



James Simons Montessori School

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Media Release

Bike Bus builds community and teaches bike safety at James Simons

Charleston, SC - Over 100 students and parents from the James Simons Montessori School family joined together on their bikes and made a "Bike Bus" on Friday, October 4, 2024. The Bike Bus started at Corrine Jones Park, rode south through Hampton Park, and turned onto Moultrie Street to catch the school crossing guard. Parents stopped along the route at stop signs and traffic lights to help with safety. Students joined along the route and cheered on the Bike Bus.

Originally, the idea was inspired by [Coach Sam Balto](#) in Oregon who leads a weekly Bike Bus to his school in Portland with dozens of students. Dozens of students join him with music and fun along the way to school. A Bike Bus is a fun, safe, and eco-friendly way to get to school while building community and promoting bike safety.

Dominique Godfrey, a parent of two James Simons students, who all ride daily to school, saw one of his videos.

"I reached out to Kimberly Gleason, another parent of two and frequent biker, and we started talking about this idea," said Godfrey. "We thought it would be great to implement our own Bus Bike so that more people felt safe biking to school because it can feel scary."

Anna Claire Day and her husband Stuart thought through the safety aspects and engaged School Resource Officer (SRO) Craig Hamilton in supporting them by making the Moultrie Street entry safer.

"We had success last year with the bike and walk to school day advocating for safety, and we have been involved with getting the City to take action on the crosswalk signage to improve safety on Rutledge and King Street," added Stacey Bailey, a parent, and organizer of the Bike Bus. "This felt like a good, fun option to continue that path."

SRO Hamilton was able to use his car to assist with the Bike Bus crossing over Rutledge and Ashley Avenues. Even the school librarian drove in early and brought her bike.

"It was the best morning ever," said School Librarian Rosie Herold. "It was such a wonderful way to start the day with kiddos."

Lessons were learned and ways to make it even better for next time are underway. This will be a monthly community event, and the community is invited to join the next ride on November 8, 2024.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.