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Contact:
Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

Media Release

Office of Strategy and
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor
Chief of Staff



Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies to serve North Charleston and Burke High School students

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce that the newly-constructed [Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies](#) (CAS) will open its doors to students for the 2020-2021 school year. The new 84,000 square foot facility will offer high school programs focusing on advanced studies.

The project was funded by a “Yes” vote of the Charleston Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax Referendum of 2014.

The new state-of-the-art building is designed to seat 600 students and is located across from North Charleston High School. The facility will serve high school students currently enrolled in the District 4 area and Burke High School. The building includes both classrooms and lab spaces for programs such as health science technologies, information technology pre-engineering, arts, and audio-visual technologies.

“Thanks to the Charleston County residents, students will enjoy this new facility and take advantage of its unique programming,” said Robert Sturman

CCSD's Interim Director of Capital Programs. "This is one of our three regional career centers in the District. The Cooper River CAS will give our high school students a great opportunity to expand their CTE education."

The new CAS will offer high bay facilities for Auto Collision Repair, Mechatronics and Building Construction, labs for STEM classes, Biomedical and Health Sciences, Cyber Security, Computer Repair, and 'Project Lead the Way' classes. Other areas of the building will include maker spaces, a two-story exhibition space, and a 150-seat lecture hall.

"The Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies is a state of the art career and technology center that will offer students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that will prepare them for college programs and high demand career fields," said Principal Vanessa Brown. "Our teachers will use non-traditional teaching methods to engage students in critical thinking through project-based learning. The Cooper River Center is a 'think tank' - a place of innovation. Our makerspace and business partner workspace is an integral part of the North Charleston business and industry community. We look forward to our business partners working closely with our students to design, create, and build new products and services that will make our world efficient and productive."

The construction team worked in tandem with local and state agencies to open the school on time and within the approved budget of \$42.7 million.

"Covid-19 has forced the teams building our new schools to overcome some unique challenges," said Sturman. "It has been a race to get all of the new school buildings online before the students return for the new school year, which was strategically managed by Cumming and Brownstone (the District's construction management firms). The internal and external partnerships between the design team, general contractors, subcontractors, CCSD staff, and others were the keys to a successful project."

In addition to the construction management team, Cumming/Brownstone, the architect was Steven & Wilkinson/Red Iron Architects, and the general contractor was McKnight Construction. The Project Manager was Margarita Perez and the Site Manager was John Calvin.

For more information, contact the Office 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.