

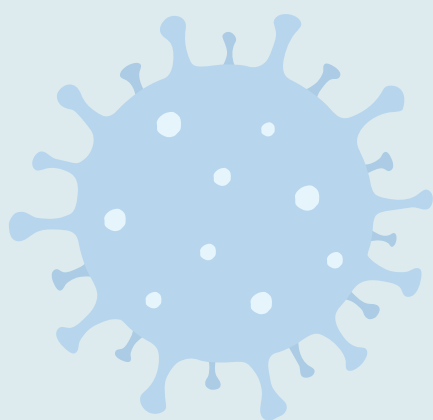
Focus ON CCSD

News for, by and about Charleston County School District,
the state of South Carolina's premier school district where *Students are the Heart of Our Work.*

Volume 3 | Edition 7 | December 2020

CCSD now has two methods to test for COVID-19

COVID-19: 2 Testing Methods



1. Saliva Testing

2. Rapid Antigen Testing

Charleston County School District (CCSD) will have the availability to test for COVID-19 at every school, using two methods. A saliva test has been made possible thanks to a continued partnership with the Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) infectious disease department. In addition, Rapid Antigen Testing has been made available to schools across the state, as announced by South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster last week. Those tests will be used in conjunction with the saliva test when needed.

According to Ellen Nitz, CCSD's Director of Nursing Services, one of CCSD's biggest goals is to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 within the school setting.

"This testing allows for students or staff with symptoms to come into the clinic be tested using their saliva," said Nitz. "It is sent away and within 12 to 24 hours we will receive the results. At that point, we would let the patient know whether they can return to school or not."

The saliva tests have a 92 percent sensitivity (accuracy) rate. Results are sent in a text to the patient/guardian within 12-24 hours from MUSC.

Nitz explained that once the Rapid test is administered (with permission by a parent) results can be obtained in less than 15 minutes.

If a person is found to be positive schools will follow district protocols that are in place and begin contact tracing. A positive result will require the person to isolate for 10 days per DHEC protocol. Each school has identified an isolation area for students to wait for their parent/guardian to pick them up from school.

"The drawback is that have a lower sensitivity rate," said Nitz. "A positive test is a positive test. A child will automatically be sent home and contact tracing for the household and school immediately begins. But if a child tests negative with this test, we will do further testing using a PCR saliva test."

Nitz also explained that contact tracing does not start until confirmation of a positive test has been received. However, the staff does begin to gather information such as seating charts, etc., to be able to react rapidly and get information out to other families that may have been a close contact.

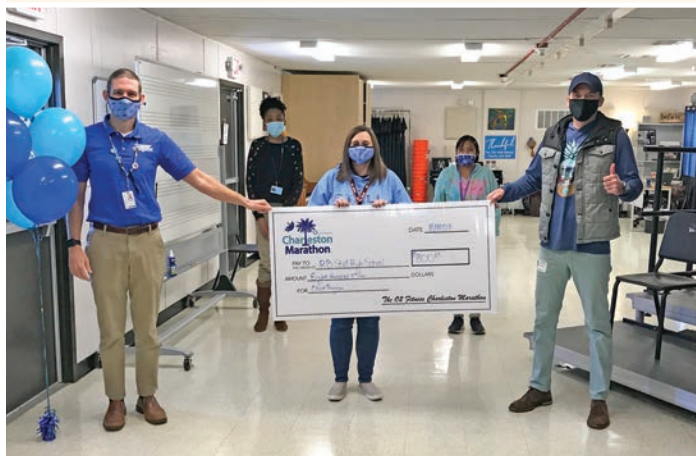
"We have DHEC trained contact tracers who can turn around cases within a couple of hours," said Nitz.

"The district works hard to continue to put layers of protection in for staff and students and this saliva test is one of those layers of protection," said Nitz. "First and foremost, everyone needs to keep their distance and wear a mask. The testing is secondary so we can test anyone who is symptomatic and maybe not sure if they have a seasonal cold or COVID-19. Having access to both tests is crucial to improving everyone's peace of mind and safety. It makes me feel more comfortable, as Director of Nursing, knowing we have these tools available."

Nitz said her biggest plea is that when a student or staff is sick, that they stay home, and if a person does test positive she insists that they follow the Department of Health and Environmental Control's protocols for isolation.

"We sincerely appreciate the support and guidance that MUSC has provided," said Nitz. "We are fortunate to be in partnership."

Charleston Marathon awards grants to local schools



2020 Charleston Marathon Grant
R.B. Stall HS Check



2020 Charleston Marathon Grant
Baptist Hill Middle High School Check



2020 Charleston Marathon Grant
Murray-LaSaine Montessori School Check

The Charleston Marathon® hit the road Monday, November 16, 2020 and Wednesday, November 18, 2020 to surprise schools in the community with checks in support of arts. Just over \$4,000 was awarded as a result of funds raised through the 2020 race, additional funding goes to support Engaging Creative Minds (ECM), a local educational nonprofit that promotes Arts Integration in area schools.

Schools awarded the grant money in Charleston County School District include Baptist Hill Middle/High School (teacher Melissa Murdock), Murray- LaSaine Montessori School (teacher Rylee Coppel), and R. B. Stall High School (teacher Leanne Mattie).

As in years past, the official charitable partner for the Charleston Marathon® race is ECM, an educational non-profit that provides Arts Integration programming in local schools as well as their national award-winning Summer STEAM Institute®.

ECM partners with local artists and art organizations to provide unique educational programming for Kindergarten through 8th grade. This year, they are in 26 schools across Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties and will impact over 10,000 students. In addition to supporting ECM programs, the Charleston Marathon® also distributes grants to local schools and classrooms through funds received from the race.

In its 11th year, the 2021 Charleston Marathon® is having a virtual edition of the race. There are 11 days to complete your race (one mile, 5k, half marathon, or full marathon) starting on January 11, 2021 and going through January 21, 2021. Each participant receives a downloadable bib and certificate, exclusive finisher hoodie, bottle-opener finisher medal, and a complimentary ticket to a Charleston RiverDogs 2021 season game.



DECEMBER - JANUARY ACADEMIC CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Unless schools have to be closed due to inclement weather, December 21-22 will be holidays for all CCSD employees and students – providing a break of two full weeks. These two days were included on the approved academic year calendar as makeup days (eLearning) if they were needed. Luckily, we have had no missed days due to weather so far.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Camp Blackbaud.....	2
Emergency Meals-to-You	2
Mobile healthcare at CCSD	2
JBE Veterans Day	2
Day of Caring	3
School Choice.....	4
Melissa Beyel earns grant	4

Charleston Promise Neighborhood partners with Blackbaud to offer CAMP BLACKBAUD



On Tuesday November 17, 2020, eight students from James Simons Montessori School had the opportunity to participate in the annual Camp Blackbaud, along with students from Chicora and Sanders-Clyde. The camp is a STEM-based camp designed for 5th graders to engage in hands-on learning projects and to educate them about careers in STEM fields.

This was a project that was founded as a partnership between Blackbaud and Charleston Promise Neighborhood. Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2020, Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN) was founded by Charleston County, the cities of Charleston and North Charleston, and the Charleston County School District (CCSD). CPN's intent is to transform a 5.6 square mile area known as "The Neck," which has been lagging behind in economic, educational and social indicators for over 25 years. CPN's mission is to provide and facilitate comprehensive programs and services that support children, strengthen families, and mobilize residents to action.

Attending Camp Blackbaud has been an honor that James Simons (and other Charleston Promise Neighborhood schools including Sanders Clyde and Chicora) have enjoyed for many years. This year, however, like most things in the 2020-2021 school year, the camp looked a lot different. Instead of the students physically going to Blackbaud Headquarters on Daniel Island, Blackbaud brought the experience to them in a Covid-friendly environment.

Students received individually wrapped kits from Camp Invention, the teaching arm of the National Inventors Hall of Fame whose mission is to connect the inventors who built the world around us with the innovators of tomorrow while promoting creativity and advancing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. Students and coaches were provided with instructions about how to construct a sports stadium or arena. Each kit had a set of cards to introduce inventors to the students and help them imagine the tools needed to be successful in their construction. They were able to blend science and fun while creating

their unique vision and were encouraged to think big, leading to several students creating entirely new game and design concepts. Not only were the packages very comprehensive, but the students also had access to Blackbaud coaches, CCSD teachers and CPN mentors who joined via Zoom to coach them every step of the way.

Principal Christine Ryan of James Simons reflected on the experience, "I appreciate the opportunity Blackbaud affords our students to engage in meaningful, relevant, and innovative programs. Our students have been the beneficiaries of their generosity for several years. I'd also like to thank CPN (Charleston Promise Neighborhood) for coordinating the event for us. CPN is a valued partner. They continue to provide multiple opportunities/programs that enhance the lives of our students and families".

The students were engaged and inspired in the work that they were doing. Additionally, the Blackbaud counselors were hands on and built relationships with the students as they shared team names and mascots and ideas for construction of their sports stadiums. Students were also treated to lunch from local favorite, D'Allesandro's Pizza, who delivered to campers all over Charleston.

At the end of the day of virtual learning, students from all three of the Charleston Promise Neighborhood Schools had the opportunity to present their projects to the entire group via Zoom. Exercising their public speaking skills, students proudly shared all that they had learned and created that day.

Even amid the Covid19 pandemic that plagues our lives and learning environments, Blackbaud and Charleston Promise Neighborhood found a way to be innovative to bring a great hands on learning experience to our students and to help them make memories that they will never forget.



EMERGENCY MEALS-TO-YOU SERVED MORE THAN 150,000 MEALS DURING COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURES



When Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Department of Nutrition Services applied to partner with the Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the Emergency Meals-to-You (eMTY) program in the spring, staff members knew this service would fill a need. This week, Baylor University released how many meals were provided and the number of individuals that were supported by this effort.

The eMTY service provided 156,040 meals at no cost to CCSD families between May and August of this year; the meals were delivered directly to the homes of students. In all, 7,802 boxes were delivered to 498 households, with 1,130 children receiving those meals.

Emergency Meals-to-You boxes were shipped directly to families' doors every other week for every child (ages 1-18) in their household. Each box included 10 breakfasts and 10 lunches, the equivalent of what they would receive at school for two weeks.

All of the items in the eMTY boxes were shelf-stable, meaning they would not expire anytime soon and did not have to be immediately refrigerated.

Families with students enrolled at the following schools were eligible to participate in the program:

- Angel Oak Elementary
- Baptist Hill Middle High
- E.B. Ellington Elementary
- Edith L. Frierson Elementary
- Haut Gap Middle
- Jane Edwards Elementary
- Minnie Hughes Elementary
- Mt. Zion Elementary
- St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle
- St. John's High

"CCSD Nutrition Services served more than one million meals through curbside and bus delivery during the COVID-19 school shutdown," said Kerrie Hollifield, the district's registered dietitian. "However, even with our efforts, we knew that meal gaps still existed. We wanted to ensure that families who face meal barriers were able to be provided nutritious and delicious meals. The eMTY partnership helped us do this by delivering these meals straight to our students' homes."

This initiative was an expansion of a regional pilot program that had previously served Texas households in 2019. As part of the federal government's pandemic response, the USDA asked the BCHP to increase its meal delivery work to meet the needs of children in rural areas nationwide. The BCHP accepted the challenge and called in key public and private partners to assist, ultimately growing the program from its origins of more than 475,000 meals to 4,000 students in Texas only to serving a total of 38,783,700 meals to 270,483 children in 43 of 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

Children in some of the most remote areas of the U.S. received meals, said Jeremy Everett, BCHP executive director.

"In this unprecedented time of so much need, children in rural areas can be among the most vulnerable," said Everett. "Without access to school lunch programs, public transportation, and other resources, households in some of the country's hardest hit communities were left scrambling for ways to replace much needed meal resources. BCHP's collaboration with the USDA and its partners filled that need for more than 127,700 households nationwide as our meal delivery brought resources right to their front door."

"CCSD Nutrition Services served more than one million meals through curbside and bus delivery during the COVID-19 school shutdown. However, even with our efforts, we knew that meal gaps still existed. We wanted to ensure that families who face meal barriers were able to be provided nutritious and delicious meals."

KERRIE HOLLIFIELD, — CCSD REGISTERED DIETITIAN

Mobile healthcare benefits CCSD students and their families

Over 300 students and families at Baptist Hill Middle High School and Jerry Zucker Middle School now have medical services right on their school campuses thanks to a partnership with Fetter Health Care Network and the Charleston County School District.

A fully equipped medical truck is stationed in the school parking lot, once a week, to offer students and their families a whole host of services. From well checks to immunizations, students and families in nearby communities can receive primary care.

According to Markita Johnson, the nurse at Zucker, the benefit is that students don't have to miss a day of school to go to the doctor. Additionally, as required by law, students must be immunized and many parents in this particular school community don't have transportation to get to those types of services. The mobile medical unit eliminates barriers such as transportation, Johnson explained.

Fetter works with families to have services paid through Medicaid or traditional insurance. The health center also provides a sliding fee discount program for those without insurance.

"This partnership is appreciated by the families because there is no service that the mobile medical unit can't provide," said Johnson. "The mobile health unit is also a big boost for me because the unit is steps away from my office and I can take a sick student to them for additional support."

Zucker Principal Jacob Perlmutter explained that the school is a Capturing Kids' Hearts School. As part of that, the philosophy is to "serve the whole child."

"Through research in our own school we learned that few students had a primary care doctor," said Perlmutter. "Most of our students were being seen in clinics or emergency rooms. That's why it was imperative to me that we find a way to bring primary care to the entire community so that not just our students could be served, but their entire family as well."

Perlmutter added that this service eliminates the need for patients to travel to the doctor, thereby removing the major barrier most patients experience to receiving timely and proper care.

Heather Rocha is a Family Practice Physician Assistant with Fetter. She said it is important to bring healthcare to the community to fill the void in an areas with a lack of services.

Perlmutter explained that even well visits to the doctor can cause a student to be out of school for the entire day. Now with the Fetter medical unit, most basic health care services can be offered onsite.

More than 70 Zucker families utilize the service.

"We're getting great feedback from the parents," said Perlmutter. "The feedback has been uniformly positive and in fact, families are asking for additional services."

Dentals appointments and sports physicals will be implemented as new services in the coming weeks.

"We're getting the word out by building relationships with families in the area and of course the school is promoting the partnership," said Rocha. "Everyone wins because the kids are healthy and learning and the whole family is taken care of. What's really important, too, is that a student won't miss anything important at school because their appointment will be based around their class schedule."

"We have to meet each child's basic needs before we can teach him or her," said Perlmutter. "This is how we start."

"This partnership is appreciated by the families because there is no service that the mobile medical unit can't provide. The mobile health unit is also a big boost for me because the unit is steps away from my office and I can take a sick student to them for additional support."

MARKITA JOHNSON — JERRY ZUCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL NURSE



Fetter Health Care Network mobile healthcare unit at Jerry Zucker Middle School



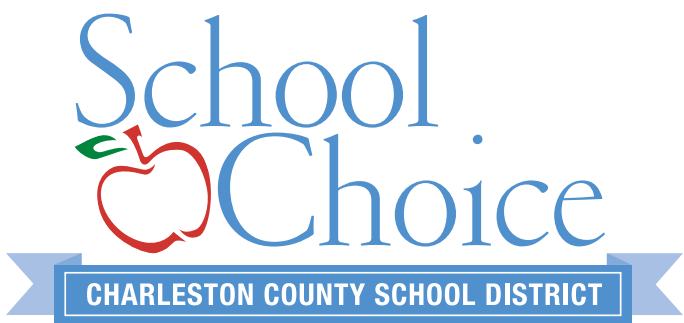
JBE Veterans Day

Third grade students at James B. Edwards School of Global Leadership let their patriotism shine through their masks as they decorate some 1300+ veterans' graves with American flags at Mount Pleasant Memorial Gardens in honor of Veterans Day.

DAY OF CARING



Employees at The InterTech Group, Inc. were able to secure and donate dozens of boxes of school supplies to Jerry Zucker Middle School last week during the community's annual Day of Caring. Principal Jacob Perlmutter and others from the school were very appreciative of the gifts for their students.



APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS

JANUARY 26, 2021

Charleston > excellence is our standard
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

- JANUARY 26, 2021**
Application opens
- JANUARY 30, 2021**
Virtual Choice Fair
- FEBRUARY 4 - 18, 2021**
Application assistance events
- FEBRUARY 26, 2021**
Application closes
- APRIL 2, 2021**
Acceptance notification to families
- APRIL 22, 2021**
Deadline to accept

What is School Choice?

Each school-aged child in Charleston County is assigned to a neighborhood school based on grade level and home address. In addition, CCSD offers specialized programs, magnets, and charter schools to which students can apply.

VIRTUAL CHOICE FAIR

Join in for this year’s virtual Choice Fair and learn more about what School Choice means for you and your child. Please check our website for details beginning January 2021.

For more information about School Choice
Visit <https://www.ccsdschools.com/schoolchoice>
or Call 843-937-6582

East Cooper CAS teacher-librarian earns grant from Toshiba America Foundation

Staff members at East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies are committed to providing students with life-changing educational and career opportunities. Thanks to a grant the East Cooper CAS teacher-librarian Melissa Beyel received, students there will have more opportunities.

Beyel is the first CCSD educator to receive a grant from Toshiba America Foundation.

She applied in summer 2020 and didn't receive a grant. But, she didn't give up; she reapplied in fall 2020 and her persistence paid off with a grant award!

Beyel credits her success to reaching out to the foundation staff to get feedback on her project idea.



Melissa Beyel

Beyel, who is the first-ever CCSD educator to receive this grant, learned a few weeks ago that the Toshiba America Foundation awarded her with a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and technology) grant worth \$4,012. The funding will allow her to utilize Google Expeditions Virtual Reality kits; teachers can provide their students with immersive learning experiences through this program. Beyel is also going to ask teachers to provide her with nominations of students who will assist in creating a virtual tour of the East Cooper CAS.

“The media center within the East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies has become a true innovation center under the leadership of Mrs. Beyel,” explained Principal Jeff Blankenship. “She has established a wide variety of opportunities for students to explore their interests and the addition of these Google Expedition Virtual Reality kits will only enhance their experiences. We appreciate the Toshiba America Foundation and their efforts to promote STEM education here in South Carolina.”

Blankenship added the kits should be available for students to use in January 2021.

Toshiba America Foundation’s grants fund projects designed by individual classroom teachers. This “direct-to-teacher” approach brings immediate results. Teachers are able to change the way they teach STEM subjects because the grant supports equipment for hands-on experiments and inquiry-based approaches to the curriculum. The organization believes STEM is a lot more fun than just reading a textbook. These grants provide teachers with the tools they need to be more effective educators as well as make the classroom a more exciting place for both teachers and students.

Focus ON CCSD

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Gerrita Postlewait, *Superintendent of Schools*
Erica Taylor, *Chief of Staff*
Sully Witte, *Communications Officer*

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