

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD, RiverDogs reaching new heights in literacy initiative for second graders

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC — “Reading Around the Bases,” a partnership between Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the Charleston RiverDogs that combines fun and competition with literacy, is moving into a record-breaking ninth year, as 2025 features the most schools to sign up.

Beginning Tuesday, January 21, 2025, second graders from 25 schools in CCSD will begin a 10-week baseball-themed incentive program. Every student receives a Reading Challenge packet that includes a scorecard, tracking sheet, and a personal baseball card.

The 2025 kickoff event for “Reading Around the Bases” will be at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School. Media outlets are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Students read a certain number of minutes to advance around the bases: 100 minutes for a single, 200 minutes for a double, 300 minutes for a triple, and 500 minutes for a home run.

Special guests from the RiverDogs will read to students in person and encourage them to record as many home runs as possible.

“We know this program brings so much joy to second graders throughout our district,” said CCSD Chief Academic Officer Michelle Simmons. “When joy is intertwined with literacy, the desire and passion for reading will grow, and our students will become life-long readers. As always, we are grateful for the RiverDogs’ continued partnership and the time they invest in our children, schools, and district.”

In addition to the fun and excitement during the 10-week program, the top 25 second graders from each participating school will be honored at a select RiverDogs game during the 2025 season.

“The start of the ‘Reading Around the Bases’ program is always one of the highlights of our offseason schedule,” said RiverDogs President and General Manager Dave Echols. “We are thrilled to have the chance to create excitement

about reading throughout the school district. Our staff is looking forward to visiting several classrooms in the coming months.”

For more information on “Reading Around the Bases,” please contact the district’s Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303 or the RiverDogs’ Community Relations Manager, Haley Diess, at (843) 965-4146.

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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.