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Media Release

Bosch Community Fund supports STEM in CCSD classrooms

Division of Strategy and Communications

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Charleston, SC – The COVID-19 pandemic created multiple challenges for educators, including how to provide hands-on, interactive lessons and opportunities in the classroom. Charleston County School District's (CCSD) new Science Instructional Specialist Deborah Batzer recognized that challenge. When the district applied for a grant from the [Bosch Community Fund](#), she requested funds to acquire [Gizmos](#) for every CCSD elementary school.

For the past eight years, Bosch Community Fund has awarded CCSD a grant for project-based inquiry projects. This school year, CCSD received nearly \$20,000 to purchase Gizmos, the interactive math and science simulation program for third through fifth graders (the district had already purchased Gizmos to supplement middle and high school classrooms).

"Gizmos align with the latest state standards that help educators bring powerful new learning experiences to their classes," explained Batzer. "The interactive design allows for extensive manipulation of variables and 'what-if' experimentation."

Gizmos are available for every teacher in the district to supplement their lessons and instruction in math and science. They give students something to graph, measure, and compare, even predict and prove. Students can discover concepts, analyze data and go deeper with in-depth activities creating moments to explore, learn, and apply new ideas.

"Gizmos provides hundreds of opportunities where students don't just act like scientists and mathematicians...they are scientists and mathematicians," added Batzer. "Gizmos use innovative technology to create new pathways for learning in both the virtual and in-person classrooms."

CCSD received the funding in the fall, teachers were trained on Gizmos in the winter, and students started using them this spring. Once the school year ends, teachers, administrators, and district staff members will discuss the program's effectiveness and collaborate on an implementation plan for next year.

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and 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 that is committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of 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 more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.