

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2025

Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Middle school band programs from across CCSD combine to create an amazing performance

Office of
Communications

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Michelle A. Mills
Associate of Communications

Charleston, SC - The first-ever Charleston County School District (CCSD) Middle School Band Clinic was held last month, featuring 16 middle schools from across the district.

The event was hosted at James Island Charter High School and coordinated by Camp Road Middle School Director Chloe Spitzer. The ensemble rehearsed under the direction of guest clinician Marie Evans on January 29 and 30, 2025, before an outstanding culminating performance.

"This was a wonderful experience," said Maureen Isbister, who directs the band programs at Malcolm Hursey Montessori, Montessori Community School, and Murray-LaSaine Montessori School. "I love that schools from all over the county were represented and that students of all different levels were able to work together and learn from each other during the clinic."

Northwoods Middle School principal Dr. Keturah Gadson, who attended the culminating performance, was equally impressed – especially since she is also a musician herself.

"As a former middle school band student, it was a truly special experience to witness this incredible clinic performance," said Gadson. "Watching students from across the district come together, learn, and grow was a reminder of the power of music. The directors did an outstanding job, and the excitement and pride among the students were palpable. Moments like this truly highlight the importance of these programs in shaping young musicians and their futures."

The students also enjoyed themselves, with many citing the ability to meet new people from other schools or getting to play an arrangement of Stephen Schwartz's 'Defying Gravity' from *Wicked*. Others said they were most excited about learning new music in an entirely new setting.

"Our goal with this clinic was to highlight the middle school band programs in our district and give students a chance to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another," said Dr. Shelly Goughnour, Assistant Director for Visual and Performing Arts for CCSD. "Not only did our students achieve that, but they also gained

confidence, made new friends, and grew as musicians, all while having fun. I am proud of the students and middle school band directors and look forward to expanding this event moving forward.”

The following schools were represented at this year’s clinic:

- Allegro Charter School of Music
- C.E. Williams Middle School - South Campus
- Camp Road Middle School
- Charleston County School of the Arts
- Jerry Zucker Middle School
- Laing Middle School of Science and Technology
- Military Magnet Academy
- Malcolm Hursey Montessori
- Montessori Community School
- Moultrie Middle School
- Morningside Middle School
- Murray-LaSaine Montessori School
- Northwoods Middle School
- Simmons-Pinckney Middle School
- St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School
- Thomas Cario Middle School

For more information contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

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.