

For Immediate Release

August 5, 2021

Contact:

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**West Ashley Center for
Advanced Studies**

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher
Chief Academic Officer

Rich Gordon
Career and Technology Executive
Director

Dale Metzger
Principal

Media Release

West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies complete and ready for students

Charleston, SC – The West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies is set to open to students in August 2021. The \$42.7 million project is a 100,000 square foot facility located at 4066 Wildcat Way. The four-acre campus is adjacent to West Ashley High School.

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

Dale Metzger was named the principal. Staff includes 12 teachers, four support staff members, one assistant principal, a school counselor and career specialists. Students from West Ashley High School will be able to walk to the center, and students from Baptist Hill Middle High School and St. John’s High School will either be bused in or drive their personal vehicles.

The center will offer the following programs:

- Media Technology
- PLTW Biomedical Sciences
- Health Science Technology
- Sports Medicine
- Computer Service and Repair
- Networking Fundamentals
- Cybersecurity Fundamentals
- PLTW Pre-Engineering
- Mechatronics Integrated Technologies
- Welding Technology
- Automotive Technology

“The West Ashley Center for Advanced Studies is a dynamic, state-of-the-art facility that will serve the students of West Ashley, St. John’s, and Baptist Hill,” said Metzger. “Our goal is that every student will earn career and/or college readiness certification. Students will leave here with training and industry certifications in hand, which will enable them to enter directly into the workforce,

or to enter institutions of higher learning better prepared for the rigors of college-level coursework, and a better understanding of their future career goals.”

The first floor entrance boasts a café and sitting area, complete with a lecture hall. Designed like an institute of higher learning, most spaces are versatile and allow for a multitude of uses. Each floor has spaces for study hall, collaboration zones, conference rooms, and makerspaces. The work bays for welding, mechatronics, and automotive are adjacent to the physical classrooms and observation windows look down into the bays from the second floor. Similarly, a full production set and studio are adjacent to TV and audio suites and classrooms. A full medical lab features classrooms and opportunities for hands on learning through simulation.

“We’ve worked to develop business partnerships within local industry to ensure our certified students will be eligible for the high-paying jobs of the future within their companies,” Metzger added.

The construction management team is Cumming, Project Manager is Bobby Bryant, Site Manager is Mike Risteski, Architect is SGA/Little, and the General Contractor is Contract Construction.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district 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 approximately 49,000 students in 88 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.