Summer 2026

the Buzz

Highlights from SCSDB Hornet's Nest

Congratulations to the Class of 2026

The annual cap toss in the atrium of Walker Hall is a cherished tradition eagerly anticipated by students, staff, and families alike. As the crowd looks on, the senior class of 2026 joyfully throws their caps into the air, celebrating both the occasion and their achievements.

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Distributed to the parents of students currently enrolled at SCSDB, parents of students receiving outreach services, the SCSDB Board of Commissioners, and the SCSDB Foundation Board of Trustees.

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Special thanks to **Kaylee Ellison (senior), Yakera Martin (senior), Kendriyana Brown (senior), Dayana Orellana (11th grade), Izzy Collins (10th grade),** and each department for photographs.

School for the Deaf and the Blind

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South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind

Dear Friends,

Reflection is a powerful tool. It allows us to celebrate growth, recognize accomplishments, learn from challenges, and appreciate the people who make meaningful work possible. As I complete my fifth year serving as President of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all we have accomplished together.

Our community has continued to demonstrate what is possible when high expectations, innovation, compassion, and collaboration come together in service of students. Together, we have expanded opportunities, strengthened programs and partnerships, and remained steadfast in our commitment to ensuring every student is engaged, empowered, and equipped for success.

This year alone provided many moments of celebration and inspiration.

Our students continued to excel academically, artistically, athletically, and professionally. We celebrated achievements in fine arts, employability and work skills, athletics, STEM education, and social-emotional growth. From robotics to academic bowls, job readiness to college acceptances, performances at the State House to speaking to City Council, our students showed their independence and capabilities!

We also celebrated important investments in learning environments and student opportunities, including upgraded science lab facilities, expanded hands-on learning experiences, and continued growth in academic and vocational programs that prepare students for life beyond graduation.

Beyond awards and accomplishments, I am most proud of the culture we continue to build together. Every success we celebrate is made possible because of dedicated educators, supportive families, committed staff members, generous donors, community partners, alumni, and advocates who believe deeply in the mission of SCSDB.

In this issue of the Buzz, we pay special tribute to our 2026 graduates — each accomplished in their own right — and feel tremendous pride as we cheer them on to their next adventures!

With gratitude,

Jolene Madison

Jolene L. Madison
President, SCSDB



Track Update

Our track and field are currently undergoing some much-needed renovations. After careful planning, we're excited to announce that we aim to complete these improvements by Fall. Construction crews have been working diligently on campus every day. Stay tuned for updates as we make progress!

Never without a sense of humor, senior Evan Gimmaka looks forward to "building a better future" and stands in his cap and gown in front of the track while construction vehicles work in the background.



School for the Blind GRADUATES



Michael Clifton • Chester

Michael excelled as an athlete while at SCSDB, playing on the varsity goalball and football teams. He was also a member of the Leo Club and the SCSDB chapter of FFA. He is inspired by his favorite quote from Michael Jordan: "To learn to succeed, you must first learn to fail."



Kaitland "KK" Davis • Boiling Springs

As a dedicated student, KK accumulated work-based learning hours at a local nursing home. She also worked alongside a school administrative assistant and as a receptionist at City of Spartanburg's CC Woodson Community Center. KK was an avid performer, taking part in numerous statewide performances, school pageants, and talent shows.



Evan Gimmaka • Moore

Evan's work-based education centered on employability skills, woodworking, and food and nutrition. He applied what he learned in work-based learning at a local food bank, Ingles, and Chick-fil-A. Evan was part of many SCSDB activities, including Golf, Sunshine Sneaker Club, Leo Club, Cover to Cover Book Club, and the Yearbook class.



Piper Graham • Hartsville

Piper developed valuable skills through her involvement with the Kelly's Kids program and her work with the pre-K class at the School for the Blind. This Fall, she plans to attend Columbia College to major in Early Childhood Education, with aspirations of becoming a Child Life Specialist.



Destinee Hall • Woodruff

Destinee's favorite memory was traveling to Atlanta for her senior trip. She loved visiting the aquarium, museums, and trying out new restaurants. At SCSDB, Destinee was a frequent participant in campus pageants and talent shows. She also enjoyed singing in the school's chorus.



Zacchaeus Reaves • Spartanburg

Zacchaeus plans to attend Spartanburg Community College, pursuing a major in pre-engineering. During his time at SCSDB, he dedicated his efforts to volunteering at the Total Ministries Food Bank and playing on the varsity goalball team.



Brian Starkey • Columbia

Brian cherished his moments in the library and even volunteered at the Spartanburg County Library through a work-based learning program. Brian draws inspiration from his favorite Zig Ziglar quote: "There is no elevator to success; you have to take the stairs."



Cedar Springs Academy GRADUATES



Ca'Mayra Boulware • Great Falls

Ca'Mayra's fondest memories at SCSDB were traveling to the Special Olympic bowling State Games and spending time with friends. Ca'Mayra gained valuable career training in the food service industry, working with the on-campus cafeteria staff and McDonald's.



Ke'Mareon Turner • Chester

Ke'Mareon's favorite memory was being part of the SCSDB Homecoming Court with his friends. While at CSA, he successfully completed the Discovery Education Animal Care Skills Course. Looking ahead, he's passionate about working in the pet care industry, focusing on helping and training dogs.



Sierra Stefani • Moncks Corner

Through her dedication and hard work with SCSDB job coaches, Sierra has honed her job readiness skills, gaining hands-on experience at the Total Ministries Food Bank. There, she excelled in cleaning, organizing, and stocking shelves, as well as delivering food to clients and managing donations.



School for the Deaf GRADUATES



Kendriyana Brown • Florence

Kendriyana's favorite memory was spending time with friends and being crowned Prom Queen. During her time at SCSDB, she accomplished both OSHA and Red Cross training. She is interested in pursuing a career in the hospitality industry.



Kaylee Ellison • Gray Court

Kaylee plans to attend Gallaudet University where she aspires to become a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI). During her time at SCSDB, Kaylee gained valuable work-based training in administrative tasks, graphic design, and screen printing.



Yakera Martin • Anderson

Yakera is preparing to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) this Fall. One of her fondest memories is the moment when she scored her first basket this season. The thrill of the achievement filled her with confidence as her teammates cheered, jumped, and rushed to hug her.



Reuben Monroe • Roebuck

Reuben actively engaged in numerous Applied Academic Center projects and activities. His involvement included constructing doors and doghouses, working on a lawn mower and an ATV, and participating in a doghouse building competition with Spartanburg's new Pet Resource Center. He has plans to attend college to pursue studies in becoming an electrician.



Ryleigh Rabon • Columbia

Ryleigh is set to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). While at SCSDB, she acquired valuable work-based training in small engine repair. Her hands-on experience included collaborating with Britt Automotive, the City of Spartanburg, and the Motor Pool Department on campus.



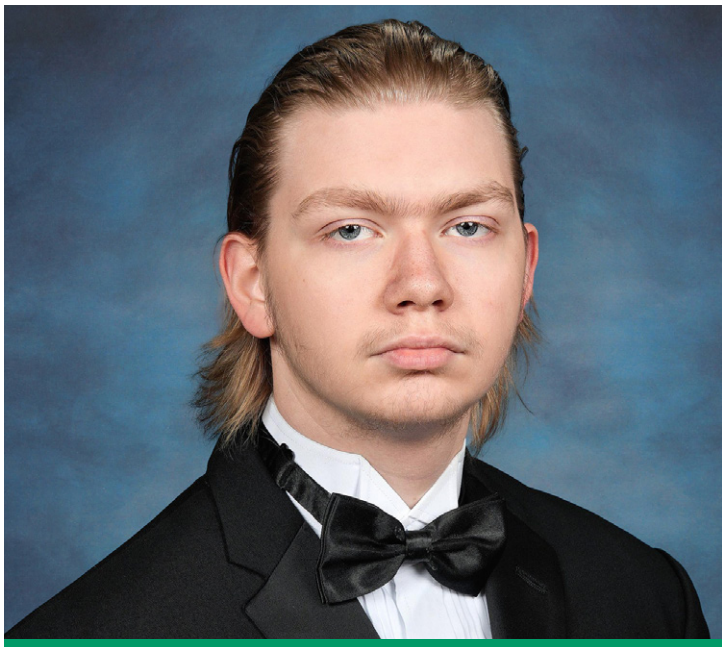
Ava Raleigh • Moore

Ava's fondest memories were working with AAC agriculture teacher, Annette Bodie, and helping cultivate plants for the student's seasonal plant sales. She was also an active participant in SCSDB's FFA program.



Aaron Sease • Newberry

Aaron's favorite memories at SCSDB were in Thackston Hall. Similarly, Hall Dorm was his favorite place during his time from fourth grade through high school. Both dorms offered enjoyable activities and opportunities to hang out with friends.



Jasper Womick • Spartanburg

Jasper spent his entire educational journey at SCSDB, beginning in pre-K. He actively engaged in numerous campus activities, including Varsity football, robotics, and Academic Bowl. His fondest memories are from his childhood in Thackston, with a standout being the Halloween party. This Fall, he plans to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).





Blast Off to Adventure

SCSDB hosted an out-of-this-world Space Camp, welcoming 50 campers ready for adventure. The week-long camp was packed with a variety of interactive and educational activities, all centered around an exciting space theme.

Space Camp not only offered campers the opportunity to engage in unique learning experiences but also encouraged the formation of new friendships and gave a taste of campus life at SCSDB.



On the first day of camp, two campers smile and stand close together at the playground.



Isiah Pasha (9th grade) holds two large, purple inflatable alien figures with big black eyes.



Kamari Worthington (8th grade) works on his "moonlight masterpiece" in the Walker Hall art classroom.



Mia Moldthan (3rd grade) spreads sauce on her "galactic grub" pizza.



A group of campers create their own pizzas, choosing and adding personalized toppings.



Zarannah Womick (6th grade) prepares to jump and launch her rocket.



Three campers stretch out their homemade green slime.



Emily Hernandez (9th grade) lifts a large yellow ball above her head, ready to join a group game of 9-square.



Mateo Perez Papadopoulos (9th grade) holds a model of Jupiter in one hand and a large yellow ball in the other.



Alyssa Carpenter, residential life services, adds whipped cream to Jasmine Gonzalez's (3rd grade) cup of ice cream.





Campers took a field trip to the Big E in Gaffney, where they enjoyed bowling, arcade games, and a movie!

Field Day



A'She-Rah Jeter (10th grade) serves the ball in a game of volleyball.



SCSD staff huddle before their serve in a volleyball game against students.



Matthew Fisher (3rd grade) swings on the monkey bars.



SCSD elementary schoolers take a break from playing for a photo.



SCSD middle and high school students play a friendly game of basketball.

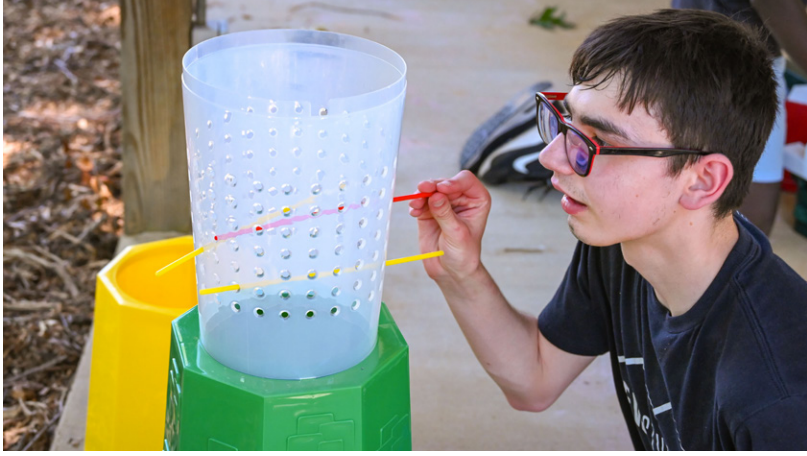




Left: Italia May (4th grade) is served a free snowcone, thanks to the SCSDB Foundation. Above: Aaliyah Zimmerman (7th grade) and Mary-Ellen Shepardson (6th grade) enjoy their snowcones.



SCSB middle schoolers take their snowcones to a shady spot.



Austin Bishop (10th grade) sets up a game of Kerplunk.



Emily Hernandez (9th grade) and Brian Starkey (senior) cool off in the Casey-Dalton Pavilion.



Sierra Stefani (senior) and Tristan Bradley (10th grade) patiently wait for their snowcones.



CSA high schoolers enjoy a dip in the pool, with life guards on duty.



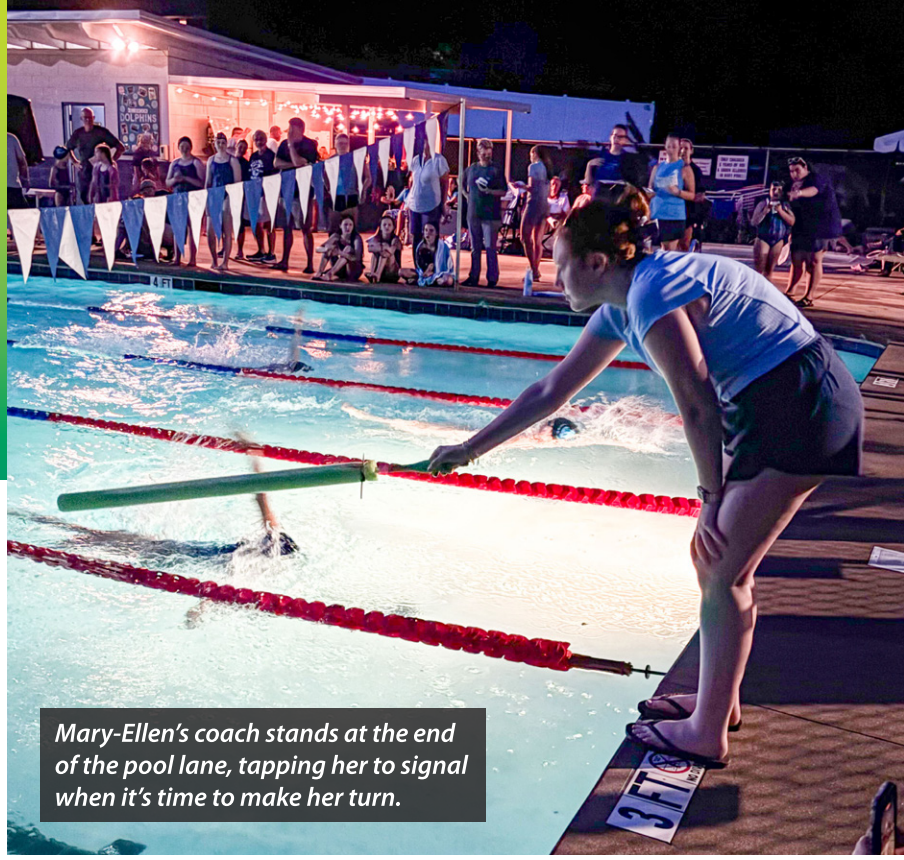


Azael Cruz (9th grade) and Mya Cornelius (11th grade) play games in the water.



For Luis Zuniga-Ocampo (9th grade), the spoon tastes as good as his snowcone!

SCSB School for the Blind



Mary-Ellen's coach stands at the end of the pool lane, tapping her to signal when it's time to make her turn.

Tapping towards the fastest times

Mary-Ellen Shepardson (6th grade) is making a splash in the Spartanburg Summer Swim League. Competing for the Willis Waves (YMCA), she swims against youth competitors from all over Spartanburg County.

For athletes with low vision or blindness, swimming presents unique challenges compared to sighted swimmers.

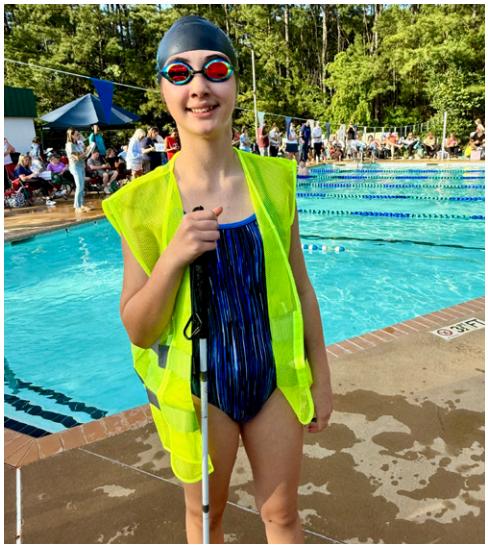
Mary-Ellen's mother, Rachel Shepardson, a former competitive swimmer herself, recognized her daughter's swimming talents and sought ways to support her. Together with her husband, Rachel crafted homemade "tappers" to help Mary-Ellen navigate the pool, as she cannot clearly see the lanes or overhead flags.

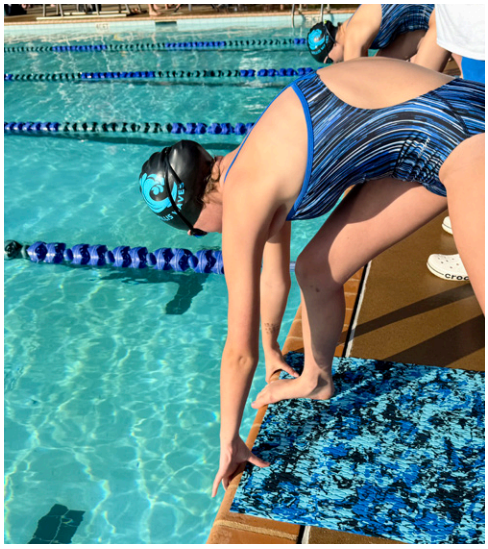
Tapping tools are often custom-made, as there is no standard design; some use canes with soft balls or padding, while others choose devices resembling fishing poles. Individuals close to the athlete, like a coach or parent, use the tappers at each end of the swimming lane.

Each swimmer and tapper partnership often develops a personalized strategy that aligns with the athlete's preferences. For instance, some swimmers prefer to be tapped on the head, while others favor a tap on the back. The timing of the tap also differs, with some athletes wanting to be tapped several strokes away from the wall, while others prefer a tap just before they turn.

Mary-Ellen competes in all four swim strokes, including freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly. Her favorite stroke is the backstroke because it's her fastest stroke and she doesn't get as tired. This season, she completed her first flip turn in a race!


Mary-Ellen prepares to push off the wall to compete in backstroke.


Mary-Ellen stands poolside with her white cane, waiting for her heat.


Mary-Ellen gets into position for her dive.



Awards Day

Above: During the SCSB Awards Ceremony, students from the School for the Blind are recognized by the Applied Academic Center with certificates for various accomplishments.

Right, top: Judge J. Mark Hayes, II presents Bre Sharpe (10th grade) and her teacher, Sarah Thomas, with certificates for Bre's essay that was submitted to The Honorable J. Mark Hayes, II Statewide Law Day Essay Contest. Bre also received a Law Day medal. This year's essay topic was "The Rule of Law and the American Dream." Essays were limited to 1,000 words. Bre's essay was one of two selected from Spartanburg County to be submitted to the state level competition.

Bottom: Seniors who have committed to a college or post-graduation program wave flags representing their chosen paths.





CSA
Cedar Springs Academy



Tristan Bradley (10th grade) and Alexiana Lopez (11th grade) are crowned king and queen at the Magnolia Ball.

Magnolia Ball

The Residential Life Services team presented the annual Magnolia Ball at CSA, with this year's enchanting theme of "Candyland." Students, parents, and staff indulged in a delectable array of sweet treats and danced the night away.



Tristan Bradley (10th grade), Ke'Mareon Turner (senior), and Azael Cruz (9th grade) are all dressed up on the stage.



Ja'Aleeyah Riley (10th grade), DJ Peake (11th grade), and Mya Cornelius (11th grade) dance to the music.



Students received gift bags towards the end of the evening as the Magnolia Ball came to a close.

Senior Celebration



Seniors Ca'Mayra Boulware, Ke'Mareon Turner, and Sierra Stefani



People line up to sign photo frames for the seniors.



Nikolai Madden (9th grade) stamps his name into the seniors' yearbooks with the help of teacher Cynthia Alibozek.



Aaliyah Middleton (3rd grade) and lead teacher McKaylia Goode sign senior Ke'Mareon Turner's graduation photo frame.



Brandon Forrest (9th grade) communicates what he'd like his message to be for Sierra's frame.



Ca'Mayra Boulware shows off her signed photo frame.

SCSD School for the Deaf



Jasper Womick (senior) talks about persevering through differences during his Optimist speech.

What Community Means to Me

This year's Optimist International Oratorical Contest centered around the theme "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me." Students from the School for the Deaf participated using American Sign Language (ASL), conveying the vital role of community in their lives.

Congrats to the winners of this contest: 1st place was awarded to Jasper Womick (senior), 2nd place to Kaylee Ellison (senior), and 3rd place to Wyatt Harvell (junior). Each participant offered unique insights into the ways service deepens their understanding of community.

Jasper Womick, 1st place winner, delivered a speech about the significance of community in his life. Jasper shared his journey of realizing he wasn't alone in his struggles and emphasized the power of collective action in achieving equality. He highlighted the critical role community plays in providing access, understanding, and support, comparing its importance to essential needs like medical care.



Wyatt Harvell (11th grade) shares his perspective on the importance of community, to a room full of his peers.

The School for the Deaf celebrated their students' achievements with an Awards Day in May.



Top: Seniors wave flags that represent their college commitments.



Bottom, left: The SCSD Math Team receives Sportsmanship Certificates for participating in the NTID middle school math competition.



Bottom, right: Zarannah Womick (5th grade) is selected as the Terrific Kid of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Spartanburg.

Ninja Hornets excel at NRSC VEX V5 Robotics Competition!

The School for the Deaf's robotics and drone teams recently competed in Colorado at the NRSC VEX V5 Robotics Competition for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Ninja Hornets won the prestigious Design Award, a top honor at the event, and brought home the banner!

The Ninja Hornets advanced to the finals after ranking 9th in the qualification rounds, competing alongside their alliance with the American School for the Deaf from Connecticut. They showcased outstanding skills, securing an impressive 2nd place out of 34 teams and finishing 4th in autonomous and driving skills.

The team consists of Jasper Womick, Ryleigh Rabon, Toby Allen, and Carter Bryant, under the expert guidance of head coach Brett Grayson and assistant coach Cary Jones. In addition, the middle school robotics team won the Design Award at the NRSC VIQRC for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Vex IQ Robotics Competition, ranking in the Top 5 in both the finals round and skills among 32 teams.

Also, the Spy Hornets team, including Carter Bryant and Azaria Chalk, were the teamwork mission champions with an alliance from the Texas School for the Deaf. All the teams, including our high school drones, scored well in the skills divisions. SCSDB is proud of our Hornets!



The Cyber Tiger Chargers (American School for the Deaf) and the SCSDB Ninja Hornets join forces to operate their robots as an alliance on the competition field.



Jahmere Daniels (7th grade), Bryce Mcrea (8th grade), and Jeremiah McFadden (8th grade) cheer after their robot passes inspection. After four failed attempts and three hours of hard work, they succeeded with just 10 minutes to spare before closing.



The Cyber Tiger Chargers and the SCSDB Ninja Hornets smile and pose with their arms around each other.



The high school "Spy Hornets" drone team stands on stage holding trophies alongside members of the Texas School for the Deaf drone team.



Teamwork Finalists (Cyber Tiger Chargers and the SCSDB Ninja Hornets) stand on a stage holding trophies and certificates.



The middle school robotics team holds a large blue VEX IQ Robotics Competition banner that reads "Design Award."

AAC
Applied Academic Center



From left to right: Dominic Williams (11th grade), Austin Bishop (10th grade), Traeveon Jones (11th grade) are dressed and ready for the Future Chefs Competition.

Future Chefs of America

SCSDB held its first-ever "Future Chefs National Challenge" sponsored by Sodexo, showcasing the culinary talents of three student chefs. Under the guidance of teacher Angela Collier, students Austin Bishop, Traeveon Jones, and Dominic Williams honed their skills by selecting and modifying recipes to enhance their nutritional value, while also perfecting their cooking and presentation techniques.



President Jolene Madison and guest judge Switi Thakkar, who owns and operates four local McDonald's restaurants, watch as Dominic Williams (11th grade) prepares his lunchbox pizzas.



Austin Bishop (10th grade) proudly poses with AAC food and nutrition teacher Angela Collier as he receives his certificate for his delicious turkey ranch wraps.



Traeveon Jones (11th grade) finishes his fresh strawberry breakfast taco by carefully placing strawberries atop the cream spread. Traeveon earned 92 points in the innovative sweeteners and stunning presentation, winning first place in the challenge.

FFA member competes on state level

FFA member and chapter reporter Gideon Inman placed second in a regional FFA leadership development contest in March and earned the honor of competing on the state level.

On June 17, Gideon Inman and FFA advisor Annette Bodie met at the SC State FFA Convention in Greenville where Gideon competed with the top members from the other four SC Agriculture Education regions in the FFA Creed Speaking Contest.

Gideon also spent the day at the career expo at the convention learning about colleges with agriculture programs, careers in agriculture, and other opportunities to pursue within the agriculture industry. Gideon said that he enjoyed meeting other FFA members and advisors from all over South Carolina.

This is the first time that SCSDB has been represented at the state convention and competed on the state level. "Congratulations to Gideon Inman on all his hard work," exclaimed Annette.



Right: FFA member and chapter reporter Gideon Inman (10th grade) examines a bone on a display table at the SC State FFA Convention in Greenville.

Future Farmers present plants to legislators

Eleven members of the SCSDB Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter traveled to Columbia for the South Carolina FFA Plant Presentation Day on April 29.

They took three trays of plants from the SCSDB greenhouse to add to the plants from FFA chapters from all over the state. On this special day, FFA members present plants that they have grown in their local Agriculture Education programs in appreciation to the SC Legislature and other government officials for supporting agriculture education programs. FFA members take a lot of pride in knowing that plants they grow will be planted at the governor's mansion and on the SC State House grounds.



SCSDB Future Farmers of America proudly stand with plants presented at the SC State House. Back row: Agriculture teacher Annette Bodie (left) and teacher Tayor Carvajal (right) stand with the SCSDB FFA.

Students build dog houses

The carpentry students at AAC eagerly embraced an exciting project: a dog house building challenge for the new Spartanburg County Pet Resource Center (PRC). Career-tech schools from across the county participated in this initiative, made possible through the generous sponsorship from Kapasi Glass and Cherokee Masonry.



SCSDB students and staff stand with representatives from their Team Sponsor (Kapasi Glass Mart) in front of their two hand-built dog houses.

Under the leadership of Brett Grayson, the engineering class carefully designed two dog houses and handed over the blueprints to the carpentry classes for construction. Guided by Andy Breitenbach, carpentry students were encouraged to consult with the engineering class for advice while building the dog houses.

Once completed, the dog houses were auctioned online following a vote, with the proceeds benefiting the PRC's mission to unite people and pets and supporting scholarships for aspiring construction professionals.

Farm Animal Day

Younger students from across campus were invited to AAC to interact with farm animals.







Bre Sharpe (10th grade) helps Mia Moldthan (2nd grade) try out the saddle. Leah Palma-Escobar (4th grade) and Kendra Aguilar (1st grade) pet the goats. Riley Bastedo (2nd grade) and staff Hollie Boland pet the dogs.

Transition Services



KK Davis, senior, and job transition coach Susan Cox

City leaders hear from senior, job transition staff

Kaitland "KK" Davis, senior; Nikki Robinson, transition coordinator; and Susan Cox, job transition coach, were invited to speak at the Spartanburg City Council meeting on May 11.

KK spoke about her experience at CC Woodson Community Center. Nikki outlined SCSDB's partnership with the City of Spartanburg Parks and Recreation department and SCSDB's Work Based Learning Program.

Nikki said that KK spoke so well! Two council members and the mayor already knew her from previous events.



Right: Transition Services coordinator Nikki Robinson stands next to KK Davis, who speaks into a microphone at a podium.

Students tour art at Converse

SCSDB students toured the Department of Art, Design & Letters at Converse University in March. Led by Converse students and design professor Mike Massengale, students got to experience a life drawing class, see the college's screen printing room, and were shown various projects completed by past and present students in Adobe design software. The field trip ended with a tour of the student gallery, which held new student works for an upcoming gallery show.





Above: SCSDB students learn about the university's print making classes and see examples of work from college students.

Left: Two university students talk about their own projects completed at Converse to a room full of SCSDB students.

Scholarships for students

The Mayors of Spartanburg County Committee for People with Disabilities awards a $500 scholarship to support the post-secondary or employment goals of seniors across the county.

This year, five SCSDB students were chosen to receive this honor and were given their awards by City of Spartanburg Mayor, Jerome Rice.

Congratulations to the students pictured. All five students stand with mayors representing different cities in Spartanburg County.



Ca'Mayra Boulware from Cedar Springs Academy



Kaylee Ellison from the School for the Deaf



Yakera Martin from the School for the Deaf



Ryleigh Rabon from the School for the Deaf



Jasper Womick from the School for the Deaf

Fine Arts



Back row: KK Davis (senior), art teacher Liz List, Izzy Collins (10th grade), Emma Atkinson (8th grade), and Mary-Ellen Shepardson (6th grade); front row: Mia Moldthan (2nd grade) and Brayden Potter (4th grade)

SC State Library Talking Book Services Art Awards

Six SCSDB students and School for the Blind art teacher, Liz List, traveled to Columbia on April 23 to receive awards for the Talking Book Services Art Gallery, a yearly competition for South Carolina K-12 students who are blind or low vision.

Students won in the following age groups:

Ages 15 and up
KK Davis, 3rd place
Tazmin Hill, 2nd place
Izzy Collins, 1st place

Ages 11-14
Mary-Ellen Shepardson, 3rd place
Emma Atkinson, 1st place

Ages 6-10
Brayden Potter, 3rd place
Mia Moldthan, 2nd place

The SCSDB Chorus performed "I Am Still Your Dreamer" at the 2026 graduation ceremony.

4th row: Mi'Kai Robinson (6th grade), Kash Bradshaw (8th grade), Brock Potter (6th grade), KK Davis (senior); third row: Izzy Collins (10th grade), Emily Hernandez (9th grade), Reniece Vassell (10th grade), Cailynn-Ann Campos (9th grade); 2nd row: Destinee Hall (senior), Piper Graham (senior); 1st row: Zeaveon Washington (9th grade), Zoey Blackman (7th grade), and Sierra Stefani (senior)



Athletics

Ceremony and banquet honors Hornet athletes in varsity sports







Athletic Director Mike Sims presents senior Ryleigh Rabon with her All-Region recognitions. Reniece Vassell (11th grade) receives the Most Improved Player Award for girls goalball. Ca'Mayra Boulware (senior) hugs Coach Aly Davis after being named Special Olympics Athlete of the Year.





The boys goalball team stands on stage and receives their individual and team awards. The volleyball team holds certificates representing their participation in a successful season.



The football team and audience members applaud as Assistant Coach Carl Duke shares his memories from this year's varsity season.

Residential Life



AJ Murillo (11th grade) and Ryleigh Rabon (senior) test the stretchiness of a cheese stick.

Dorm Wars

Students went head to head against one another in this year's Dorm Wars, playing friendly competitive games to win trophies for their dorms.


Two teams play tug-of-war against each other in the gym at Voss.




Kash Bradshaw (8th grade), Melvin Fuentes Gomez (9th grade), and Carter Harlan (11th grade) hold up a third place trophy with their dorm staff. Middle school boys from SCSD worked hard to win the second place trophy. Hannah Collins (8th grade), Zoey Blackman (7th grade), Sierra Stefani (senior), and Azaria Chalk (9th grade) stand proudly after being crowned Spirit Champions.



High school students residing in the Transition Living Center (TLC) form a single, unified Dorm Wars team. They secured wins for second place, as well as Spirit Champion.

Prom

Students enjoyed dinner and dancing at this year's prom at the 1881 Event Hall in Spartanburg. The theme for prom was "A Cinematic Affair."

School for the Blind
Queen: KK Davis
King: Michael Clifton

Cedar Springs Academy
Queen: Sierra Stefani
King: Ke'Mareon Turner

School for the Deaf
Queen: Kendriyana Brown
King: Jasper Womick



The 2026 prom kings and queens from each school are recognized together.



Staff Cynica Middleton, Reniece Vassell (11th grade), and Michael Clifton (senior) break it down on the dance floor.



Staff Jameka Moses and Patty Anderson groove to the music with Melvin Fuentes Gomez (9th grade).



DJ Peake (11th grade) dances with Ca'Mayra Boulware (senior).



Jasper Womick (senior) and Dayana Orellana (11th grade) enjoy dinner as the night begins.



School for the Deaf teachers and students do the Macarena together.



Senior Sierra Stefani (middle) takes a photo with staff Jessica Besu and Ashley Chism.

Statewide Outreach Services

Kelly's Kids Farm Animal Day

Kelly's Kids students were invited to be part of Farm Animal Day at the Applied Academic Center. The children loved getting to see, pet, and learn about all the different types of animals!

Right: Kyser Morgan pets a dog.





Kelly's Kids Educarer of the Year

Jacqueline Booker of Kelly's Kids was a top five finalist for Educarer of the Year. The annual celebration was held on April 21 at USC Upstate. This recognition is for early childhood teachers in early education childcare centers in Spartanburg County.

Kelly's Kids families picnic with pizza

Kelly's Kids finished the academic year with a family picnic. Sodexo provided pizza, water, cookies, and chips for the families and children at Kelly's Kids. Parents wanted to order the pizza at home because they liked it so much. Families brought their blankets for a picnic, and the children had time to play at the School for the Blind's playground.



Chase Jones and his mom, Rachel, have a picnic on the grass.



Kehlani Horne and her family get ready to enjoy their lunch together.



Asa Brown goes down the slide.



Aniya Davis and her family sit on a blanket on the lawn as they eat their pizza and chips.

SCSDB Foundation



BBQ Competition revs up Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show

The SCSDB Foundation recently revved up excitement with its second Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show, introducing a new twist—its inaugural BBQ Competition! Car enthusiasts flocked to campus to experience the thunderous roar of engines while savoring delicious BBQ.

The event was a fantastic day out for the entire family, featuring raffles, classic cars, pit-masters, and plenty of fun for everyone. There were 62 cars/trucks, four motorcycles, and seven BBQ teams in this year's competition. The BBQ competition included categories of Overall, Pork, and Ribs.



A boy examines the engine of a car on display.





Two guests have a conversation in ASL about the unique vehicles.



A young boy and his father admire a sleek car.



Sawyer Coleman takes a break while playing on the inflatable slides. He is the son of Amanda Coleman, SCSDB Foundation.



A team member serves Big Wally's Barbecue to excited customers.



Jeff and Janet Seay win Best Car of Show for their Pontiac Firebird.



Ultimate Tailgaters BBQ win BBQ Classic 2026 Grand Champion. The award was created by fine arts students at SCSDB.

School for the Deaf and the Blind

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We want to meet your family!

SCSDB campus programs are always accepting applications for new students. Our online application can be accessed at **www.scsdb.org/apply**. Please contact **Angela Fordyce** at **864-577-7506** or **admissions@scsdb.org** for more information about the application and enrollment process and/or to schedule a campus tour.

Come and see what SCSDB can do for you in your area of the state! The **SCSDB division of outreach services** provides a menu of options for parents, families, and the professionals who serve them that include and are not limited to, specialized early intervention services, school district educational services, sign language interpreting, and ASL classes! For more information on our statewide outreach services available in your area, please contact **Scott A. Falcone** at **sfalcone@scsdb.org** or **1-800-984-4357**.