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Media Release

CCSD Boasts three exceptional 21st Century Community Learning Center programs

Office of
Communications

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Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce three exceptional [21st Century Community Learning Center programs](#) that have been spotlighted by the South Carolina Department of Education and held in high esteem. Those include E.B. Ellington, Pepperhill, and Sanders-Clyde Elementary Schools.

The district's 21st Century programs fall under the Office of Expanded Learning, directed by Angela Barnette, and provide students with critical supports in the form of academic tutoring, homework assistance, and engaging and fun enrichment activities.

21st Century is free to students and is designed to provide opportunities, particularly for students who attend low-performing schools, to meet the challenging state academic standards, while also exposing them to activities that engage and develop both their social and emotional development.

"Afterschool programs such as 21st Century play a multifaceted role in addressing the basic needs of students and parents," said Barnette. "They offer a structured environment where children can engage in enriching activities, receive homework assistance, and build meaningful relationships with peers and mentors. This not only enhances children's academic and social development but also alleviates parents' concerns about their children's welfare during after-school hours." The three schools with the most recent "Excellent" audits are ones that the state recommends should be models for others to learn from. The site coordinators at all three CCSD schools were invited to present strategies and applications to their peers across the state and to 21st Century administrators in Columbia.

The Sanders-Clyde 21st Century is directed by Site Coordinator Frankie Frazier. He was recognized for his impeccable Data Binder that adhered to performance standards and needed no corrections or revisions. The Data Binder is a comprehensive and organized data file that correlates to the needs, program design, management, resource supports, and activities timeline for the grant.

Frazier has been with CCSD for 16 years serving in various capacities before landing at Sanders-Clyde (what he affectionately calls "The Clyde"), where he says he feels he is making a big difference in the lives of children. He serves the school as the Title 1 Coordinator and as a member of the behavior team before he transitions to his role as Site Coordinator at the end of the school day.

"My scholars make this 21st Century shine," said Frazier. "Every student is welcome here. Sanders-Clyde scholars are the heart of our work. We are able to be so successful because of the unconditional support we receive from the community, our parents, the administration, and the Expanded Learning office."

Frazier said that, in part, his program is strong because of the relationships he has with the students. He is in the school building all day long and is a familiar face to everyone at Sanders Clyde. The kids love him and his staff is dedicated to serving the students.

"The scholars take advantage of everything we offer here, and based on parent feedback, the kids talk non-stop about their time with us," says Frazier. "We always integrate learning into every activity because we want to give students a double dose of what they are learning in the classroom. My program is very much academically driven because I want to set these scholars up for future success, and data shows it is working. Because all we do is win at The Clyde."

Lisa Fryar has been with CCSD for 25 years and the Site Coordinator at Ellington since 2015. She has received consistent "Excellent" audits and is deemed an "ideal program to model."

"I have always loved working with children and I have hand-selected similar individuals to work alongside me," said Fryar. "They are dedicated and committed and I wouldn't be where I am today without them. Our program is unique because we cater to the needs of our children who live in this rural area. They are not traditionally exposed to a lot of activities and opportunities."

Her staff have been with her since the beginning and their children and families know each other from being at Ellington and being members of the community.

"Seeing their smiling faces in the morning and out in the community is special," says Fryar. "There is no other place I would rather be. It fills my heart to see the kids eager to want to be here. We must be doing something right."

Fryar is proud of the "Excellent" audit rating, she said.

"Record keeping plays a big part, and the structure and standards set by the state are working and students are improving both academically and showing personal growth," said Fryar.

Jaiveon Green is a fifth grader and has been in 21st Century since kindergarten. He said the experience is something he will never forget. Fellow student Layla Harvey is fairly new to the program but heard about it from friends. She said it is so much fun that she never wants to miss a day.

"Mrs. Fryar does whatever it takes to provide experiences for us and give us the extra help we might need with our school work," Harvey added.

"We are learning while having fun and it is a fun way to make new friends," said Green.

John Logan III, who has been with CCSD for 13 years, is the Site Coordinator at Pepperhill where the students are the decision-makers.

"On any given day, my students have a choice," explained Logan. "They choose how and what they want to learn and what they want to experience for that day. During the school day and at home they have adults tell them how and when to do everything. We flipped it."

The model has been applauded at the state level and among his peer Site Coordinators.

"We asked the students, 'Why are you coming here?', and we received lots of solid answers," said Logan. "Those answers gave us strong guidance on what we should provide."

Like all 21st Century programs, Logan's team of staff and certified teachers help with homework and tutoring. The kids choose what support they need for any particular day.

"When you give kids the power to choose, they will tell you exactly what they need," said Logan. "This approach has solved behavior issues and absenteeism issues because they want to be here and don't want to lose the opportunity. There is real power in choice."

While no two programs are exactly alike, all provide wrap-around support including everything from meals to transportation to academic instruction and enrichment opportunities and activities - a true evolution from traditional after-school activities of the past. The enrichment activities vary from site to site but include: STEAM activities, book clubs, karate, soccer, yoga, pickle ball, visual arts, music production, African drumming and dance, and various field trips. All of which is teaching students the soft skills necessary to become successful adults.

Additionally, all programs use school data to identify students in each school who could benefit from the 21st Century program. Site coordinators work with teachers to build off of the curriculum they are teaching, and instructional days at 21st

Century are a continuation of what they are learning in the classroom. Another key piece is parent involvement through events and activities.

"Returning to the fundamentals of what an exceptional afterschool program does is a great way to ensure we meet the needs of the community and effectively support children's development and these sites are excelling at all," said Barnette.

"The Office of Expanded Learning operates all of its forty-eight 21st Century and Kaleidoscope with eight core principles: safety, qualified staff, engaging and structured activities, parental involvement, community partnerships, nutrition, evaluation and improvement, and fun for all."

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

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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.