy. “My professors helped me realize and clarify what my dreams could be and how to get there. I recommend Summer Teacher Residency Program to anyone going into education. You’ll get all the assistance and support you’ll ever need.”

Bellamy is most excited to be teaching under the leadership of CCSD Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, who was the superintendent of Horry County Schools when he was a student.

“I just hope I make her proud,” Bellamy said.

One of the greatest pieces of advice that CofC graduates Sara Villarreal received before her first day of teaching at Ladson Elementary School is that “six-year-olds don’t care if you make mistakes.”

That advice was given to her during the District’s Summer Residency Program.

There were many reasons as to why Villarreal chose to go into education, specifically with CCSD. But the main driver was her time studying at CofC and being mentored by CCSD representatives.

Villarreal grew up in the Lowcountry and knew at a very young age she wanted to be an educator. But it was her CCSD teachers that, year after year, drove home the idea.

After enrolling at CofC she quickly knew she had made the right decision.

“Many of the faculty are former CCSD employees,” said Villarreal. “They helped us make connections with employees at the school district, they allowed us to talk with teachers, and provided us the opportunity to student-teach in CCSD schools.”

Villarreal said that the partnership between CofC and CCSD helped prepare her for the job.

“I knew I wanted to teach in CCSD because I am a product of CCSD,” said Villarreal. “After seeing it through adult eyes, I was positive.”

“My professors were incredibly amazing and supportive,” said Villarreal. “They all reached out before school started and some even offered to come and help set up my classroom.”

Villarreal participated in CCSD’s Summer Teacher Residency Program and described it as life-changing.

“Leading up to teaching for the first time, I had a view of what it would be like and the Summer Teacher Residency Program altered that. It opened my eyes to the difficulties of teaching and how incredibly important it is to drill down on your expectations of your students such as routines and creating a classroom community.”

So far, her first-year experience has been incredible, Villarreal said.

Fast Facts

- CCSD hired all three of CofC’s 2018-19 Call Me MISTER graduates
- CCSD hired seven of CofC’s South Carolina Teaching Fellows 2018-19 graduates
- CCSD hired seven of CofC’s Teacher Leader 2018-19 graduates

“Those first few days the students are shy and they are feeling me out, just like I am feeling them out,” noted Villarreal. “My kiddos are hilarious and amazing to be around.”

Her advice to other aspiring educators is to make connections with the CofC staff.

“They are the front line to get into a position with the District,” said Villarreal. “They can introduce you to the important people within the district who will then be the great support system that every educator needs.”

Kory Roberts, a fifth-grade teacher at Memminger Elementary School, is also one of those recent CofC graduates. He knew from a very early age that he would find a career in education. Both of his parents were educators.

“When you have a gift, I say use it,” said Roberts.

He found that passion in his sophomore year at CofC when CCSD, working hand in hand with CofC, put him in a position to volunteer at Memminger.

“The program single-handedly connected us with potential careers and introduced us to CCSD district officials who we would one day work alongside,” said Roberts. “I left CofC feeling confident about where I would be one day.”

Eakes confirmed that those relationships help young teachers make important decisions about where to begin their careers.

“Fortunately many choose to stay right here in Charleston at CCSD,” Eakes said.



ATHLETICS



North Charleston High School girls' basketball team claim state championship



Cougars in action

CCSD SCHSL State Champions

North Charleston High School has had one of the top girls' basketball programs in the Lowcountry for the past few decades. However, the Cougars had not claimed a state title since 1984. That stretch ended Friday, March 6, 2020, as they rallied past defending state champion Christ Church in the South Carolina High School League AA state finals, 38-34. North Charleston (22-9) got it done with defense, holding the Cavaliers to just four points in the fourth quarter.

Appearing in their first state championship game since 2007, the Cougars struggled to score points early and trailed by seven at halftime at Colonial Life Arena in Columbia. The defense remained constant, though, forcing 22 turnovers and recording 12 steals, and kept the Cougars in the game. Eventually, senior guard Ca'Vashia Johnson put NCHS

ahead in the fourth quarter with three of high game-high 17 points, and the Cougars held on for the victory. Junior forward Tranell Mitchell-Small added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

This is the third state title overall for the North Charleston girls, who are led by fourth-year head coach Haley Weed. In addition, North Charleston High's Lawson captured the state title in wrestling.

Congratulations to Joseph Lawson. The junior wrestler captured the SCHSL AA/A 195-pound state championship at the Anderson Civic Center. Lawson defeated Abbeville's Luke Evans with a 9-3 decision in the finals. Lawson finished the season with a 41-3 record. He also won the Region 6-AA and AA/A Lower State championships this season.



Joseph Lawson, junior wrestler, wins state championship

ATHLETIC STATE RECOGNITIONS

WRESTLING

Joseph Lawson
*A/AA 195-pound
state champion
41-3*

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Coach Haley Weed
*(Region VI-AA women’s
basketball coach of the year)*

Coach Latoya Dent

Coach Justice Jenkins

Ca’Vashia Johnson
*(Region VI-AA all-region,
Region VI-AA player of the year,
AA all-state team, North/South selection)*

Sophia Simmons
(Region VI-AA all-region)

Treasure Kinloch
(Region VI-AA all-region)

Tranell Mitchell-Small
(Region VI-AA all-region)

Zaniyah Sanders-Smith

Alliyah Truesdale

Mi’Kyah Quarles

Jon’Aeja Duncan

Talasia King
21-9

WANDO SWIM TEAM

Cheryl Durde – *Boys and Girls head swim coach*

GIRLS STATE TEAM

Lili Hamilton

Gabi Reed

Ellis Pitts

Sophie Frece

Gil Shaw

Kate Green

Estelle Bauer

Regan Leach

Jenna Thrift

Tara McCaskill

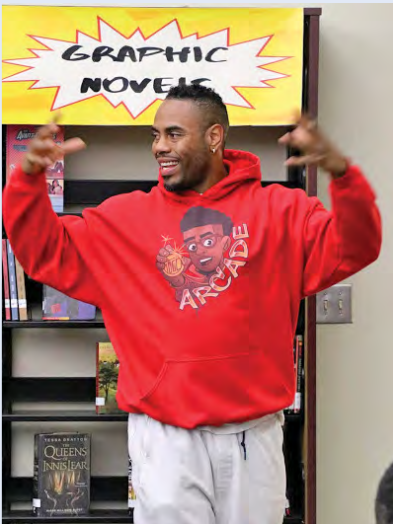
Bailey Gallagher

Caitlin Mason

Halle Schart

Ily Lightfoot

Former NFL RB and best-selling author visits BHMHS



On February 21, 2020, middle school and ninth-grade students at Baptist Hill Middle High School had the opportunity to meet retired NFL running back Rashad Jennings.

Jennings, who spent seven seasons in the NFL with the Jaguars, Raiders, and Giants, is also a New York Times best-selling author of the book, *The IF in Life*. Throughout his career in the NFL, as well as during his championship-

winning season on *Dancing with the Stars*, Jennings gained the support and love of fans throughout the country. Today, Jennings is actively running The Rashad Jennings Foundation, which dedicated to inspiring youth through his literacy program and providing mentorship and promoting health and fitness nationwide. In preparation for the upcoming visit, 150 male students received a copy of Jennings’ third book in *The Coin Slot Chronicles*.

Wando's swim team recognized

In the Fall of 2020, young ladies on the Wando swim team swam their way to success, by earning the top spot in the state for their class. They received their third straight State title. In the 5A Championship Meet, they beat runner-up Spartanburg by 133 points. And individually, Estelle Bauer won the 500 yard freestyle state championship, 5:07.99). Congratulations to Estelle and the 2019-2020 Class 5A State Champions - Wando Girls Swim Team!



FIRST SPORTS TEAMS

Montessori Community School fielded their first Middle School Volleyball and Soccer Teams in 2019-2020

West Ashley Middle building community through basketball



West Ashley Middle School (WAMS) hosted an Athlete 2 Athlete (A2A) Basketball Inclusion Extravaganza. A2A is a program that encourages students, parents, and staff members to embrace the school and unify the school community. A2A brings a diverse group of HarborCats (students) and community members together to work as a team to experience the power of empathy and wipe out prejudice through sports.

A2A events provide opportunities to build relationships for ALL participants, regardless of background or ability.

American Heart Association



Charleston County School District has shown true commitment and passion by supporting the American Heart Association through school-based programs (Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart) during the last school year. During the 2017-2018 school year, CCSD had 20 schools help save lives through participation in research and education programs in partnership with the American Heart Association.

CCSD was the Number two school district in the state raising a total of \$170,777 to fund lifesaving cardiovascular and brain health research.

Jennie Moore Elementary School was the top school in the NATION! Through participation in these programs, students not only learned about the important role that exercise and nutrition play in heart health, but also about the warning signs for heart attack and stroke, volunteerism, and helping others. Tonight we have Rachel Stanley, Youth Market Director, for the American Heart Association here to recognize our students and schools for their outstanding participation in last year's Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart campaigns.



Mount Zion 5k

Nine Mount Zion Elementary School students and some of their parents completed their first 5K at the Bohicket Marina 5K on November 16, 2019. A few of them placed in their age group. The guidance counselor and running coach, Diemchi Nguyen, trained them for six weeks leading up to the race, and they did a fabulous job by all finishing the 5k run. Student entries were sponsored by Kiawah Cares.

Lucy Beckham High School hires Scott McInnes as Athletic Director



Scott McInnes has been named the Athletic Director at Lucy Beckham High School, which is opening August of 2020.

McInnes has been an educator in North Carolina for over 30 years. He is moving his family (wife, rising 9th-grade triplets, and rising 3rd-grade daughter) to Mount Pleasant to be a part of the Bengal family.

McInnes was the athletic director at Millbrook High School in Raleigh, NC for 19 years. He brings his expertise as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator and was honored as the 2019 North Carolina Athletic Director Association's Athletic Director of Excellence.

McInnes is also a successful basketball coach; he is Millbrook's leader in career wins (357). In 17 years in charge of the boys' varsity program,

McInnes led the Wildcats to 10 conference titles, six conference tournament championships, and a 4A state runner-up finish in 2011. He has also earned conference coach of the year honors nine times.

Nearly 40 of his players have gone on to play collegiate basketball and one former player, Chris Clemmons, is currently playing in the NBA with the Houston Rockets. One of McInnes' coaching highlights was being selected as a head coach for the Jordan Brand Classic All-Star Basketball Game in the Charlotte Coliseum.

"We know how talented our community of student-athletes is and we are thrilled to have someone of Coach McInnes' caliber to lead our athletes, families, and coaches," said Principal Anna Dassing.

"I've had many conversations about Lucy Beckham High School with people in the Mount Pleasant community and each time, the feedback is consistent," said McInnes. "They remind me that they knew Lucy Beckham and she was an amazing person. I am honored to be a part of her legacy."



"Save the Light" 5k

A huge shout-out to the Stiles Point Elementary School Running Club for running in the "Save the Light" 5k this year!

COMMUNITY AND PHILANTHROPY



Charleston County School of the Arts students donate over \$1,000 to One80 Place

Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) Middle School Band presented a check on January 23, 2020 to One80 Place in the amount of \$1,032. These funds were raised during their two holiday concerts in December.

The concert featured a piece titled "A Solitary Wish" composed by Brian Balmages. In concert halls and venues across the country, it has become customary to collect a "love offering" from those in attendance when playing "A Solitary Wish." SOA's Middle School Band chose this year's love offering to benefit one80 Place, a Charleston service agency dedicating to helping families and individuals end their homelessness and turn their lives around.

"I am very proud that my students took these pieces to heart and portrayed an act of kindness while helping those less fortunate," said Suzanne Reed, SOA Middle School Band Director.

Burns gives back

Burns' students gave back to their community during the holiday season. Students, families, and school staff donated items to give to residents at a local nursing home. Students were excited to donate items, with other students donating their small change because they couldn't gain access to a store but still wanted to help out their community.

Students also volunteered their time to make the special Palmetto Rose Cards and wrap the donations to look festive so the residents would feel cared about.





Chicora Elementary celebrates Fully Fathered!

What a great turnout Chicora Elementary School had this year for Fully Fathered! Fathers and community members came out and showed their commitment to the children.



Academic Magnet's Ishraq Haque earns scholarship with clean water project

Ishraq Haque's (pronounced ish-RACK HOCK) mission of providing clean water for his parents' hometown in Bangladesh earned him first place at the South Carolina Department of Defence Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Columbia earlier this year.

The sophomore at Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship and a spot in the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, which was conducted virtually in April. Haque will be one of 230 students from around the world competing for additional scholarship money at the event April 24-27, 2019 in New Mexico.

Ishraq is part of the Academic Magnet Science Club. His project, titled A Novel Approach to Removing Arsenic from Drinking Water for Low-Income Populations in Rural Villages, highlighted a household water purification system he developed; it is currently being used in several homes in a town in Bangladesh.

Comcast provides digital support for Morningside students

Fifty scholars from Morningside Middle School are enjoying more access to technology thanks to the generosity of Comcast. On November 13, 2019, the telecommunications company hosted the Bandwidth for Growth Forum – which is part of a series of events in the Charleston area that celebrates the power of the digital economy and the power it has to transform lives, strengthen communities, and inspire a new generation of leaders.

The highlight happened at a Digital Inclusion Rally, where the students were surprised with free laptops and six months of free Internet service at home through Comcast's Internet Essentials program.

"This was an amazing event that afforded an opportunity for our scholars to experience both future tech career possibilities as well as the generosity of Comcast," explained Principal Stephanie Flock. "The laptop, as well as the discussions they had with local business people and public servants, are gifts they will take with them as they prepare for college and their careers."

Joining Principal Flock and the students at the Digital Inclusion Rally were City of Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg, State House of Representative Marvin Pendarvis, CEO of Charleston Communities in Schools Jamie Cooper, and Charleston County School District's Executive Director of the Middle School Learning Community (and former Morningside principal) Dr. Joe Williams.

Comcast recently invested \$14 million to expand their fiber optic network to support Charleston's technology needs today and tomorrow. At the same time, they are committed to ensuring that the benefits of the tech economy extend to all members of the community.

Comcast's new 122-mile fiber optic network across greater Charleston is capable of delivering up to 100-gigabit-per-second (Gbps) internet speeds to organizations of all sizes. The investment is designed to effectively support emerging technologies and the mission critical data transfers that today's businesses require.

"Comcast has a strong history of collaboration with and investment in Charleston," said Jason Gumbs, Comcast Regional SVP. "With today's announcement, we are proud to offer the fastest internet speeds to the most businesses in the region, which nicely positions Charleston as a true smart city."



Five CCSD students benefit from Computers With a Cause



Computers With a Cause donated five computers to CCSD students

Five Charleston County School District (CCSD) students were awarded a brand new computer Monday, February 10, 2020 from Dr. Bobby Baker through his nonprofit Computers With A Cause. The organization awards free computers to deserving children.

Lakiyah Harris (Simmons Pinckney Middle School), Wualter Guervara Cartagena (RB Stall High School), Marvin Washington, Gladys Ordenez, and Ca'Shon Rodriguez (Sanders Clyde Elementary School) were invited to the district's main board room at 75 Calhoun Street for the special presentation. These students were identified because they have demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence and deserve an opportunity to succeed in today's digital world.

The nonprofit was created two years ago and is funded through private donations and Dr. Bobby and Julia Baker. Since the nonprofit's inception, 20 computers have been donated. The goal is to give out over 50 computers a year.

"We believe computers are necessary for this day and age," said Baker. "We want to bridge the gap for students who want to excel."

Three Pinehurst Elementary students recognized for their initiative



Ms. Osha, a fifth Grade Pinehurst Elementary School teacher, wanted to give a shout-out to three of her rockstars, Josue, Kevin, and Javier. These guys chose to pick up trash in the courtyard after eating their bagged lunches outside one afternoon. These guys filled nine paper bags of trash. This was all their idea and Ms. Osha was impressed with their drive and initiative. These guys didn't even care about running around and playing like the other kids were doing, they were more concerned with helping the planet!

OVER 300 STUDENTS RECEIVE NEW SHOES FROM SHOES OF HOPE

One in three children experience homelessness in the United States. Shoes and socks are in the top 10 items needed by students in school.

In an effort to combat that Shoes of Hope, sponsored by Samaritan's Feet and Thrivent, delivered 330 pairs of shoes to students at North Charleston Elementary School (NCES).



Computers With a Cause donated five computers to CCSD students

Samaritan's Feet International is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 by Nigerian-born Emmanuel "Manny" Ohonme and his wife, Tracie, for the purpose of sharing hope with children in need by washing their feet, giving them a new pair of shoes, and helping them believe that their dreams can come true.

The legacy of Samaritan's Feet began when an aid worker in Lagos, Nigeria gave a pair of athletic shoes to a 9-year-old boy named Manny. Those shoes became a symbol of hope to Manny and a catalyst to his love for basketball. Over time, he earned a basketball scholarship to a college in the US, graduated, began a career, and lived life to the fullest. However, he never forgot the children of his homeland, or that one "Good Samaritan" who gave him hope with a pair of shoes.

The heart of the Shoes of Hope program is foot washing. It may seem uncomfortable when first considered, but when put into practice, it is life-changing for both the volunteer and the recipient. Humility and service are never wasted commodities; they are investments of the human spirit that result in real needs being met and inspiration of others.



NCE students admire their new shoes

A day to demonstrate the servant leadership of Citadel cadets

Once a year, cadets at The Citadel trade classes for community service. Servant leadership through community service is integral to the college's mission of developing cadets into principled leaders.

Cadets participated in Leadership Day on October 23, 2019, by visiting nearly 20 schools in Charleston County School District (CCSD).

Cadets, faculty, and staff focused on leadership learning and volunteering, with the assistance of Medal of Honor recipient James McCloughan. The Vietnam War veteran, who taught high school both before and after his time in the service, helped to kick off this year's Leadership Day with a presentation to freshmen at Burke High School.

McCloughan, a life-long coach and educator from Bangor, MI, received the Medal of Honor in 2017 for actions as a medic drafted to serve in Vietnam. He told Burke students that if they wanted to show thanks and appreciation to those who died for their freedom, they should live their lives properly.

"I hope these students left this auditorium today knowing they can make it to the next day if they face it with courage and commitment," said McCloughan.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Vanderhorst, Burke's JRTOC Director, described the visit as a world-class experience for his JROTC students.

"He told them how important it is to be prepared to be exposed to adversity," said Vanderhorst. "It is so important that my students learn and understand the life lessons men like Mr. McCloughan can share with them. We teach passion and purpose. My students are learning that leadership will carry you through all walks of life."

Over 825 Citadel cadets worked with students of all ages teaching curriculum focused on heroism. Six education major cadets visited at 75 Calhoun as a part of their senior



Citadel Cadets visited Burke High School for the Leadership day kickoff where the guest speaker was a Medal of Honor recipient

seminar, too.

Cadets who visited Tiffany Edwards' ELA class at Simmons-Pinckney Middle School worked with students on identifying who their hero was and why it's important to notice and recognize everyday heroes.

Citadel Freshman Steven Valentine is a chemistry major. He said that participating in Leadership Day is a great way for the cadets what leaders are and what an everyday hero looks like.

"I hope our visit to the school will impact their lives in some way," said Valentine.

Young students at James Simons Elementary School came dressed in their favorite "super" hero costumes. But after working with cadets to learn the meaning of a true hero, they were quick to recognize their parents, other family

members, and even their pets as their hero.

Primary Montessori teacher Rene Souther said the students at James Simons see the cadets daily as they pass the building and wave. Souther said their message of leadership ties into the school's theme.

"The students look up to these cadets and probably now even more so," said Souther. "I overheard their conversations today with my students and they were encouraging and interactive. It was beautiful to watch.

Leadership Day, held every year in October, is just one example of the many ways cadets serve their communities in partnership with CCSD. The District has partnered with The Citadel for Leadership Day since its inception nine years ago.



InterTech Group helps 20 Zucker families over the holidays

Representatives of The InterTech Group Foundation contacted the guidance department at Zucker Middle School in order to identify families the company's foundation could assist.

The guidance counselor helped the InterTech Group

Foundation to identify 20 families that were in need of assistance during the holidays and to get a "wish list" from all of the family members.

With funding from the foundation and those wish lists, everyone in the office adopted and shopped for a family.

Before the Charleston County School District's winter break, bags of gifts for each person were delivered to the school along with a box of food, hygiene and cleaning products for each family. The products for the families are purchased from the Lowcountry Food Bank.

ARTS



St. John's High students take poetry field trip

Islanders at St. John's High school took a field trip to the Gibbes Museum of Art to view the galleries and write poems for the "It Starts With a Dot" poetry and visual arts project. The third edition of the book was published in May!

Awesome school-wide field trip to Disney's *The Lion King* Musical!



Charleston Progressive Academy leaders totally enjoyed attending the Musical, *The Lion King* on Thursday, December 5. The spectacular show was absolutely amazing! Students from grades CD-4 to 5th Grade were glued to their seats throughout the performance!

SOA PERFORMS “JUMP, JIVE & WAIL”

High school jazz band members from Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) performed in their annual “Jump, Jive & Wail”; the event featured a variety of genres, including big band, swing, Latin, jazz, and funk, and showcased the talents of some of the area’s most gifted high school musicians.

“Jump, Jive & Wail” started in 1999, and now draws more than 1,000 people each year. This is a special family-friendly night of live music and dancing, and proceeds from the

show support SOA’s band program (funds are used to purchase and repair instruments, buy music, and pay for additional lessons).

A 24-member jazz ensemble performed under the leadership of SOA’s new high school band director Ken Turner. Musical selections included classic big band jazz hits such as “Straighten Up and Fly Right” and “Sway” and hits from James Brown and the movie *Blues Brothers*.



CULTURE

District students participate in ASALH Youth Day and Student Summit



Dancers perform for CCSD students at Youth Day



CCSD students present at the ASALH conference

The Association for Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Conference was held in North Charleston, October 2-6, 2019.

The conference featured historians and scholars from all over the world. ASALH's 2019 theme was Black Migrations, which emphasized the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and subsequently to new social realities.

Charleston County School District's Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) partnered with ASALH organizers to provide CCSD students with this one-of-a-kind experience. Area high schools also sent student representatives to participate in the Teacher Workshops. Several hundred students attended the conference's Youth Day Friday, October 4, 2019 at Charleston Southern University.

A component of Youth Day was a dance presentation entitled Coming to Monuments (performed by Dance Matters) with Marcus Amaker (Poet Laureate of the City of Charleston), serving as the emcee to educate students about historic monuments and lessons we can learn from them.

According to CCSD Family and Community Engagement Officer, Dennis Muhammad, Youth Day gave CCSD students an opportunity to learn about some of Charleston's historical monuments and figures through art and dance.

"We try to plan events for middle and high school students with engaging, fun, and interactive activities that promote respect and pride in African-American history and culture, and encourage youth to remain in school and prepare for the future," said Muhammad.

ASALH was founded by renowned historian/educator Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month, in 1915. The mission of the ASALH is to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community.



District and ASALH representatives



JBE students participate in Wreaths Across America

On December 17, 2019, fifth grade students at James B. Edwards Elementary School held their annual commemorative Wreaths Across America service at Mount Pleasant Memorial Gardens. After building seven jumbo wreaths representing the five branches of the military and MIA and POW and after researching veterans' experiences within their families, six students placed the wreaths in the Veterans' Garden for holiday display. Each shared testimonial of family members' military experiences.

Frierson students celebrate Martin Luther King Day

Edith L. Frierson students celebrated Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. Ms. Smalls-Robinson's primary Montessori class celebrated Dr. King by discussing what their dreams were. They also made the shape of a heart with their outstretched arms, showing how we are all different shades of colors but we still show love to one another. In library classes, the primary students read *Be a King* by Carole Boston Weatherford and discussed how they can fight injustice if or when they see it.



Cario Middle memorializes Holocaust victims through Daffodil Project

Thomas C. Cario Middle School students, parents, school staff, and community members participated in the Daffodil Project November 25 and 26, 2019 as a way to memorialize Holocaust victims.

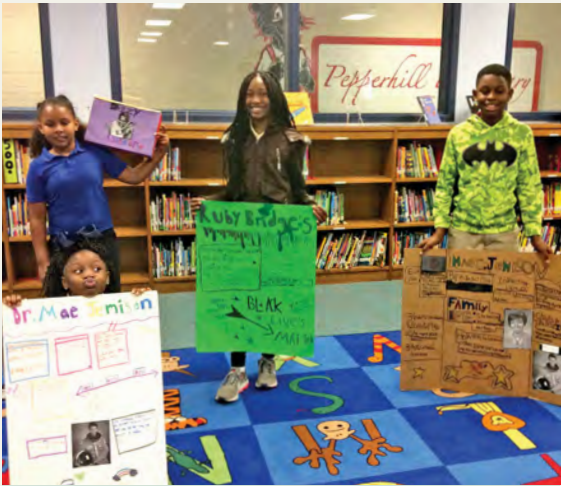
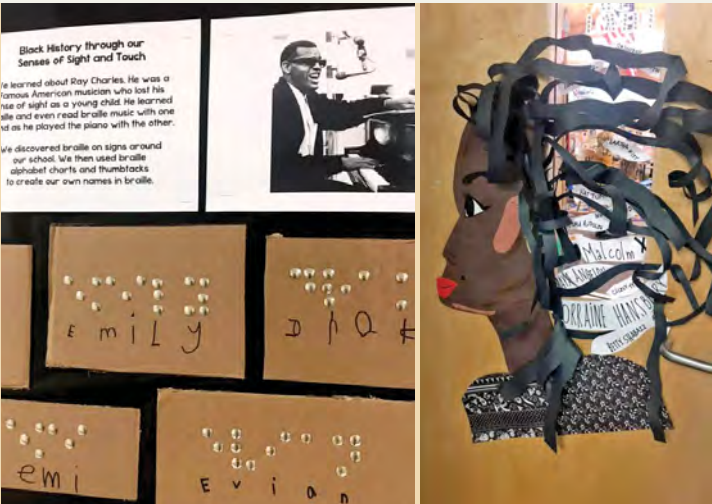
The program aspires to build a worldwide Living Holocaust Memorial by planting 1.5 million Daffodils in memory of the children who perished in the Holocaust and in support for children suffering in humanitarian crises in the world today.

Eighth grade students and staff at Cario Middle heard stories from Holocaust survivors Ann Fields and Joe Engle and then planted daffodils on campus and created a garden in their memory.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT CCSD

Angel Oak Elementary students discover “Through the Senses”

Angel Oak Elementary School explored Black History Month “Through the Senses.” Students learned about the achievements and contributions of amazing people through sight, smell, touch, sound, and taste. They now understand the importance of recognizing historical figures, as well as present-day community members, for all they have done to make our world a better place.



Pepperhill celebrated Black History Month throughout February

Pepperhill Elementary School celebrated Black History Month all month using arts for creativity and historical portrayals.



North Charleston Elementary School celebrates Black History Month with a DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

North Charleston Elementary School celebrated Black History Month with a Door Decoration Contest. The creativity and beauty of the doors told the stories of African Americans who blazed trails and opened many doors for those who come behind them.



Mitchell celebrates Black History Month

Mitchell Math and Science Elementary School hosted a Black History Program.



Ashley River Creative Arts students study AFRICAN DRUMMING

Fifth grade students at Ashley River Creative Arts performed with local artist Laura Rich. The students had a week long residency focusing on African drumming, music, movement, and storytelling through African folk tales.



JAMES SIMONS HOSTS GULLAH GEECHEE LUNCHEON IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

James Simons Elementary School hosted their second annual Gullah-inspired lunch February 26, 2020 to celebrate Black History Month and local culture.

Teachers planned a dinner-theatre style experience with live musicians, drummers, and storytellers presenting during lunch.

THIS YEAR'S MENU WAS:

*Sausage and Chicken Perlo
Okra and Tomato Soup
Charleston Red Rice*

*South Carolina grown
Collard Greens with
rutabagas*

*Traditional Bread Pudding
Assorted Fresh Fruit
Fruit-infused Water Stations*

According to James Simons teacher and Gullah dinner-theatre coordinator Anastasia Ketchen, although there are direct connections to African dishes Gullah Geechee recipes were adapted to the available resources on this coast.

“There were many seeds, plants and other vital parts of Gullah Geechee culture traveled across the water with us during the Atlantic Slave trade,” said Ketchen. “Peanuts, okra, rice, yams, peas, hot peppers, sesame seeds, sorghum, and watermelon are some of the foods brought across the sea to America by the Gullah Geechee’s enslaved ancestors. Many Gullah Geechee dishes you will find are one-pot recipes. This is for two main reasons. The first reason is combining ingredients into one dish made communal eating (full family, tribe) easier and the second during slavery most dishes were created from the leftover foods of slave masters. Our ancestors were very resourceful and thrived in the most desolate conditions.”





Laing historical marker unveiled

The Laing Alumni Association hosted a historical marker on January 29, 2020 at the former site of Laing Middle School.

The property was sold to Home Depot and the school relocated to the shared Sweetgrass Basket Campus.

Wando High School students were tasked with designing a site plan to enhance the area around the historical marker. They were recognized during the dedication by local, regional and state officials as well as CCSD Superintendent Dr. Gerrita Postlewait.

Home Depot donated a \$5,000 check to the Laing Alumni Association which was presented by two Laing alumni that work at the Mount Pleasant store.



R.B. Stall High celebrates students' heritage with a Quinceañera Ball

Thanks to community members and businesses, four young ladies at R.B. Stall High School were able to make a dream come true. They celebrated their fifteenth birthday with a traditional Quinceañera Ball.

During the celebration on October 12, 2019, students wore elaborate gowns full of color and details. The "Quinceañeras" danced the waltz with family members and were presented to the guests as young women.

The guests danced to the rhythm of Latin music while enjoying delicious food brought by families and community members. "This celebration is a very important part of our culture here at R.B. Stall," stated Principal Jeremy Carrick. "We embrace beautiful and meaningful cultural traditions, and we hope to have even more Quinceañera Balls in the future."

Principal Carrick also said the dance would not have been possible without the dedication and vision of Diana Guzman,



who serves a Bilingual Secretary at the high school (she also works at Military Magnet Academy and Jerry Zucker Middle School).

"It is an honor to help create a special event to make the girls feel like a princess for a day," explained Guzman. "It's all done by donations from people in our community. I also want to add that I have been blessed to work at R.B. Stall High School with administrators that have been so supportive."

"Diana puts in so much work, from the dresses for our students to flowers, cakes, and decorations for the event," added Carrick. "She has a passion for those who are less fortunate, and believes everyone should have an opportunity to be celebrated."

The annual Quinceañera Ball, which started in 2017, was one of several events held at the school during Hispanic Heritage Month.



Dr. Eugene J. Richardson, Jr., one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, visits Daniel Jenkins Academy

Students and staff at Daniel Jenkins Academy started the school year with a memorable opportunity. Dr. Eugene J. Richardson, Jr., one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, visited the school on August 30, 2019, to talk about his experience as a pilot during World War II, and the obstacles he overcame to become a pilot.

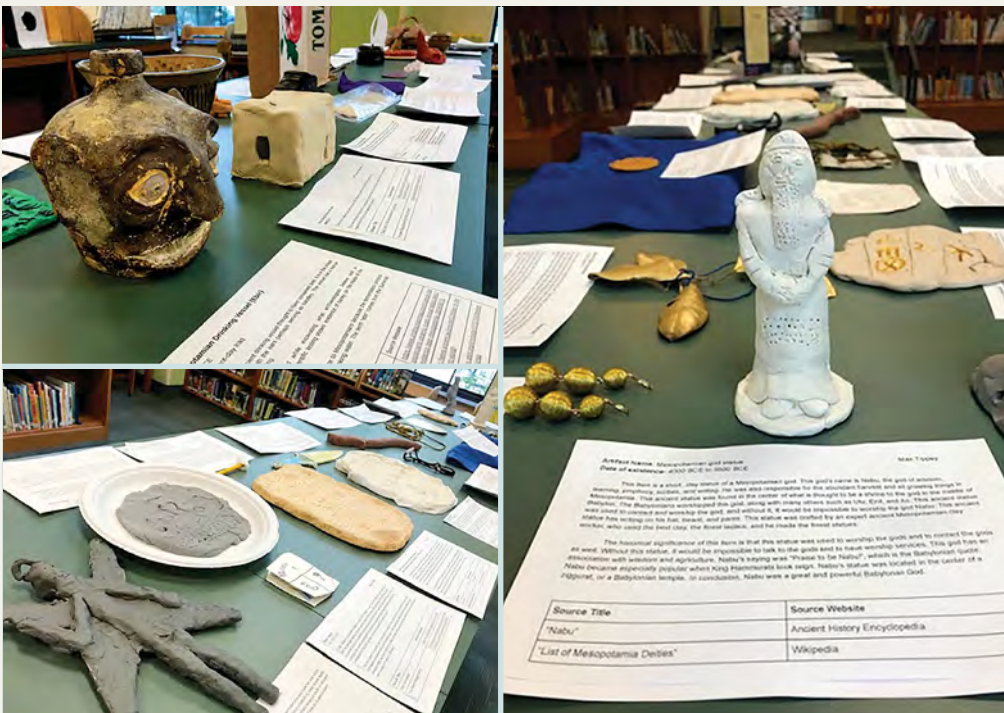
DJA students had an opportunity to ask questions and interact with Dr. Richardson, and the school received a special framed photo to place in the school.

Dr. Richardson completed pilot training on March 11, 1945, in class 45A, and completed his combat training at Walterboro Army Air Field, South Carolina.

Grammy Award-winning artist visits E.B. Ellington

As part of its Black History Month celebration, E.B. Ellington Elementary School hosted Charlton Singleton, a founding member of the band, Ranky Tanky, for two performances for the students. Singleton and Ranky Tanky recently won the Grammy Award for Best Regional Roots Album with "Good Time." Much of their music is inspired by the Gullah culture.

Singleton, who frequently makes appearances in local schools, is a native of Charleston County.



Buist's "Night at the Museum"

In 2003, the National Museum of Iraq was looted and nearly 15,000 artifacts, many of which were priceless artifacts from the earliest Mesopotamian civilizations, were stolen from the museum. While approximately 7,000 artifacts have been recovered, about 8,000 are still missing.

After a unit on Mesopotamian civilizations, sixth graders at Buist Academy carefully "curated" items to replace those lost during the looting. Each student chose an item to be added to the museum and following extensive research, recreated the artifacts, and created documents describing them and their historical significance.

Social studies teacher Julie Bullard and her students hosted a "Night at the Museum" to allow the public (fellow students, parents, staff members, and community members) to view these artifacts for the first time. In addition to viewing the artifacts and learning about their historical significance, guests were able to go on student-led guided tours of the "museum."

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

2020 National Merit Scholarship recipients

CCSD had a total of 23 NMSC winners in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program

ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



Christian Blackburn
*National Merit Parker
Hannifin Scholarship*



Josephine R. Drake
*\$2,500 National
Merit Scholarships*



Vivian S. D'Souza
*National Merit
University of South
Carolina Scholarship*



Molly M. Dickerson
*National Merit
University of South
Carolina Scholarship*



Gabrielle A. Gagnon
*University of South
Carolina Scholarship*



Robert K. Gourdie
*\$2,500 National
Merit Scholarships*



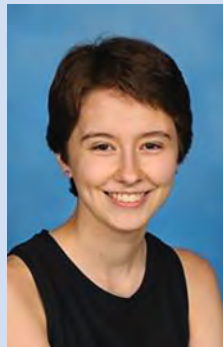
Jennifer Hsu
*National Merit
Clemson University
Scholarship*



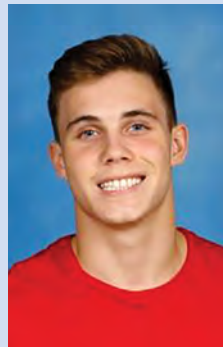
Brendan S. Kelleher
*National Merit Boeing
Scholarship*



William C. Kronsberg
*National Merit
University of South
Carolina Scholarship*



Claire A. Kunkle
*National Merit
University of South
Carolina Scholarship*



Jonathan T. Lemon
*National Merit
Clemson University
Scholarship*



Shreyon Roy
*National Merit
University of Texas at
Dallas Scholarship*



Michelle Sun
*Clemson University
Scholarship*



Amber Z. Tu
*National Merit
University of South
Carolina Scholarship*

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL



Molly M. Bynum
*\$2,500 National Merit
Scholarships*



Marissa E. Coll
*National Merit Clemson
University Scholarship*



Jolie E. Crunelle
*National Merit Rochester
Institute of Technology
Scholarship*



Jack D. Mays
*National Merit University
of Central Florida
Scholarship*



Akshay S. Patwardhan
*National Merit College of
Charleston Scholarship*



Gillian L. Richard
*\$2,500 National Merit
Scholarships*

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



Caroline W. Conway
*National Merit South
Carolina Sports Medicine
and Orthopaedic Center
Scholarship*



Maya J. Green
*National Merit South
Carolina Sports Medicine
and Orthopaedic Center
Scholarship*



Christina S. Lewis
*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 2020 CCSD Valedictorians!



Robert Kinsman Gourdie
Academic Magnet High



Angelina Rene Robertson
*Allegro Charter School
of Music*



**Nykara Octavia Symone
Heyward**
Baptist Hill Middle High



Aysha Briana Bowens
Burke High



Brianna Imani Gamble
*Charleston Charter School
for Math and Science*



Caroline Walker Conway
*Charleston County School
of the Arts*



Keyonne' McKnight
*Gordon H. Garrett Academy
of Technology*



Da'Von Markell Nelson
Greg Mathis Charter High



**Kiarra Kristina Michelle
Blake-Wade**
James Island Charter High



Alexis Shauntel Hamilton
Military Magnet Academy



Sofia Michaela Montes
North Charleston High



A'nya Jailyn Bennett
R.B. Stall High



Briana Blake
St. John's High



Molly Myers Bynum
Wando High



Matthew Krejci
West Ashley High

RILEY SILVERMAN EARNS THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

Riley Silverman, 12, a seventh grader at Haut Gap Middle School, actively works to fight hunger in his community. Silverman's efforts include helping pack weekend meals for students in need, maintaining a school vegetable garden that provides fresh produce to a local shelter, and raising money to pay off student lunch debts.

As a result of his efforts, he earned the Prudential Spirit of Community state award. The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program is the United States' largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service. Created in 1995 by Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the program honors middle and high school students for outstanding service to others at the local, state, and national levels.

Since he was 5 years old, Riley has enthusiastically participated in his older brother's nonprofit to provide lunch bags for kids who didn't have enough to eat on weekends; as "snack chef," he's helped prepare healthy snacks and given demonstrations on how to make them at home, for nearly 3,000 kids and parents volunteering at the group's packing parties.

As the co-founder of an initiative called "Catch Up on Lunch," Silverman has partnered with two groups to hold restaurant "spirit nights" that raised \$25,000 to cancel the lunch debts of students at four schools.

"When kids are hungry, they can't enjoy school, and they won't get the good grades that matter to get started in life," explained Riley.

Riley is also an active "grower" with Katie's Krops, an organization that mobilizes kids across the country to grow fresh produce for people in need.

To further address the issue of hunger, Silverman asked his principal for permission to plant three vegetable garden beds on his Haut Gap's school grounds, then bought supplies, recruited volunteers, and ultimately donated 25 pounds of green peppers, squash, and basil to a local shelter. He also conducted hands-on planting workshops for 55 kids.

"Riley Silverman is a student with passion and

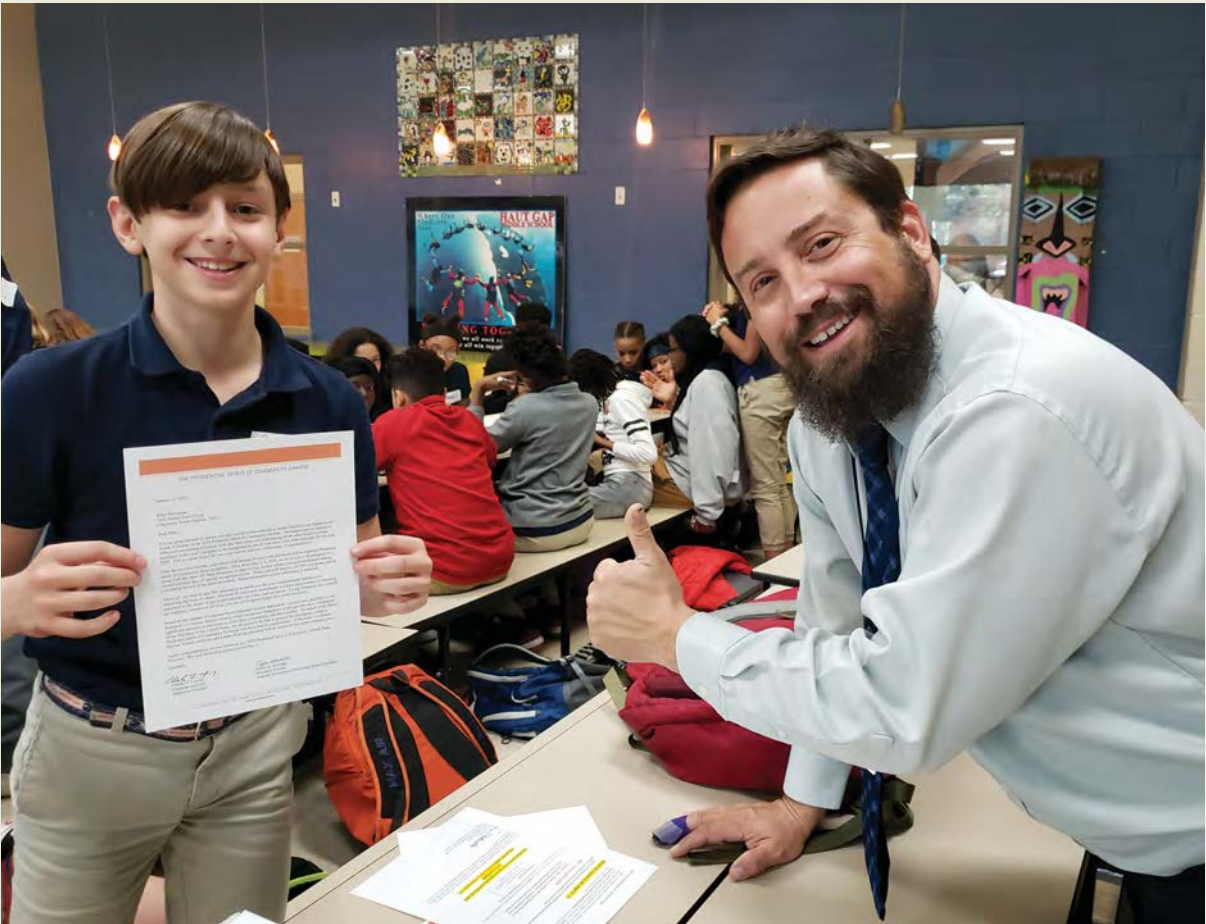
determination," said Principal Travis Benintendo. "He excels in most things he does, but it is very special when you excel at helping others. Over the past couple of years, he has been working in our school garden with a partnership with Katie's Krops to offer fresh produce to a local shelter. In addition, he is the co-founder of an initiative called "Catch Up On Lunch" and has held local restaurant spirit nights that raised \$25,000 to cancel student lunch debt."

"These projects make the world a better place," said Riley, "and they also help kids think more about other people."

Benintendo said he looks forward to Silverman's future successes.

"Riley Silverman is a student with passion and determination. He excels in most things he does, but it is very special when you excel at helping others."

— TRAVIS BENINTENDO, Haut Gap Middle School Principal



Riley Silverman with Mr. Benintendo



Anthony Brown

BURKE SENIOR RECEIVES RICHARD RILEY AWARD

"Thank you to my jungle and my village...it takes the village to raise the child, but it takes the village and the jungle to raise a king."

Anthony Brown, a senior at Burke High School, shared these words with an audience of over 100 attendees at the South Carolina Education Association's 2020 Human and Civil Rights Luncheon on January 25, 2020. Brown received the Richard W. Riley Award; he was the youngest award recipient at the annual event.

The Richard W. Riley Award is given to a K-12 student whose achievements in the school and/or community that has helped enhance the sense of worth and dignity of others.

Brown met both sets of criteria for the award by promoting leadership in

specific activities and actions; showing appreciation for diversity and the elimination of bigotry and prejudice, and by demonstrating leadership in improving the conditions and self-esteem of minorities or the disadvantaged. Brown is the only student in the state to receive this award.

Brown's passion for equity and social justice is one of the many reasons why he was a student selected to participate in the Charleston County School District's Shared Future Project, which focused on equity and inclusion. At Burke, Brown also participates in the marching band, the school step team, and soccer team.

Brown plans to major in business and has already received numerous acceptance letters and scholarship opportunities.

R.B. Stall recognized for increased participation and improved performance on Advanced Placement

College Board released its AP Program Results: Class of 2019 report detailing the participation and performance of U.S. public high school graduates in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, including RB Stall High School which was honored as one of 12 South Carolina schools with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award.

This award recognizes schools across the nation that have closed the gender gap and engaged more female students in computer science coursework.

South Carolina's Class of 2019 saw growth in all three major areas of AP participation and performance including outpacing the

nation on eight of the top ten most popular Advanced Placement tested subjects.

RB Stall was recognized by the South Carolina Department of Education for Computer Science. Computer science is one of the fastest-growing fields in the world, and more South Carolina students than ever before are benefiting from AP computer science courses.

"I am proud our school is a leader in female participation in AP Computer Science," said Principal Jeremy Carrick. "I am glad that our students are receiving preparation in this rapidly growing field and I hope we prepare many of our students to enter the workforce

as computer scientists."

In South Carolina, 1,003 students took the AP Computer Science Principles exam in May 2019 (↑ from 630 in 2018). This was in addition to 345 students taking Computer Science Principles A. More than 69.4 percent of students scored 3+ (↑ from 67.6 percent) on these exams.

"We have been fortunate to have a female instructor, Christy Spence, in our AP computer science class," said Carrick. "Her leadership breaks down some of the barriers for females participating in AP Computer Science."



**RB Stall High School
honored as one of 12
South Carolina
schools with the AP
Computer Science
Female Diversity
Award**

Bitty & Beau's coffee cart

West Ashley High School job coach, Kristi Andrews, and Career Readiness teacher Erica Schuler had students do a trial run for their new school-based business, Bitty & Beau's coffee cart! They taught students each step and how to deliver extraordinary customer service! They did GREAT!



Hunley Park honors students for growth and effort

Hunley Park Elementary celebrated their mid-year Principal's Recognition for Growth and Effort Ceremony.

The students recognized performed well enough on MAP to be on track for a year and a half growth. Students were rewarded with a medal during the ceremony.

They had a special recognition for 4th-grader, Eliana Yelverton, who scored a Perfect Score on the 2019 South Carolina Ready Math Test.



Eliana Yelverton recognized
for Perfect Score

R.B. STALL STUDENT EARNs SCHOLARSHIP FOR AIR FORCE JROTC FLIGHT ACADEMY

R.B. Stall High School is proud to announce that senior Andrew Whitney, a Cadet Lieutenant Colonel in the school's Air Force Junior ROTC program, received a scholarship to attend an accredited aviation university participating in a private pilot license training.

Whitney is one of 200 Air Force JROTC cadets from around the world to receive the scholarship from Headquarters Air Force ROTC Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. Close to 2,600 cadets applied for this opportunity.

"I have to be careful what I ask for," said Whitney. "Four years ago, I asked Lt. Col. Ford for an opportunity to fly. His response was 'are you ready to work?' Today, I have the opportunity to fly thanks to my school, Air Force JROTC, and hard work."

There are more than 125,000 high school students enrolled in Air Force JROTC at almost 900 high schools in the U.S. and overseas. The scholarship covers transportation, room and board, classes, and flight hours required to potentially earn a private pilot license. Whitney will also earn college credit through this process. The scholarship is valued at approximately \$22,500.

The Flight Academy Scholarship Program is an Air Force-level initiative in collaboration with the commercial aviation industry to address the national civilian and military pilot shortage.

Those who participate in the program do not incur a military commitment to the Air Force or other branches of service, nor does completing the program guarantee acceptance into one of the military's commissioning programs.

"The mission of Air Force Junior ROTC is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their



Andrew Whitney

nation and community while enlisting values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and sense of accomplishment," added Lt. Col. Lonnie Ford, Stall's Air Force JROTC Senior Aerospace Instructor. "When looking to fill tomorrow's career needs with the best candidates, there is simply no better place for the nation to look than Air Force Junior ROTC!"

State releases 2019 Advanced Placement results

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS



CCSD students
scoring 3 or higher
on AP exams



CCSD: above the nation
and state in students
passing AP exams



AMHS students
scoring 3 or higher:
HIGHEST IN SC

The percentage of examinations with scores of 3 or higher for South Carolina public school students in 2019 was 58 percent (31,281 out of 53,615). For the nation, during the same period, the percentage of examinations with scores of 3 or higher for public school students was 58 percent. The number of exams taken in South Carolina public schools rose from 52,372 in 2018 to 53,615 in 2019, an increase of 2.3 percent, but the number of test-takers dropped from 32,772 in 2018 to 32,761 in 2019, a decrease of less than 0.1 percent

KEY POINTS for CCSD

- CCSD increased its district percentage to 72.2% students scoring 3 or higher on AP exams -- a 1.0 percentage point increase from the previous year.
- CCSD is +14 percentage points above the nation and state in students passing AP exams (scoring 3 or higher).
- CCSD exceeded state and national percentages of students scoring 3 or higher on AP exams in 2019, proving state and national competitiveness.
- CCSD showed slight decreases in the number of AP exams taken (down 2 percent) and the number of students enrolled in AP courses (down 1 percent) from the previous record-high year.
- In comparing high schools across the state with comparable enrollment, CCSD's Academic Magnet High School, at 91% of students scoring 3 or higher, had the highest passing rate for students in the state.

Buist wins Middle School Mock Trial



Mock Trial Champions

Buist Academy for Advanced Studies earned top honors in the 2019 Mock Trial State Championship in a competition held December 6-7 in Columbia.

Buist defeated Socastee Middle School in the finals, earning its first state crown in the wake of their 2018 state runner-up finish and 2019 Georgetown Regional Title.

Buist team members include Betsy Bailey, Jordan Burrell, Keren Collins, Eliza Compton, Ella Grace Dillard, Harry Ding, Parker Legette, Campbell Lesher, James Prutting, Grayson Skipper, Ava Smoak, Caroline Spann, Lukey Sutherland, Noa Wallen Walker Cote, Paul Biddle and Finley Love. Beth Bailey is the team's attorney coach, with Liz Good and Chris Garner serving as teacher coaches. Thurmond, Kirchner, and Timbes, P.A. has been Buist's community partner since the team was founded in 2012.

Mock Trial is a legal simulation competition sponsored by the South Carolina Bar Association, in which teams of middle schoolers playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses re-enact a case.

Buist's Mock Trial participation dates back to 2012. The team has previously boasted three regional championships and six consecutive state tournament appearances.

"We are proud of our team not only for its victory, but for its hard work, determination, grace under pressure, and sportsmanship," said Garner. "No team could be more deserving of success. They were champions no matter what the final score was."

#teamBurns CPN Social Studies Bowl

Scholars from Edmund A. Burns Elementary School captured the Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN) Social Studies Bowl title. The CPN Social Studies Bowl gives students an opportunity to showcase what they have learned in school when it comes to history, government, geography, and sociology.

Burns not only took the overall championship but also earned wins in the 3rd- and 5th-grade levels.

Jonathan Dugan, Burns' math interventionist serves as the coach of the Social Studies Bowl team. Under his leadership, 5th-grader David Turner helped lead the Bears to victory.



Team Burns

C. E. Williams' Keerthana Samuel wins Regional Spelling Bee

Keerthana Samuel took home the Spellbound! trophy after correctly spelling the word “nictitate,” another word for blink.

It was one of the words she had been studying and she was quite familiar with the word.

Sponsored by The Post and Courier, the SpellBound! competition at Charleston Southern University's Lightsey Chapel in North Charleston featured the top spellers from across the Lowcountry.

In order to qualify, the students first had to win their school spelling bee, then either win or finish near the top of their district spelling bees. More than 40,000 students competed in the local bees to qualify for 50 spots on the SpellBound! stage.

“At first, I was real nervous,” said Samuel. “That day I stayed home and mom quizzed me on the words so wouldn't have to ask too many questions during the competition.”

Keerthana defeated first runner-up Braeden LaRoche, a student from Daniel Island School in Berkeley County, after he incorrectly spelled “coterie.”

“I got used to all of the words on our study sheet so the competition was not too hard for me,” said Samuel. I knew if I was presented with a word I did not know I could simply ask for the definition.”

Despite the number of competitors on stage with her, Samuel was able to relax and focus on the competition.

“The other kids were really nice and the competition was good,” Samuel added.

Samuel said she was drawn to participating in spelling bees after giving it a try last year. She came in 7th place at the regional competition.

“I thought if memorizing some words was something I could do and be good at, why not?” said Samuel. “Thinking about the payoff made me sign up to participate this year as well.”

That's not to say she didn't work hard.

“I would like to thank my mom for helping me and quizzing me. Without her, I would not be in this position,” said Samuel. I can't believe I made it.”

*“I would like to thank
my mom for helping me
and quizzing me.*

*Without her, I would
not be in this position. I
can't believe I made it.”*

— KEERTHANA SAMUEL



CCSD's 2020 Spelling Bee winner Keerthana Samuel



The CCSD 2020 Spelling Bee finalists and Top Four winners



Deer Park Middle School Spelling Bee

Congrats to the participants in the Deer Park Middle School spelling bee. The champion was Erin Baylock, runner-up was Malik Davis, and third place was Kaileigh Manigault! This year's competition went 14 rounds!

SHIPMATE SHAKE TEACHES STUDENTS PROFESSIONAL SKILLS FOR SUCCESS



Top row left to right: 1st and 2nd place winner Sterling Thornton and Cheyenne Ivey with CCSD Vice chair Kate Darby; The Top 6 finalists in the Pinckney Shipmate Shake competition pose with CCSD officials; Students listen intently to the ins and outs of running a grocery store

Bottom row left to right: Students learn that produce must be stocked several times a day at Trader Joes; Bagging is also called part of the Grand Finale in which store employees have one more chance to wow their customer; A team works a demo table offering customers a sample of milk and cookies

Charles Pinckney Elementary School hosted their inaugural Shipmate Shake competition during the month of February. This non-traditional learning model brought community leaders and role models to judge 266 fifth graders on their professional skills for success.

It culminated in a fourth and final round with the top six fifth graders competing for the top spot. Sterling Thornton earned that honor followed by

Runner up Cheyenne Ivey.

The top six participants also included Nathaniel Knotts, Parker Carmines, Riley Farrell, and Hannah Pinckney.

The competition tested fifth grade students through case-scenario stations set up around the school. Scenario topics included manners, discipline, respect, and professionalism.

Tiffany Henderson, Assistant Principal, and Paige Hoagland, Guidance Counselor, learned about the model from the Ron Clark Academy, which is hosted by Ron Clark, a former National Teacher of the Year.

In addition, Lake Carolina Elementary in Columbia has its own version and Henderson

decided to model Pinckney's version around that.

The first round gauntlet involved 10 case scenario stations hosted by judges that every fifth-grader passed through. Those judges included local dignitaries, school board members, and business owners and leaders.

Only 60 students moved on to Round 2 to compete in the teamwork challenge. The remaining 20 students went on to Round 3 which was hosted at Trader Joe's where they were tasked with designing an advertisement for the grocery store and selling products to customers. Some of the judges posed as mystery shoppers.

The final six winners competed in the final round at the District office in downtown Charleston where they were asked to create a presentation encouraging parents to send their children to CCSD schools.

Henderson explained that the interviews and presentations the students participate in during the competition expose them to their community. As part of that, local businesses recorded videos about these life skills as a way of teaching the students leading up to the competition.

Wando Band honored by National Band Association

The Wando High School Band was named as one of the 2019 National Recipients of the National Band Association (NBA) Program of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award.

The NBA Programs of Excellence initiative recognizes quality programs at all levels. Those programs and educators which challenge students and promote standards of excellence are honored nationally through this initiative.

The band is under the direction of Bobby Lambert, Lanie Radecke, and Jeff Handel.

“The National Band Association is one of the most respected band organizations in our profession,” said Lambert. “They have honored legends in our field as well as programs that expose their students to extraordinary opportunities. We are honored to be counted among some of the best programs in the country and are thrilled to bring a national spotlight to Charleston County.”

According to Lambert, Radecke spent many hours compiling videos, audio recordings, and past programs as part of their application.



The Wando Band is nationally recognized



Wando Band 2019

“It was quite rigorous,” said Lambert. “The committee is very adamant the winners must have a well-rounded program; a rarity for so many music programs. There are colleges who would love to have our program.”

Many school bands focus on just marching or jazz but Wando exhibits high standards and performance in the realm of ensemble and solo playing in the mediums of concert, marching, and jazz literature.

“We just couldn’t be prouder of the work our students have done,” said Lambert. “This award is not the same as ‘winning a contest’. It is a cumulative award for the great work of not only this band but our previous classes of alumni students and staff members.”

The Bands of Wando are in large part, supported by the local community, along with the Charleston County School District, the Town of Mount Pleasant, its Harmony Sponsors, the Bands of Wando Foundation, parents, and alumni. For more information visit WandoBands.org.

“It takes committed students, parents, and administrators, coupled with a community that values doing the best for our students to make our Wando Band successful,” added Lambert.

“The National Band Association is one of the most respected band organizations in our profession,. They have honored legends in our field as well as programs that expose their students to extraordinary opportunities. We are honored to be counted among some of the best programs in the country and are thrilled to bring a national spotlight to Charleston County.” – BOBBY LAMBERT, Wando Band Director



THREE CCSD STUDENTS AWARDED BY ENGAGING CREATIVE MINDS

Engaging Creative Minds (ECM), a local educational nonprofit that promotes Arts Integration in area schools, traveled to Buist Academy and Burke High School, December 18, 2019, to surprise the O2 Fitness Charleston Youth Marathon® t-shirt design contest winners.

The first-place winner, was Alex Eastman, a sixth grade student at Buist Academy. He received a check for \$100 and his design will be featured on the Youth Marathon® t-shirt.

Second place winner Louise Martin, a sixth grader at Buist Academy, received a check for \$50. The third place winner was Aysha Bowens, a Burke senior who was recently accepted to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She received a check for \$25.

As in years past, the official charitable partner for the O2 Fitness Charleston Marathon® race is ECM.

ECM partners with local artists and art organizations to provide unique educational programming for Kindergarten through eighth grade. This year they were in 22 schools across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties and will impact over 10,000 students.

In addition to supporting ECM programs, the Charleston Marathon® also distributes grants to local schools and classrooms through funds received from the race. In its 10th year, the O2 Fitness Charleston Marathon® is expected to see continued growth in its participation numbers.



Winning
design by
Alex Eastman



Second place
design by
Louise Martin



Third place
design by
Aysha Bowens

West Ashley High wins state Ethics Bowl title



The West Ashley High Philosophy Club competed in the 2nd annual South Carolina High School Ethics Bowl at Wofford College and took the top spot. Last year they competed but were knocked out in the semi-finals. This year's team members are (l to r) Nick Kalyna, Copeland Johnson, Coach John Junge, Taylor Mills, Zahavi Johnson, and Damitria Sheares.



Damitria Sheares, Copeland Johnson, and Taylor Mills show off the first place medals they received after competing in the South Carolina High School Ethics Bowl. "My favorite part of this year would definitely be our team's chemistry and how we all worked so well together," said sophomore Taylor Mills. "I also enjoyed getting to interact with the other teams and have good conversations with them."

West Ashley High School (WAHS) competed in the South Carolina High School Ethics Bowl at Wofford College and came in first place! Eighteen teams from 12 schools across the state, including Chapman High School, Palmetto Scholars Academy, and Spartanburg High School (this year's runner-up), were part of the second annual event.

West Ashley High's Ethics Bowl team is composed of members of the school's Philosophy Club. The group formed three years ago because of WAHS science teacher John Junge's love of the discussions and debates he liked to hold with his students. After several students inquired about starting a team, Junge realized there was a mutual interest and the Philosophy Club was born.

According to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's website, regional ethics bowls "are competitive yet collaborative events in which students discuss real-life ethical issues. This event teaches and promotes ethical awareness, critical thinking, civil discourse, civic engagement, and an appreciation for multiple points of view."

A typical Ethics Bowl consists of a series of hour-long matches throughout the course of one day. The morning competition is a qualifying round where schools compete in three matches against randomly selected opponents. The top four teams then move on to the playoffs in a bracket-style tournament consisting of two semi-final matches followed by one final match.

Each year, the High School Ethics Bowl releases a case set of 15 ethical scenarios for teams to study, such as student loan debt or confronting someone whose behavior is morally problematic. Teams are judged on the clarity of their presentations as well as the depth and breadth of their thinking on each case.

West Ashley High's team met once a week from September through January to get ready for the state contest.

The students were excited about bringing home a championship. However, they feel it is more important to be a part of the Philosophy Club so they can expand their viewpoints and be willing to listen to differing opinions.

"I've learned how to see other people's point of view rather than just my own opinion," said junior Copeland Johnson, one of the students who helped start the team three years ago. "One of our very few rules is to seek first to understand. This is so we can hear the other viewpoints and ask questions to clarify meaning. Once we see the other side, we can criticize or introduce new points."

An ethics bowl differs from a debate competition in one significant way – students are not given differing points of view they have to defend but rather speak up for whichever viewpoint they feel is correct. Showing they have thought

through each case fully and logically while they interact respectfully with their opponents demonstrates a grasp of the material.

"Honestly, win or lose, the process is the most rewarding part," added Junge. "When we first started in September the students didn't really know one another very well. Having regular conversations about these complex issues, and learning how to disagree in respectful and constructive ways, is a very intimate act. You really learn a lot about someone's character. So, I think what I'm most proud of is how well the students worked together and the rapport they built over the course of the year."

The team competed against the winner of Georgia's Ethics Bowl in a virtual playoff last week and lost in the final round. While disappointed, they did not advance to the national tournament, the team is already thinking about next year.

"We are currently looking to recruit members for a team for next year," said Johnson. "We are going back to having Socrates Cafés, which are open discussions about questions that we have so we can generate interest and find new members."



When asked how he felt about coming in first place at the 2nd annual South Carolina High School Ethics Bowl, senior Zahavi Johnson said, "Philosophy is definitely one of those things where the work is done before the competition. We didn't win on competition day; we won when our discussions went on seemingly irrelevant tangents that highlighted issues that we incorporated into our understanding; we won when Mr. Junge developed a framework for our presentation and we, as a team, bought into it; and we won on competition day because each member made relevant and unique contributions to our presentations."

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT AWARDS

Jill Burgin – South Carolina State Nurse of the Year



Jill Burgin honored

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Jill Burgin, the school nurse at Stiles Point Elementary School, was named the 2019 South Carolina School Nurse of the Year by the South Carolina State Department of Education and the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

This is the second straight year a nurse from CCSD has earned this honor; Mary Ford Elementary School's Charlene Barbot won this award in 2018.

Burgin has been a nurse for 25 years, including the past 14 at Stiles Point Elementary. She has also implemented numerous school-wide health promotion and wellness strategies, all of which have had a positive impact on students, staff, and families.

She was officially honored in Columbia at the 38th Annual SCASN Conference.

Academic Magnet receives elite recognition from *U.S. News & World Report*

AMHS named #2 high school in country; Charleston County
School of the Arts and Wando in top three of state rankings.



Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) staff, students, and families are celebrating another impressive honor from the *U.S. News & World Report* today. The national publication named AMHS the second-best high school in the country according to their annual Best High School rankings. This honor comes a year after the Raptors were recognized as the top high school in the nation.

"It is again a great honor to celebrate the achievements and the dedication of our students, faculty, staff, and Raptor community," said Principal Catherine Spencer. "With an eye always on academics, service, and leadership excellence, Academic Magnet High School truly deserves this extraordinary national recognition as well as other collective and individual accolades. We are very proud of our continued shared commitment and the future of AMHS is indeed very bright!"

The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data on more than 24,000 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 18,000 schools were ranked on six factors: college readiness, math and reading proficiency, math and reading performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth, and graduation rate.

"While this announcement is a huge honor, it comes to me as no surprise," explained Catherine Yackey, a math teacher at AMHS. "The students are the heart and soul of the school, and our heart and soul thrive! Our students are not just smart; they are caring, loyal, and powerful. With a small amount of motivation, they can do anything they put their minds to."

Academic Magnet is the second-best magnet high school in the nation in this year's rankings as well.

"The student body of Academic Magnet is exceedingly proud to uphold our high standard of education," added Felix von Asten, a junior who is a Mentor Coordinator this year (and will serve as an Ambassador Coordinator next year). "We thank the incredible staff and parents of our school that have allowed and continue to allow Academic Magnet High School to be a place where students achieve great things."

Charleston County School District has the top three high schools in the state according to the U.S. News Best High School 2020 rankings: Academic Magnet, Charleston County School of the Arts, and Wando High School (in that order according to the list).



MMA named High Flying School at National Youth-At-Risk Conference



A school is considered for the High Flying School Award if the school is high-achieving and serves a high percentage of students at risk

Military Magnet Academy (MMA) was named a High Flying School at the National Youth-At-Risk Conference. MMA was one of only four schools in the nation to receive this recognition. Each school selected as a 2020 High-Flying School will receive an award of \$1,000.

MMA representatives were recognized at the National Youth-At-Risk Conference held in Savannah, Georgia at the Hyatt Regency, March 8–11, 2020.

“The honor bestowed from this recognition is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our scholars and professional educators,” said Principal Dr. Robert L. Perrineau, Jr. “To experience success despite the obstacles that often are innate to many of the communities with which our students reside is nothing short of amazing.”

Dennis Muhammad, Charleston County School District Family and Community Engagement Officer, nominated the school.

“I’ve been attending the National Youth at-Risk conference since 2007,” said Muhammad. “Each year, the conference awards high flying schools around the nation. The distinguishing characteristic I noticed is that each school offers something different and unique.”

A school is considered for the High Flying School Award if the school is high-achieving and serves a high percentage of students at risk. To be eligible, the school must rank in its state at the 75 percentile or higher as evidenced by their state assessment system, or can highlight

demonstrable growth, as measured by a research-based assessment system, in closing the achievement gap in a minimum of two academic subjects in at least two grade levels.

“I worked at Military Magnet for ten years,” said Muhamad. “It fit the mold, and its program stands out in Charleston County School District. Military Magnet Academy offers its cadets something different and unique. It uses the military model to teach leadership and character development.”

According to Perrineau, for the past two years, the faculty and scholars have focused on changing the perception of the school and improving the culture and climate in the building.

“This has had the biggest impact on empowering our scholars and promoting the belief that anything is possible,” said Perrineau. “If we set our expectations high then we can achieve the individual greatness that awaits each of us. This award will only drive us more to continue preparing our young people to become integral and productive citizens in our future society.”

The programs at Military Magnet place responsibility on the shoulders of its cadets in the sixth grade and nurtures their leadership and academic abilities through their graduation.

“Military Magnet Academy is unique because it uses the military model to support public education, but it has instituted a robust college-focused culture,” said Muhammad. “I think this is part of what makes it worthy of the High Flying School Award.”



ACADEMIC MAGNET’S SIC MAKES STATE HONOR ROLL



The South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) announced its annual Honor Roll January 9, 2020 and for the first time since 2017, an SIC from Charleston County School District made the list: Academic Magnet High School.

Ten SICs from public schools around the state received this honor for their significant efforts to foster civic engagement in public education. These Honor Roll SICs will continue in the running for SC-SIC’s annual Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence. Now in its 19th year, the award is named for the former United States Secretary of Education and South Carolina Governor and his late wife, and recognizes the vital contributions made by more than 1,100 local SICs and their nearly 13,000 SIC members across the state.

Academic Magnet’s principal, Catherine Spencer, said their SIC wanted to address stakeholder areas of concern where they felt they could take the lead and orchestrate positive change. After extensive input and deliberation, the middle to high school transition process became the identified issue to address.

“Much discussion, time, and effort involving affected stakeholders ensued in developing a Student Mentor program that was initiated in full in the 2018-19 school year,” explained Spencer. “The program seeks to pair incoming freshmen with upper-class student mentors to help ensure both academic and social integration. As a SIC initiative in action, this is one of the best outcomes I have seen in over thirty years of working in schools both in South Carolina and throughout the world!”

SICs were established by state law over 40 years ago.

“Our SIC is dedicated to supporting students, teachers, and staff,” added Amy Hill, AMHS SIC President. “We are very pleased the Student Mentor Program has been recognized for its positive impact on the school community. Through the program, freshman are getting an additional source of support so they can be successful at Academic Magnet.”

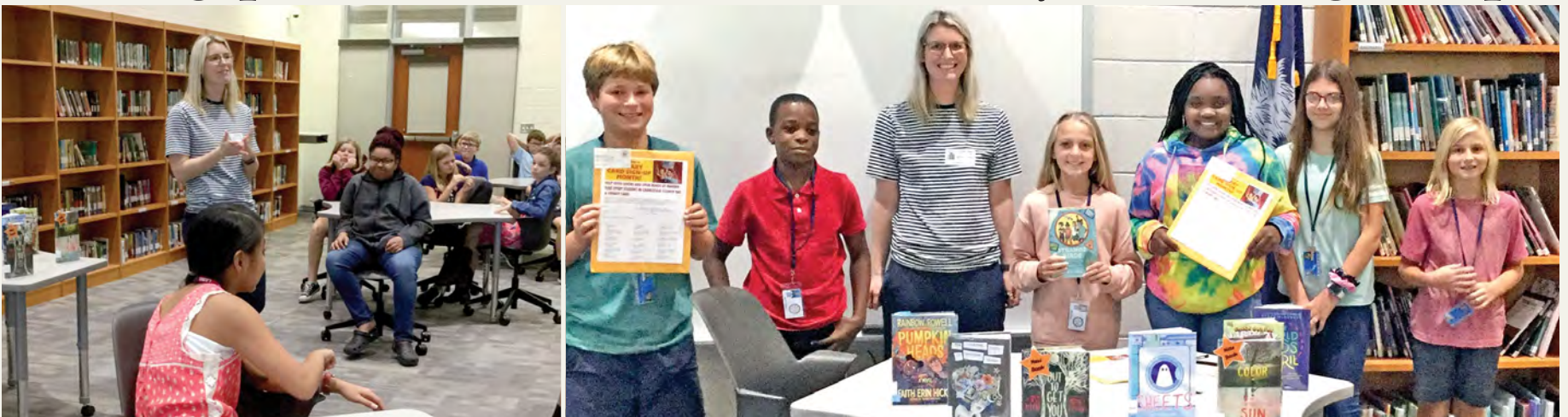
LITERACY

The Charleston County Public Library's Book Mobile



The Charleston County Public Library's Book Mobile made a stop at Sanders-Clyde Elementary School this year. The students had an opportunity to read and check out books.

Laing promotes National Library Card Sign Up



Laing Middle School partnered with Charleston County Public Library (CCPL) to promote National Library Card Sign Up Month. Melissa Tunstall, Young Adult Services Manager from the Wando Mount Pleasant Library, spoke to Laing sixth graders about CCPL's programming and services as well as bringing applications for students to sign up for their own card.



Reading Rivalry Pep Rally

Clemson won again in the Sullivan's Island Elementary School Reading Rivalry Pep Rally!



Paws For Literacy

A hit at Edmund A. Burns

Paws for Literacy is an ongoing program at Edmund A. Burns, and the students not only love the programs, but they're in love with their reading partner, Bailer. The special guest for Book Club was Bailey! Bailey is a therapy dog that spent every week with the students at Burns Elementary. She was part of the reading program PAWS for Literacy.

CD & KINDERGARTEN KSCOPE STUDENTS VISIT BAXTER-PATRICK LIBRARY

James Island Elementary School CD and Kindergarten group had a wonderful time at the Baxter Patrick Library on January 9, 2020.

A special visitor, Pete the Cat was there to share his Pizza Party book. The students sang songs, read stories and selected books to bring home.



Arctic Adventure Book Fair

Jane Edwards Elementary School kicked off the opening of their Arctic Adventure Book Fair with the Flannel Day (*left*). There were different themes throughout the week such as Snow Day (*right*). Students got to dress in white or fuzzy, "snowy" clothing. The following day was Winter Sports Day. Students dressed in winter sports clothing.



MITCHELL ELEMENTARY AND BURKE HIGH TEAM UP FOR ANNUAL LITERACY CARNIVAL



Julian Mitchell Elementary School observed Read Across America Week with a ‘Universe of Stories’ theme. While most of the schools in the area are participating this week, the Super Sharks celebrated the annual literacy initiative last week with a “Universe of Stories” theme.

Students and staff focused on influential African-Americans, especially scientists, inventors, and astronauts. Activities included daily trivia, daily dress-up themes, a door decorating contest, and a character parade.

The main highlight of the event, the literacy carnival, was actually held on the Burke High School campus Friday, February 28, 2020. Pre-Kindergarten through second grade students enjoyed their trip down to the campus and participated in a variety of activities led by students and teachers from Burke and Simmons-Pinckney Middle School.

Activities included music time in the middle school fine arts building, face painting, a jump castle, storytime in the Burke media center, a galaxy lesson, bookmark making, “astronaut training,” and storytime from the International Space Station.

Mitchell’s teacher-librarian, Kellyanne Burbage, said several staff members from all three schools were involved in setting up and running this program.

“This year’s event was a collaboration between the librarians from Mitchell, Burke, and Simmons-Pinckney to plan the event,” said Burbage. “We were fortunate to have honor roll students and teacher cadet students from Burke and Simmons-Pinckney assist with the effort as well.”

The literacy carnival has been a part of the Mitchell and Burke partnership for the past six years. Mitchell’s principal, Debbie Smith, explained how this program gives her students and teachers a chance to connect with their feeder pattern schools.

“The students get to see their siblings, cousins, and neighbors leading the stations,” Smith said. “Our teachers get to see how well our former students are doing. Now that we have been doing for this for several years, we will soon have students who went to the carnival leading the stations. It is a great team effort, efficiently organized by our own Kellyanne Burbage. It is one of the major highlights of our school year!”



MARY FORD *celebrates* LITERACY

Reading is dreaming and believing you can do anything!
Literacy is celebrated every day at Mary Ford Elementary School. Congratulations to Royalty and Kyrie for completing the 2nd grade reading kit. They are ready to read third grade books!





READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK 2020



Active Learning at Angel Oak



!The first weeks of March at Angel Oak Elementary School were filled with active learning at AOE. Wise Owls are hard workers!



Drayton Hall *features* Reading Night

Reading Night at Drayton Hall Elementary School was held on March 6, 2020! There was a TON of fun to be had! The Book Fair was also open for students to shop! Students created a sandwich board of their favorite book to wear for a contest and prizes.





POETRY
CELEBRATION

Laurel Hill Primary School

first graders in Amy Claxton's class culminated their poetry writing unit on February 13, 2020. Parents were invited to watch the students perform songs and read a variety of poems, acrostics, chinquapins and more.



STEM

LAING NAMED ITEEA 2019-2020 STEM SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



Alyssa Solder



STEM is a whole school initiative at Laing



Abby Origin



The International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) announced that for the second time in three years, Laing Middle School was one of ten recipients of its STEM School of Excellence Recognition for the 2019-2020 school year.

ITEEA recognizes outstanding schools for their commitment to providing a robust Integrative STEM education program. These award-winning programs serve as a standard for comparison and models for the development of other programs.

ITEEA is a professional organization for technology, innovation, design, and engineering educators. Its mission is to promote technological literacy for all by

supporting the teaching of technology and promoting the professionalism of those engaged in this pursuit.

“We are humbled to receive this recognition from such a prestigious organization such as ITEEA,” said Principal James Whitehair. “This award is a reflection of the tremendous staff and students we have at Laing Middle School of Science and Technology.”

Laing launched its Whole-School STEM Initiative in 2012, with the goal of improving academic mastery, building 21st-century workplace skills, fostering interest in STEM careers, and narrowing achievement gaps. The plan is unique in that it emphasizes an integrative approach that aims to use STEM tools in all curriculum areas.

“We are humbled to receive this recognition from such a prestigious organization such as ITEEA. This award is a reflection of the tremendous staff and students we have at Laing Middle School of Science and Technology.”

— JAMES WHITEHAIR, Laing Middle School principal

Murray LaSaine Montessori: Women in Science



Murray LaSaine Montessori School held their first annual Women in Science event, a District 3-wide science night. It was a great success.

Burns students participate in the Makerspace Club



Students at Burns Elementary are learning about STEM during Makerspace Club.

MIT STUDENTS ENCOURAGE YOUNG FEMALES TO PURSUE STEM STUDIES AND CAREERS



Students from West Ashley High School listen to MIT student explain their higher education pathways



Students participated in hands-on activities as part of their lesson on STEM



MIT undergrads worked with Morningside students about potential STEM careers and pathways

(MIT) paid a visit to over ten Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools to encourage young girls to pursue science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies and career paths.

The MIT Women's Initiative is a student-founded and student-run program that aims to help close the gender gap in the STEM fields.

"I was thrilled to hear MIT selected Women in Charge and CCSD to partner with, because it is vital our young women and men understand how many tools for success STEM provides," said Millibeth Currie, Women in Charge Program Director, and Science Department Chair at Moultrie Middle School. "If you don't take the mystery out of successful problem solving, our students will avoid more complex problems that need solutions in our world."

For the past 15 years, the Women's Initiative has reached out to middle and high school girls nationally through presentations and hands-on activities led by pairs of MIT undergraduate and graduate women. By engaging with young women in school districts where there are few STEM role models, the hope is to educate girls about STEM fields, encourage their interest in STEM careers, and inform them about local STEM opportunities.

Last week Trinity Stallins and Janice Tjan joined MIT undergrads and graduate students across the nation in inspiring girls to pursue STEM. They gave presentations across the district to explain what STEM is and describe the various careers available in those areas.

Tjan is a sophomore at MIT majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a focus in Biotechnology. Stallins is from Arlington, Texas. She is a freshman at MIT and will be double majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Global Development, and Urban Planning.

CCSD students were encouraged to research online learning platforms, enroll in mentorship programs and participate in extra-curricular activities that would lead to STEM careers or a college pathway.

Stallins chose MIT because of the opportunities it would afford her and her desire to focus on global development.

"At MIT, they value each individual and encourage you to explore your passion and interest," said Stallins.

For Tjan, going to MIT was more of a dream than a reality.

"I considered all of my options from community college to MIT. I was a good student but I didn't bank on MIT."

Kate Bynum, a Women in Charge member and eighth-grader at Moultrie Middle School, explained that when she was younger, scientists were always portrayed as nerdy men

in lab coats.

"As a result, I always imagined scientists as they were shown on the TV," said Bynum. "After the presentation from MIT, I realized that anyone could have a job in STEM, and these jobs are what are shaping our future."

The presentation helped Emma DiLalla a Laing Middle School eighth-grader, realize that a person doesn't have to be all about one thing, and you don't have to be so smart that you can't have fun.

"Before the MIT presentation, I thought that STEM jobs were all engineering and lab-related," said Lilah Smith, Women in Charge Member and Moultrie, eighth-grader. "I didn't think there were over thousands of job opportunities in the field. I have only been interested in jobs related to people and the medical field. Now I am considering looking into more jobs in the math and engineering field."

Tjan says it's the least she can do to pay it forward. She participated in many similar programs throughout the years where she had access to mentors such as herself.

"They inspired me and it kept me tied into the STEM network," said Tjan. "In that same spirit, I want to inspire these girls to build that same community and to keep pursuing their passions."

For Stallins, it is critical that these young scholars know there are opportunities available.

"At that age, I didn't know," said Stallins. "I just want to show them that the door is open and there is always a starting point to explore their interests between now and college."

Janette Baker, Women in Charge Co-Program Director said that the MIT speakers helped students learn about women, both past and present, who have made big impacts in the STEM field and why their accomplishments were important.

"Our students were also shown the important lesson that STEM careers vary greatly and there are limitless options available to them," said Baker. "Specifically, Women in Charge members worked both independently and collaboratively to design and build paper planes. Using a weighted-category rubric, each girl evaluated her plane based on distance traveled, reliability, and trick factors. They worked as a group to choose the best design of their group, then explained to the other groups why their plane would be a great buy for the 'Moultrie Toy Factory'. This valuable experience removed the mystery about applying to college, and for advice as to navigating high school to ensure they would be prepared for college."

Currie said it is imperative to show students that anyone can pursue STEM opportunities on their pathway toward entering the real world and beginning their careers.

Frierson students participate in Boeing's Dream Learner Program



Boeing South Carolina's DreamLearners educational program has reached more than 525,000 students and community partners since 2012.

Edith L. Frierson students were invited to the Boeing campus to participate.

DreamLearners offers the opportunity for South Carolina students in 5th grade and students in specialized Science, Technology Engineering, and Math (STEM) based programs to visit Boeing South Carolina and learn more about careers in aerospace, STEM, and advanced manufacturing. Boeing also offers the opportunity for classroom speaking events, and visits from teachers, administrators, and faculty. Special sessions are scheduled monthly on Saturdays for Boeing South Carolina teammates, their families, and friends.

Newsweek recognizes Academic Magnet as a top STEM school



Academic Magnet High School (AMHS) is no stranger to earning awards. AMHS was named the country's top high school and magnet high school by *U.S. News & World Report*. This fall, the Raptors earned another national honor from another national publication. *Newsweek* recognized Academic Magnet as one of the Top 5,000 STEM High Schools, placing them at number 29 overall.

"With recent regional, national, and international recognitions in STEM competitions and a renewed commitment to the highest levels of course offerings in the math, engineering, computer programming, and math content areas, AMHS is establishing its

place as a school where math and science student achievement is outstanding," noted Principal Catherine Spencer.

The list was created in large part from STEM.org Educational Research; the scoring took into consideration a broad set of quantitative and qualitative data collected from the second quarter of 2015 through the third quarter of 2019.

Newsweek, with its long history of reporting on scientific breakthroughs, technological revolutions and societal challenges, partnered with STEM.org to rank America's Best STEM High Schools. They found schools in every region of the country that offer skilled teachers who keep up with developments in these fields and who create dynamic learning environments to engage their students.



Stono Park introduces coding as a whole-school initiative



Fourth grader Lanaya Williams enjoys the creative aspect of coding



Jasmine Terry and her brother Jermaine enjoy writing code to see if it was accurate

Stono Park Elementary School is the first school in Charleston County School District (CCSD) to implement “Code To The Future” which is the nation’s first comprehensive solution for computer science immersion.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are coding in all subject areas.

Jessica Collins is the computer lab teacher at Stono Park. She described the school-wide initiative as one that allows the kids to dream bigger. She also noted the importance of having programs like these in Title 1 schools.

“It’s all about students being able to see the physical representation of their work play out in front of them,” said Collins. “I’ve found that this allows students who are not strong in content areas to become stronger without even knowing it. They also may look to computer science careers whereas before they may not have even known they existed.”

Students in kindergarten, first, and second grade use a software called Scratch Junior to learn block-based coding, while third, fourth, and fifth graders used Scratch.

Kindergarten teacher Glenn Tolleveson said the staff collectively embraced the immersion effort because they knew what the long-term benefits would be.

“Ultimately, what we’re here for is to help our kids get further into the future not just to the next grade level,” said Tolleveson.

Lanaya Williams, a fourth grader, said her favorite thing about computer science is being able to share her creativity.



“We are learning skills that will prepare us for our future,” said Williams. Even though college is still a long time away, we are learning skills that will help us right now, like collaboration, communication, creativity, and problem-solving.”

Jermaine Terry, a fifth grader, said that the curriculum teaches students how to start sequences with different events, and how to make Sprites using the graphic editor. A sprite is a bitmap graphic that is designed to be part of a larger scene. It can either be a static image or an animated graphic.

“Students are gamers and for them to be able to learn how to build something instead of being a consumer, is exciting,” added Collins.

Terry wants to build robots when he grows up and considers this infused curriculum a stepping stone to excel in that profession.

“This has helped me to understand the basics of coding and why students should learn computer science at a much younger age,” said Terry. “I think this will change the world someday. This has helped me look deeper below the surface of things.”

MMA COMPETES IN TECH CHALLENGE, LOWCOUNTRY-PEE DEE INTER-LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Military Magnet Academy (MMA) students recently participated in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge, Lowcountry-Pee Dee Inter-League Tournament.

There were a total of 15 teams and 66 registered volunteers that participated in the event on January 25, 2020.

The MMA RoboEagles spent a significant number of hours designing, building, and programming their robot, as well as learning what it takes to be part of a team.

The team overcame several obstacles such as programming issues and design/build issues. The team displayed FIRST's core value "Gracious Professionalism" and will continue to take this transferable skill into the industry.

Teams were judged before competing which gave them the opportunity to win awards in addition to the competition. FIRST Tech Challenge judging sessions do not include



written or verbal feedback for students. The judging was a subjective process, and students were encouraged to learn the important life skill of self-evaluation. This helps students prepare for professional interviews while developing other real-world life skills.

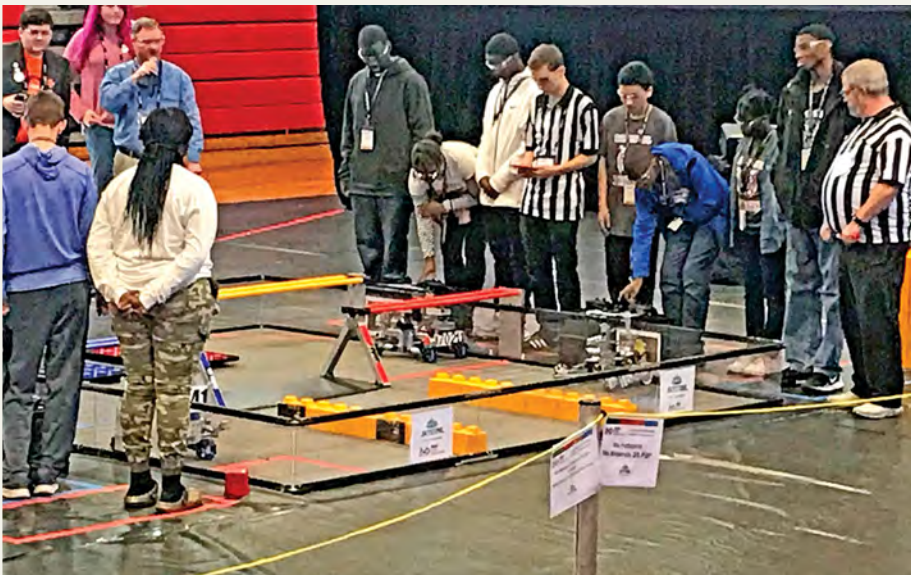
The RoboEagles won the following awards and earned a spot in the state competition.

Second Place Connect Award - A team must submit an engineering notebook. The engineering notebook must include a team plan that covers the team's goals and plans for the season, which could include robot game strategies, outreach to science, engineering, and math communities, and team finances.

Second Place Design Award - A team must submit an engineering notebook that includes robot CAD images or detailed robot design drawings



MMA students will advance to the State Tech Challenge



MMA students won two second place awards at the FIRST Tech Challenge



Military Magnet competes in NASA competition

Registered teams, including one from Military Magnet Academy, participated in the South Carolina Apollo Next Giant Leap Student (ANGLEs) Challenge, which is a national challenge celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission. The competition, run by NASA's South Carolina Space Grant Consortium, gives students the chance to recreate the moon landing by using drones and a LEGO Mindstorm robot.

Organizers of this event focused on making it accessible for underrepresented and underserved communities.

SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLNESS

Champions of the Environment



Students participate last year

Champions of the Environment grants are issued each school year to foster environmental education and action in South Carolina's classrooms, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"The students and staff of Mount Pleasant Academy are extremely excited about the opportunity to support our local marsh habitat through this partnership," said MPA Principal Kim Jackson.

Students, teachers and environmental educators apply for grant funding by outlining their educational project that focuses on pollution or waste reduction, water or energy efficiency, or preservation of natural areas.

JBE teacher Nancy Platt applied for the grant.

"In being selected as a Champions of the Environment grant recipient, I am filled with immense pride for my James B. Edwards' Green Team's accomplishments," said Platt. "We are thrilled to be taking our model to a sister school, Mount Pleasant Academy, where this grant will be used to foster upper elementary school students as citizen scientists, to contribute relevant data taken

from our communities for global analysis of climate change, and to remain champions of our environment."

The grant program is sponsored by DHEC, Dominion Energy, and International Paper, with assistance from the Environmental Education Association of South Carolina.

"We are excited for JBE students to have the opportunity to become real citizen scientists through this award," said JBE principal Robin Fountain. "Being 'Champions of the Environment' directly aligns with our mission to develop global leaders with strong character, ready to serve their communities."

This is the second year JBE has received the grant funding.

"Thanks to additional partner funding this year, we're excited to increase the number of awards presented, as well as the award amount," said Amanda Ley, DHEC's coordinator for the Champions of the Environment program.

This year, each grant winner received \$2,500.



Superstar Handwashers

In Ms. Roshetko's kindergarten class at Carolina Park Elementary School, students learned to be super star hand washers! Students participated in an experiment where they used Glo-Germ lotion and a black light to watch how germs spread. After shaking hands, they went to the sink to test their hand washing skills. When germs were still present, they learned the correct way to wash their hands with a fun song. They practiced the right way, and all the germs were gone!

Ten CCSD schools reduce waste by recycling more



MMA students planted trees and they will benefit from the compost



Military Magnet Academy received funds to purchase supplies to start a composting program using food waste from the cafeteria.

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

Funds can be used toward the purchase of recycling and/or composting equipment and supplies, share table equipment/supplies, and recycling-related field trips.

Stefanie Vandiver, Environmental Health Manager with the DHEC Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling said CCSD projects include composting food scraps in culinary arts classes, creating a "sharing table" in the cafeteria, and a field trip to recycle oyster shells for reef restoration.

Grant recipients

- Baptist Hill Middle High School received funds for recycling containers to be placed in the classrooms, gymnasium, and stadium. They also received funds to be used toward recycling and/or composting related field trips. They received \$1,500.
- Burke High School received funds to purchase a rain barrel and for composting supplies. They also received to be used toward recycling and/or composting related field trips. They received \$1,500.
- Carolina Park Elementary received funds to purchase recycling containers and supplies to start a share table in the cafeteria. They received \$600.
- Haut Gap Middle School received funds to purchase supplies to build compost bins for the school. They received \$1,321.
- Jerry Zucker Middle School received funds to be used toward recycling and/or composting related field trips. They received \$1,500.

- Military Magnet Academy received funds to purchase supplies to start a composting program using food waste from the cafeteria. They received \$1,500.
- RB Stall High School received funds for a vermicomposter to be added to their composting program. They also received funds for supplies to start a share table in the cafeteria and for recycling/composting related field trips. They received \$1,050.
- Sullivan's Island Elementary School received funds to purchase recycling containers and compost tumblers. They also received funds for supplies to start a share table in the cafeteria. They received \$988.
- Thomas C. Cario Middle School received funds to purchase recycling containers and recycling-related field trips. They received \$1,500.
- West Ashley High School received funds for composting supplies. They also received funds for supplies to start a share table in the cafeteria and for recycling/composting related field trips. They received \$1,296.

Jason Wheless, the culinary instructor at West Ashley High School (WAHS), and his students are working on becoming a zero food waste culinary program.

"With the grant funds, I purchased a composter, gardening tools and seeds for the garden, and a share table and baskets to collect unwanted fruit from the cafeteria," said Wheless. "In addition, we are scheduled to visit a local organic farm to see the entire farm to table operation."

The students at WAHS have already repurposed around 25 pounds of fruit in the culinary classroom, including fresh apple and orange juice, pickles, fermented citrus, jams, and jellies.

The students baked banana bread and served it to faculty to practice customer service skills," said Wheless. "We are growing plants from seed under grow lights and transporting them into our indoor hydroponic garden, where we will use the produce throughout the semester."

Simona Spinner, a math teacher at Military Magnet Academy will use the money to make compost for the school's future garden.

"Our students collect food scraps from the cafeteria and make compost," said Spinner. "Our trees are already growing and they will benefit from the compost that we are making for them. The trees should be about 6 feet tall before summer comes and they will continue to grow, just like the kids who planted them."

The money MMA received went to buy tools for their project. Students collect food scraps from the cafeteria during lunch, then dump the scraps in the compost bin that they spin twice a week.

The compost is ultimately used to grow Moringa trees that were started indoors and which will go in the ground outside during spring.

"The trees are growing very fast, said Spinner. "We expect to harvest their leaves soon. Moringa is known for the nutritional value of its leaves, flowers, and pods, so we plan to use these parts in smoothies or salads right here on campus."

The project itself is designed to be an ongoing project since we will continue to make compost and grow food and consequently will have a greater impact on our students and even the close-by community

"Throughout this project, students will learn math, science, engineering, culinary arts, and leadership skills, and they will become more aware of their own well-being and more respectful of the surrounding environment," said Spinner.

DISTRICT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK ADDRESSES NEEDS OF AT-RISK STUDENTS



Lowcountry Food Bank employee sorts school orders



A student volunteer helps organize Backpack Buddy supplies.



Lowcountry Food Bank delivers items monthly to each school



Since 2006, the Charleston County School District (CCSD) has partnered with the Lowcountry Food Bank (LCFB) to serve at-risk students through a program called Backpack Buddies Program.

The mission is to meet the needs of children at risk of hunger or homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act by providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school vacations when they do not have access to free and reduced-price school meals.

Through partnerships with civic, business, faith-based, academic and community organizations over the past eight years, the LCFB's Backpack Buddies Program has grown tremendously.

LCFB delivers items monthly to each school and students are sent home with food every Friday.

According to Sonya Jones, CCSD's Title I Programs Compliance Administrator in the Department of Federal Programs, the Lowcountry Food Bank began collaborating with the district's Department of Federal Programs, during the 2015-2016 school year.

"To date, over 29,000 bags have been distributed and currently, up to 177 students are receiving assistance each month," said Jones.

Just like with the traditional Backpack Buddies model, approximately 4-lb. bags of kid-friendly, shelf-stable food (including cans of pasta and vegetables, fruit cups, shelf-stable milk, cereal, fruit strips, pudding cups, and whole grain cookies) are sent home with students every Friday

during the school year. Unlike the traditional model, these bags follow the students to the schools they may be attending.

Jones said the Lowcountry Foodbank wants to make a difference because they realized that students whose families are experiencing economic instability might end up moving multiple times during a school year, which can disrupt a student's learning in many ways, and they do not want hunger to be another challenge.

"CCSD is tremendously thankful to the Lowcountry Foodbank for providing this opportunity for students in need," said Jones.

"To date, over 29,000 bags have been distributed and currently, up to 177 students are receiving assistance each month. CCSD is tremendously thankful to the Lowcountry Foodbank for providing this opportunity for students in need"

— SONYA JONES, CCSD Title I Programs Compliance Administrator,
Department of Federal Programs,

Schools Receive \$5M Grant for Mental Health Services



Charleston County School District (CCSD) will receive almost \$1 million a year for five years to expand mental health support for children through a Project Prevent grant from U.S. Department of Education.

“The need for additional social-emotional and mental health support has been recognized and supported by the CCSD Board of Trustees and the Superintendent,” said Jennifer Coker, Executive Director of Alternative Programs and Services for CCSD. “The school district has adopted Mission Critical action items to address community needs. This grant allows CCSD to expand resources in our highest-need schools.”

This summer, while gun violence in North Charleston made the news, a group of educators gathered to do something to help children who are traumatized by community violence.

This group of educators, while on summer break, met with the North Charleston Police Department to review crime data to identify neighborhoods where children are most likely to be exposed to violence. They identified three neighborhoods: Charleston Farms, Chicora, and Dorchester Terrace.

The 3,500 school-aged children who live in these neighborhoods attend school at Chicora Elementary, Dunston Primary, Mary Ford Elementary, North Charleston Elementary, Morningside Middle, Northwoods Middle, and North Charleston High.

The team of 43 educators met with community organizations including Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center, National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center, MUSC National Crime Victims Center, and others to figure out how to better serve children exposed to violence.

The group realized that school staff needs to know how to detect trauma in children, schools need counselors and staff trained to treat trauma, and schools need to teach children skills to prevent violence.

“Our educators experience first-hand the negative impacts that exposure to trauma can have on students' learning,” said Lisa Allison, Director of Intervention and Psychological Services. “The Project Prevent grant will greatly enhance the mental health supports available to children and families in our neediest communities.” U.S. Department of Education offers this funding to school districts every five years. The first wave of funding was given in 2014 to only 22 school districts throughout the U.S. Now, in 2019, U.S. ED just released the second wave of funding to even fewer school districts – 13 throughout the U.S.

The rigorous application process involves making the case why a community needs the funding, how the community will spend the funding to make a difference in the lives of children, and how they will demonstrate return on investment.

The grant funds will create a multi-tiered system of support by:

1. Building district and school-level capacity to identify, assess, and serve students exposed to pervasive violence through professional development, screening, and progress monitoring tools
2. Implementing school-based strategies such as social-emotional learning curriculum, small group interventions, and individual counseling
3. Ensuring affected students receive supports through school-based mental health providers and referrals.

The anticipated outcomes include increased student engagement, school safety, parental involvement, collaboration between school-based staff and mental health clinicians; and, decreased disciplinary referrals, and student absences. “Receiving funding for mental health and teaching our youth how to resolve problems without using violence will greatly enhance our students' social and educational achievements,” said Principal Henry Darby. “What a marvelous project - a project which is greatly needed.”

According to Allison, professional development on trauma-informed practices will equip educators with ways to mitigate that impact in the classroom. “Our families can often experience difficulty navigating access to mental health services,” said Allison. “Having school-based coordination of those services reduces barriers to access and enables educators to provide more timely help to students and their families.”

Wellness Day

Moultrie Middle School students had a great Friday the 13 (March) and Wellness Day! They got to enjoy smoothies from Tropical.Smoothie.Cafe during lunch, complete obstacle courses at recess with some Citadel cadets, and Adam Gorlitsky spoke to students during exploratory classes! What a great way to end the week!



SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Laing Leaders attend career symposium

Laing Middle School hosted a Career Symposium February 21, 2020.

The Laing Leaders (33 students) rotated every 10 minutes between each career. The speakers shared information regarding their profession, daily duties, education requirements to obtain employment in that field, personality traits that best suit each career, and how to prepare for the field.

The group of speakers represented a pediatrician, architect, education, women in construction, hospitality/tourism, IT/technology, registered nurse, business, and engineer.



Career Day at Oakland

Oakland Elementary School hosted their annual career day festivities in which dozens of local businesses and agencies came out to talk about and demonstrate their work to the students. The kids especially loved the Charleston County Sheriff's Department helicopter.

Military magnet students participate in Run for the Fallen



Sgt. Luis Hernandez's students at Military Magnet Academy participated in The SC chapter of Run For The Fallen in November. The run which honors soldiers from South Carolina who have died fighting in the War on Terror. Each mile of sweat and pain and each flag saluted is to pay homage to each service member's life and their family.

The run across South Carolina is to raise awareness for the lives of those who fought and died, to rejuvenate their memories and keep their spirits alive, and to aid in the healing process for the South Carolina residents whose lives have been affected by war.

Initially, runners were scheduled to pass by the school where a water station would be set up. Hernandez took it a step further and assembled members of MMA's Cross Country Team to also participate in the run.

The team of six runners, Garnaris McCormick, Xavier White, Brandon Fancy, Anthony Cruz, William Herard, and Malik Bennett arrived at Liberty Square in downtown Charleston at 6:45 a.m. and met with Mayor John Tecklenburg and others who had gathered to send the group off on their 122-mile journey to the State Capital in Columbia.

MMA runners were prepared to run the first 5.3 miles which culminated at the Military Magnet Academy campus. As the group passed MMA the street was lined with faculty, staff, and students who had gathered to cheer



on the runners. There were police escorts as well as a live feed of the runners as they progressed through the city and up Rivers Avenue.

The Cross Country team also took turns carrying flags as well.

"All the young men were excited to have been able to take part in this terrific event, honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country," said Hernandez.

Senator Grooms Visits Wando

Senator Larry Grooms visited the class of Wando High School history teacher, Leanna Rossi-Potter. She teaches United States history and his visit was in recognition of Constitution Week.

Senator Grooms is a South Carolina State Senator that represents the district in which Wando High School is located.

"He gave a great overview of the creation of The Constitution and enhanced my students understanding of the importance of knowing and understanding the foundation of our country in order to become active and responsible citizens," said Rossi-Potter. "My students were very excited to have a guest in our classroom and be able to speak with someone who works with the legislature in our state. The students were active in listening and asking the Senator about his experiences in the legislature.



Senator Grooms with class



Senator Grooms and teacher Leanna Rossi-Potter



Rob Fowler visits Harbor View

Meteorologist Rob Fowler from Storm Team 2 had a fun morning with the second graders and teachers at Harbor View Elementary on James Island! His visit with the kids and teachers was aired that night on WCBD News 2!

ST. JAMES-SANTEE AND DEER PARK GIRLS PARTICIPATE IN GIRL'S SUMMIT



Doctor Jamie Singleton speaks to middle school girls at a recent summit



Nyteisha Bookert explains the importance of learning computer programming

Middle school girls from St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School and Deer Park Middle School participated in the Love Myself Girl's Summit, February 20, 2020. The summit is held annually as part of the Supporting Independent Sisters to Achieve Success (S.I.S.T.A.S) initiative.

Guest speakers at the summit included Sonya Stevens from ABC News Channel 4, local attorney Hope Watson, Chief Deputy Patricia Garrison with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Octavia Mitchell from News 2, local entrepreneur Stacia Dawson, local non-profit professional and consultant Nyteisha Bookert, Dr. Jamie Singleton, and young entrepreneurs Mya and Mani Jefferson.

The Jefferson sisters began their business in 2018 at the age of 12 and 11. Mani and Maya's Fruity Treats is now a sought after business that has grown in scope and success. Also of note, the girls are former students of St. James-Santee.

An arts and crafts break out session was also featured to encourage the girls to express themselves through creativity.

Area business and community members donated to the effort so that brunch could be provided as well as raffle prizes to students and participants.

"The end result was absolutely amazing," said Elbertine Manigault a teacher assistant at St. James-Santee and organizer of the summit. "It gave the girls the opportunity to see things outside of what they see here at school and in the community."

Manigault explained that each presenter provided a hands-on opportunity to not only learn about the various careers

but experience it through role play.

"The girls were treated to not only the individual presentations but one-on-one opportunities to speak with presenters who work in careers of interest," said Manigault.

The opportunity left the girls knowing it was critical to feel confident in life.

Tei Summerville, a parent advocate at St. James-Santee said the event is designed to show the girls that empowerment is the stepping stone to the next level.

"Our desire is for the girls to actually be presented with knowledge and to be informed so they can make confident decisions regarding their future," said Summerville. "We're addressing the interest of our scholars so they can be enriched and learn about professional fields they may not be aware of."

Deer Park Middle School students were invited to attend and as a result, the scholars want to replicate the summit at Deer Park next year.

"This small gesture of an invitation to the Deer Park students turned into something bigger," said Manigault. "It was a chain reaction that will result in a summit being held at their school and perhaps in schools across the district."

Summerville said that this model of teaching is constant and goes beyond just the day of the summit.

"As these girls approach womanhood we want to teach them solid character traits, help them learn about their heritage, show them how to build relationships and all of the other things essential for growth."

Goods & Services Fair at Chicora

Second graders at Chicora Elementary School had an opportunity to exercise their entrepreneurial skills at the Goods and Services Fair on January 17, 2020.

Students came up with goods and services they could sell to their schoolmates and staff and earn Eagle Bucks. From jewelry to dance lessons to games, students displayed their creativity as they competed for customers and their "business."

The event, which doubles as a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports initiative, has quickly become one of the highlights of the year for the entire school.





100 Days of School

Students and teachers at Minnie Hughes Elementary School celebrated 100 days of school by dressing up in costume.



Dancing with the Teachers

Thanks to all who supported the Dance Department's Dancing with the Teachers event at Charleston County School of the Arts! Here is a pic of Ms. Moschella and her minions who won the judge's favorite award by performing everything from ballet to hip hop!



Students Learn Fire Safety

Ms. Barrow's class at Midland Park Primary School learned about the importance of fire safety. Check out some of the cutest firefighters on the block!



Examining Fossils

Students at Memminger had a unique engaging experience examining bones and fossils from animals in the library. They used their science skills to formulate, imagine, and identify what type of animal it came from.

2nd Annual Gingerbread with the Principal: Building a Better Foundation



Principal Natasha Jones and the staff at W.B. Goodwin Elementary School (WBGES) are continuing to build on an established, positive relationship with the school community. Jones hosted the second annual "Gingerbread with the Principal" December 11, 2019. About 50 families attended the event to hear Jones speak about building upon a foundation of learners, and how parents can get involved.

This is Jones' second year as the principal at WBGES, and her door is always open to speak with parents. She encourages creative thinking and welcomes ideas to make Goodwin a better place. Jones would like to see parents come up with events involving students and take the lead on preparation and follow through.

"We can't do this without you," said Jones. "This is a partnership between home and school. We are getting ready to build a better Goodwin. Every house has a good foundation. Today, you are going to build a gingerbread house to represent our school in your vision of the future.

How do you want your house to look?"

The morning was filled with music and fun. As families made their gingerbread houses, Jones discussed what they (the houses) symbolized for her: the milk cartons represent the foundation of our school; the graham crackers are the framework (students, parents, faculty, and staff working together to build that sense of community); the icing is what holds the school community together; and the special treats are the talents that everyone brings to the table.

The parents and families that attended had a great time, and at the same time, understood the underlying message. Music and laughter filled the room as parents worked on their gingerbread houses. Seeing parents having a good time and talking about how they can help the school was well worth the time to have this event.

"I am here because I want to support my sons and Ms. Jones," said Michelle Oliver. "Whether my kids are here or not, I support the efforts made for the children of our community. I was here last year, and it was a lot of fun!"

Cherese Belin is a long time parent and supporter of Goodwin.

"All of my children attended this school," said Belin. "I am here to support my daughter. They do a great job here at this school, and I want them to stay open. It's the people that make a school and this school is special."

There was also a contest was to honor to best gingerbread houses. More than 40 houses were constructed, so the staff had a tough time deciding on the winners. However, three stood out among the rest:

First place - Lataisha Brown

Second place - Cristelto Gonzalez

Third place - Monique Levine

All three parents received gift cards and prizes.

Jones reiterated the importance of getting involved and asked parents to get creative, volunteer, and stay in touch.

"If you have ideas, bring them to me and we will work together on it," said Jones.

Developing Dancers at Mount Zion

Students who live in rural parts of Charleston County often don't have the same opportunities as students who live in the suburbs. For example, dance studios are not plentiful on John's Island. Programs that do exist in adjacent communities are often financially out of reach for families and inconvenient to access.

At Mount Zion Elementary School though, guidance counselor Diemchi Nguyen (the school's 2017-18 teacher of the year), brought dance instruction to students – all free of charge.

She was awarded a \$1,600 grant from the Kiawah-Seabrook Exchange Club which supports Charleston County School District's Sea Island schools and \$1,300 from Communities in Schools.

Grant funding is used for dance lessons led by instructors at Dance.Laugh.Learn.

Thanks to this funding, Mount Zion was able to offer dance to students for the past three years.

Classes are available to all fourth and fifth graders. They are held during the school day, eliminating the hassle of having to arrange for transportation.

"Some kids have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, which left others feeling left out," said Nguyen. "I had one little girl on my mind

that I really wanted to provide an opportunity to."

That's when Nguyen turned to Rylee Coppel, co-founder of Dance.Laugh.Learn.

"It is important to our company to be accessible to anyone and part of our mission is to reach them," said Coppel. "We will do whatever we can to work with the school on pricing and scheduling so that these children have an opportunity to learn the art of dance and express themselves."

Over 30 boys and girls participated in the program.

Jasmyne Robinson, a fifth-grader at Mount Zion wanted to join because she felt like it would be just right for her.

"I thought it would be hard to learn the routines but it came easily to me so I knew I would participate again this year," said Robinson. "What I like best about it is learning new things, having fun, and being energetic."

Coppel was shocked at the number of boys who signed up but thrilled to see their interest. She understands the importance of arts and creativity in the lives of young children. Dance.Laugh.Learn was recently named the Early Childhood Artist in Residence at the Charleston Gaillard Center.

"They come in here full of energy," said Coppel. "It's good for them to get out that energy and we're not going to shut that down. We're going to encourage it as their own individual forms of expression."

Fifth-grader Gracie Broach has always wanted to be a dancer. She heard about the class and jumped at the opportunity so she could begin learning dance.

"When I first walked in I was excited and nervous, and I didn't know what to expect," said Broach. "Now my favorite part about it is working together to get the routine right and correcting the things we don't have right."

The final performance has traditionally been held at an evening PTA meeting. But this year it was held during a daytime school assembly so that the students can showcase their work in front of a large audience of their peers. It also addresses the transportation issue for parents who may struggle to bring their children back to campus in the evening.

Nguyen noted that dance serves as an opportunity for the students to stay actively moving.

"Dance class is held on the same day each week and has improved student attendance and increased family participation at our school," said Nguyen.



Dance class is offered as an extra-curricular alternative at Mount Zion Elementary School



Boys and girls participate in the widely popular dance class at Mount Zion



Whitesides hosts Special Needs Awareness Day

On January 17, 2020, Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School held its first Special Needs Awareness Day as part of the Unified Champions School initiative.

Each grade level completed activities that helped students learn about various disabilities and the unique challenges many people face on a daily basis. Activities were aimed towards fostering acceptance, empathy, and inclusion throughout our school community.



PEACE DAY

Montessori Community School students and faculty celebrate Peace Day 2019, forming a large peace sign on their field

Touch a Truck celebration

Sanders-Clyde Elementary School hosted Touch-A-Truck. Students were able to explore and learn about various types of trucks and how they operate.



Legos

Building with LEGOS and our minds in the library at Memminger. First graders collaborate and create habitats for animals using Legos in the library media center.



Thing Day

Ms. Boehm and Ms. Godfrey's class at Springfield Elementary School kicked off March with Thing Day in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday!



Squid!

Fourth grade students at Jennie Moore learned a little marine science while dissecting a squid!

COVID-19



CCSD RESPONDS

Shutting down 87 schools and programs that serve 50,000 thousand students while at the same time preparing and delivering two weeks' worth of lessons for those 50,000 students in those schools and programs in the span of 72 hours would seem like an impossible task. But not for the educators of Charleston County School District. As soon as Governor Henry McMaster gave the order that public school systems were going to be closed many of the district's 3,500 teachers began to create work plans and other ideas that would keep students engaged during the extended shutdown.

There was a massive coordinated effort at the district level as well. On Thursday, March 12, the State Department of Education required school districts to submit a closure plan in eight days. That plan had to include details on how academic instruction would continue during a multi-week closure. Leaders from the Learning Services Division, in coordination with principals, lead teachers, and instructional coaches, had the plan submitted by Sunday night.



Staff members throughout CCSD embraced the challenge; many of the schools organized pick-up events and delivery plans so that packets and more than 10,000 devices were sent home.

The Office of Nutrition Services provided thousands of Grab & Go meals daily at school sites and more than 30 bus drop-off locations. The Office of Student Transportation coordinated with the State Department of Education to provide buses with WiFi service at dozens of schools, and the Information Technology Department increased WiFi service at schools and facilities so that students and parents could set up outside the building and use their CCSD-issued devices for schoolwork.



West Ashley and SOA assist healthcare workers

Students at West Ashley High School (WAHS) took homework to a new level while they did e-Learning from home. Several students on the WAHS Robotics Team, led by Mechatronics teacher Nick Holmes, helped give back to the community by assisting healthcare professionals in the fight against the coronavirus.

The project began at MUSC, led by doctors Mike Yost, Joshua Kim, and Walter Renne, who developed the Self-Assembly Filtration for Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) Cartridge System over the course of a few days. This item can be produced by anyone with a 3D printer.

The group from MUSC quickly realized that they needed help printing masks since one mask takes four to five hours to print and roughly an hour to put together. They were designed to be printed on inexpensive printers so that schools, businesses, and families with printers could jump in and help out.

When the project began, it took Holmes and his students roughly eight hours to print all of the pieces for one complete mask. After a little trial and error, they were able to fit multiple masks on the print bed at one time which allowed for eight masks to be made every ten hours.

In addition, the 42 Costume & Fashion Design majors at School of the Arts designed and sewed covers for different types of masks worn by doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals, as well as masks for patients. The covers provided an extra layer of protection, helped prevent the spread of illnesses, and can extend the life of the masks.

Baker usually has her students work on a community service project in May, but the timing was right to respond to a need, so she introduced this project in March when students would typically have been preparing to present collections of garments in a fashion show.

Graduation

High schools in Charleston County School District (CCSD) held both virtual and face-to-face graduation ceremonies. The first was a virtual graduation for each school streamed via Facebook and YouTube. The virtual graduation, which was accessible through the CCSD district website and each high school's website, featured remarks by students and administrators as well as a slide for each of the graduates.

The second phase was a diploma-awarding ceremony for each school. These school-level ceremonies were in-person celebrations of the Class of 2020. The face-to-face ceremonies were events tailored by the staff at each high school, with either a walk-up or a drive-up format for students to receive their diplomas with their families in attendance.



Farewell parade



Families and staff of North Charleston Creative Arts hosted a farewell parade for outgoing principal Eric Hansen who is returning to the classroom

Congratulations graduates



Special deliveries were made to all 5th Grade Belle Hall Elementary students. The staff and administration in coordination with the school's PTA, were proud of how hard the kids worked to complete the school year so graduation announcement signs were hand-delivered to each fifth graders home.

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

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Charleston County School District

DISTRICT PROFILE



Annual Budget
\$507,692,736
million



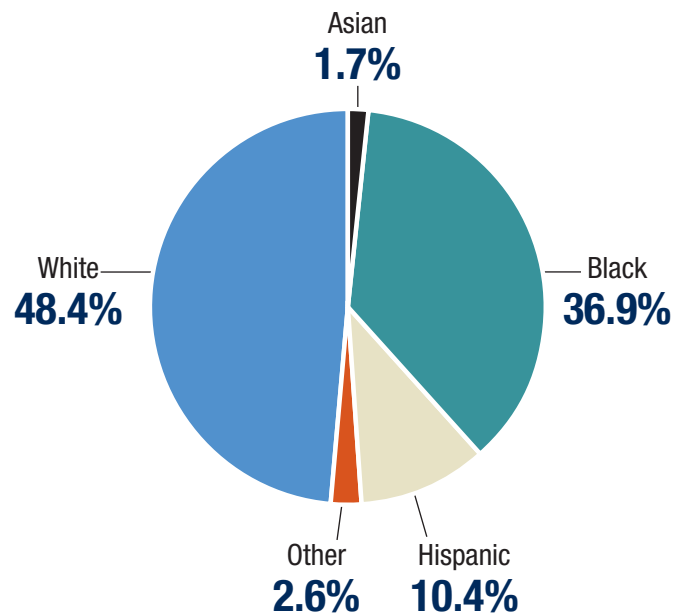
Number of Students
50,499



Number of Schools/Programs
138



Number of Teachers
3,335



Students Designated English
Language Learners
10.1%

