Charleston County School District
Office of Communications
75 Calhoun St.,
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 937-6300

Media Release

CCSD Announces Naming of New North Charleston High School Athletic Stadium and Field

Bonds-Wilson Stadium and Lance Corporal Issac Sparkman Field honor the legacies of two distinguished educators and a North Charleston native who gave his life in service to his country.

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (October 19, 2026) - Charleston County School District (CCSD) proudly announces the naming of the new North Charleston High School athletic stadium and field, honoring two significant chapters of the community's history and ensuring their legacies are preserved for generations to come.

The new facility will officially bear the names Bonds-Wilson Stadium and Lance Corporal Issac Sparkman Field, recognizing the profound contributions of two pioneering African American educators and the ultimate sacrifice of a local military hero.

The names were formally unveiled during a dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at North Charleston High School.

The stadium will honor the historic Bonds-Wilson High School, North Charleston's first Black high school, which opened in 1950 in the Liberty Hill community. Named for two distinguished local African American educators, Dr. J.R. Bonds and John T. Wilson, the school served as a cornerstone of education, opportunity, and community pride for generations of students and families.

Bonds-Wilson desegregated in 1971 and remained open until 1985, when its students were rezoned to North Charleston High School.

Naming the new stadium in its honor restores the Bonds-Wilson name to a prominent place in the community, creating a lasting connection between the school's rich history and the generations of students who will compete, celebrate, and create new memories there.

“Though Bonds-Wilson’s doors closed more than four decades ago, the legacies of the institution and its namesakes live on through the achievements of its alumni and its lasting influence on the North Charleston community,” said North Charleston High School Principal Henry Darby. “This stadium is more than a new facility. It is a tribute to the educators, students,

and families who helped shape our community and a promise that their contributions will never be forgotten. We are proud to carry that legacy forward for generations of Cougars to come."

The stadium's playing field will honor Lance Corporal Issac Sparkman, a former Liberty Hill resident who served his country in the United States military and was killed in action during the Vietnam War.

"Lance Corporal Sparkman's courage, service, and ultimate sacrifice are an important part of our community's history," said North Charleston High School Principal Henry Darby. "By dedicating this field in his honor, we are ensuring that his legacy lives on and that future generations understand the values of courage, service, and sacrifice that his name represents. We are proud to honor his memory and his enduring connection to the community he called home."

As part of the dedication ceremony, Sparkman's family members and lifelong friends shared personal memories and tributes, offering the community an opportunity to celebrate his life and honor his legacy.

The October 17 dedication ceremony brought together CCSD leadership, North Charleston High School students and staff, alumni, community members, and the family and friends of those being honored.

The program featured remarks from CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins, North Charleston High School Principal Henry E. Darby, and district leadership, along with a presentation highlighting the lives and contributions of Dr. Bonds and Mr. Wilson and a special video tribute including reflections from family and friends commemorating the legacy of Lance Corporal Sparkman.

The ceremony culminated in the official unveiling of both names, marking a new chapter for North Charleston High School while honoring the people and institutions that helped shape its community.

"Our neighborhood schools are deeply connected to the communities they serve. As we invest in the future of our schools, we must also honor the people and legacies that shaped them," said CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins. "The dedication of Bonds-Wilson Stadium and Lance Corporal Issac Sparkman Field celebrates North Charleston's proud history of educational excellence, courage, and service. These names will celebrate the extraordinary legacy of this community while inspiring generations of students to carry it forward."

For more information, please 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 dedicated to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education and the support needed to thrive. As South Carolina's second-largest school system, CCSD serves more than 50,000 students across 91 schools and specialized programs throughout 1,300 square miles of coastal communities, representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Anita Huggins, CCSD is focused on accelerating student achievement, expanding opportunities, and preparing every student for success in college, career, and life. Recent district accomplishments include record-high academic performance on state assessments, increasing graduation rates, and significant gains in college and career readiness, reflecting the district's commitment to continuous improvement and educational excellence. Through the Peninsula Promise, CCSD is also expanding access to early learning, college and career pathways, arts, and family support services to create seamless opportunities for students living on the historic Charleston Peninsula.

CCSD offers a diverse and expanding portfolio of educational choices, including neighborhood, magnet, charter, Montessori, and International Baccalaureate (IB) schools and programs. Students have access to rich learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); visual and performing arts; world languages; military and leadership programs; career and technical education; dual enrollment and early college opportunities; and other innovative pathways designed to meet a wide range of interests and aspirations.

Working in partnership with families, community organizations, higher education institutions, and industry leaders, CCSD remains committed to creating equitable opportunities, fostering student success, and ensuring that every graduate is prepared to contribute and compete in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities, the organization has been a leading source of health information for more than one hundred years. Supported by more than 35 million volunteers globally, we fund groundbreaking research, advocate for the public's health, and provide critical resources to save and improve lives affected by cardiovascular disease and stroke. By driving breakthroughs and implementing proven solutions in science, policy, and care, we work tirelessly to advance health and transform lives every day. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, X or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.