

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.*

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AND WE'RE BACK – CCSD KICKS OFF 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Students and staff had a successful first day of school on Wednesday, August 17, 2022. Students were greeted with smiles and cheers as they arrived to start the 2022-2023 school year.



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CCSD FIRST DAY FESTIVAL 2022

In partnership with the City of Charleston, Charleston County School District (CCSD) celebrated another successful First Day Festival on Sunday, August 7, 2022. Thousands of students and their families attended the free event. CCSD staff handed out books, back-to-school supplies, and information for the 2022-2023 school year.





GREAT TEACHERS, GREAT LEADERS

Charleston County School District greeted its newest teachers with a two-day event this week that featured keynote speaker, Byron Garrett. The event is held annually and is designed to welcome CCSD's newest teachers to the district. Supports and resources are highlighted at the event so that teachers can easily access what they need to be successful.



Charleston > excellence is our standard County SCHOOL DISTRICT



CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR IN CCSD

James Island Charter High School unveils new CTE and gym spaces

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to unveil a new Career and Technology Education (CTE) building and competition gymnasium on the James Island Charter High School Campus.

The \$24.9 million project was completed by M.B. Kahn Construction. The two projects totaled 58,132 square feet and was designed by Quackenbush Architects and Clancy + Wells Architects.

“These additions will meet the needs of today’s students by providing state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, and athletic facilities that will support new and existing programs,” said Principal Timothy Thorn.

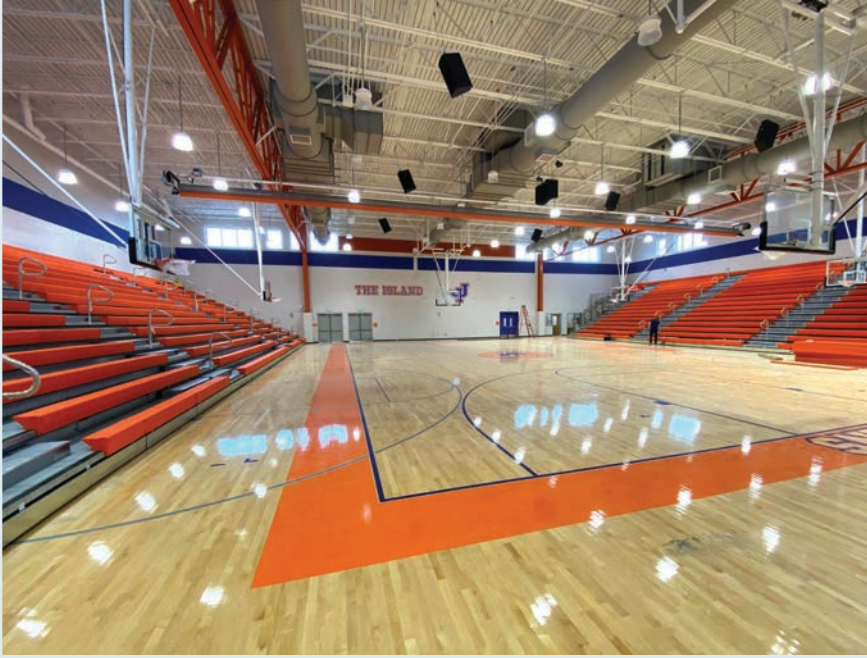
The CTE space will serve nearly three hundred students and provide areas of study in Building Construction Management, Culinary Arts, Health Sciences, Engineering, and Information Technology.

The gym, named Millie Kennedy Gymnasium, will be able to accommodate approximately 1,900 patrons. The building also has an athletic hall of fame, a school store, an additional weight room, and a sports medicine classroom/lab.

A project-designed sound system and jumbo JICHS Trojan graphics make this highly professional educational facility stand out, added Jasmeen Shaw, Executive Director of Capital Programs.



James Island Charter High School



Millie Kennedy Gymnasium



CTE Culinary Arts



CTE Health Sciences



JICHS Computer Lab

Stall unveils program to help students using navigational language instruction



Starting this school year, R.B. Stall High School will welcome students to the Newcomer Center. The center will operate as an intensive English acquisition school within the school to help scholars acclimate to Charleston County School District.

The Newcomer Program is aimed at students new to the country (or that have been here less than two years) with unique academic and social/emotional needs.

“Many of the students at Stall come from rich cultural backgrounds and we sometimes forget that language is part of that,” said Executive Principal Steve Larson. “There is a temptation to accelerate students into learning our language, yet we need to be careful when doing so to ensure that it isn’t at the expense of their culture.”

The mission of the center and the overall program is to create a safe, nurturing, and language-rich learning environment for multi-language learners new to the United States, supported by native language instruction.

“We want to provide these incoming students with the same level of care we provide our American born students,” said Larson. “Academic achievement and getting students ready for life after high school is at the center of our work, but ensuring a student feels valued and cared for is equally important.”

The program is designed to help students develop their English skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking by immersing them in meaningful language and cultural experiences. To do that, the center will provide a space to develop and foster a strong sense of community by engaging students’ families and caregivers in their education.

Students are placed in the program through a registration process. Once accepted, they attend for up to three semesters, earning six or more high school credits.

“We recognize it can be exciting and scary coming into a new experience, and into a new country,” said Larson. “If we give students access to rigorous learning in a sheltered environment that provides adequate language support, they can graduate with an uninterrupted educational experience.”

CHECK OUT WHAT’S NEW THIS YEAR IN CCSD

CCSD rolls out new ELA curriculum



Charleston County School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees approved the adoption of the EL Education English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum as the CCSD ELA curriculum for K-8th grade.

Fifty-two schools will utilize the new ELA curriculum which is high-quality, rigorous, content-based literacy instruction with an intentional focus on being an all-encompassing curriculum.

A district task force chose the EL curriculum after a five-month research period. Acceleration Schools began implementing EL modules in August 2021; 10 additional schools started the EL modules in January 2022. In April, all other K-8 schools were given the option to join the pilot, beginning in August 2022.

“We were looking for 15 additional schools, but 33 schools eagerly signed on to begin implementation in August,” said Susan Rawlings, ELA/Literacy Coordinator for CCSD’s Learning Services Division. “During the 2022-2023 school year, 23 out of 34 Elementary School will implement the full ELA curriculum.”

The EL Education ELA curriculum has been shown to increase achievement. A recent study by Mathematica Policy Research found that students in EL Education schools gained an extra seven months of learning growth in reading after three years.

Feedback was sought from both teachers and students and the positive response was overwhelming. One teacher expressed that it was something she wished she had since the beginning of her career.

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– SUSAN RAWLINGS, ELA/LITERACY COORDINATOR, CCSD LEARNING SERVICES DIVISION

STONEY FIELD RENOVATIONS COMPLETE IN TIME FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Burke High School's football team returned to their home at Stoney Field for the season-opener on August 19, 2022. The field underwent an extensive renovation thanks to a partnership between Charleston County School District (CCSD) and the City of Charleston. The stadium was originally built in 1964 and is home to Burke athletics and city recreation and club sports.

“We are thrilled to return to our home stadium and most appreciative of the City of Charleston and CCSD for the work to make this a reality,” said Executive Principal Cheryl Swinton. “I am extremely excited about the opportunity to bring our community together around a shared athletic experience. High expectations for an exceptional year in every area at Burke High School are the order of the day!”

The \$4.7 million project included construction of a new synthetic turf field, goals, scoreboard and sound system, asphalt walking track, and new fencing.

“The one-penny sales tax has been an instrumental funding source in providing modern athletic facilities for the Burke High School’s football team and other athletic programs,” said Jasmeen Shaw, Executive Director of Capital Programs. “Stabilizing the foundation was essential to creating a beautiful turf playing field that stands out.”

Mayor John Tecklenburg noted that Burke occupies a special place in the city’s heart and history.

“Stoney Field is an important part of that legacy,” added Tecklenburg. “We’re pleased that this remarkable renovation will be ready for the Bulldogs’ first home game on August 19, and would like to thank everyone who helped make this much anticipated return to Stoney Field possible.”

Construction Management was handled by Cumming; the project manager was Joe Christian; site manager was Jack Duane; architecture was handled by Davis & Floyd; and the general contractor was Gulfstream Construction.



District completes capital improvements for 2022-2023 school year



Charleston County School District (CCSD) is committed to maintaining the public’s trust by being proactive in maintaining the educational facilities they own.

“The purpose of CCSD Facilities Management (FM) is to provide safe, healthy, comfortable and pleasant facilities that work all the time and that enhance learning,” said Steve Hamer, Interim Associate of Facilities Management. “It’s our goal to use all the resources at our disposal to ensure that happens.”

FM provides a host of facilities services including planning, managing construction projects, maintenance and repair operations, grounds maintenance, pest control, pickup and delivery services, custodial support, playgrounds maintenance. FM also provides key facilities support to other Operations departments with Security, Transportation, Information Technology, Nursing Services and Nutrition Services

Projects are prioritized by request, need, available funding and board direction from the CCSD Board of Trustees, Hamer explained.

“Preventive maintenance is key part of our effort,” added Hamer. “Having a team of experts in the field, constantly inspecting, testing and repairing is critical to effective facility maintenance. Although we have good processes and capability for emergency corrective repairs, it’s best to make sure a corrective repair is never needed.”

While schools were out, FM was extremely busy with a host of projects, repairs, and maintenance activities. The Facilities Management Department completed over 450 projects of various sizes in the last fiscal year, ranging in cost from hundreds of dollars to several million dollars each.

Highlights from this summer include:

- Final phase to replace the HVAC system at North Charleston High School
- New chillers at Academic Magnet High School/Charleston County School of the Arts (Bonds Wilson campus)
- New modular classroom units at R.B. Stall High School
- New exterior doors and hardware at Belle Hall Elementary School
- New LED scoreboards at St. Johns, Baptist Hill and R.B. Stall High Schools
- Washer and dryer installations (Whirlpool Cares)
- Weight room expansion at Academic Magnet High School and West Ashley High School
- Renovation of West Ashley High School Culinary Arts space
- Final phase of restroom renovations at Minnie Hughes Elementary School
- Modular classroom relocation to Stiles Point Elementary School
- New playgrounds at Julian Mitchell Elementary School and A.C. Corcoran Elementary School
- Flooring projects at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School, Burke High School, Mt. Zion Elementary School, North Charleston Elementary School, Thomas C. Cario Middle School, Wando High School, Baptist Hill Middle High School
- Completed nearly 600 pick-ups and deliveries of furniture and equipment
- Summer clean-up of nearly 10 million square feet of buildings
- Completed 5000 service calls by shops personnel



Jason Sims

SIMS SELECTED TO SERVE ON NAEYC COUNCIL



Jason Sims, Assistant Principal of Laurel Hill Primary School, was selected to serve on the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Council for Early Learning Program Accreditation. The council is comprised of nine members. Sims will start a three-year term this month.

NAEYC is a professional membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy, and research. In 2003, NAEYC's Governing Board established the Council for NAEYC Accreditation as an independent body to ensure the equity, integrity, and accountability of NAEYC Accreditation of Early Learning Program.

"NAEYC is an organization that is committed to ensuring that all young learners have the opportunity for high quality, developmentally appropriate instruction," said Sims. "I look forward to my work with the council and for the advancement of early childhood programs across the country."

Laurel Hill is accredited by NAEYC.

Principal Ashley Dorsey described Sims as a dedicated educator committed to ensuring that the youngest of learners have the tools and skills necessary to create a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

"He understands the importance of developing the whole child and creating opportunities that allow students to grow socially, emotionally, and academically," said Dorsey. "We are so proud that he has been selected for this opportunity to serve NAEYC and know that he will represent the needs of our children in Charleston County in his work."

AVCA honors Wando Volleyball for sixth straight year



Wando High School's volleyball team 2021-2022

Wando High School's volleyball program earned the USMC/AVCA Team Academic Award for the 2021-2022 season. This is the sixth consecutive year the Warriors picked up this honor. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) announced the honorees last month, which included 425 high school girls' teams.

The academic achievement award was created in 1992 to recognize teams that excel in the classroom. The award honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.30 on a 4.0 scale or 4.10 on a 5.0 scale. The Warriors team finished the school year with a team GPA of 3.412 (4.0 scale), making them eligible for the national honor.

Wando won the South Carolina High School League's Region 7-A title, made the Lower State championship match in November, and finished the season with a 35-8-1 record. Head coach Alexis Glover, who has been in charge of the program for three and a half decades and won four state titles, appreciates the balance of academic and athletic excellence.

"Our program's first priority is academics," said Glover. "School comes before volleyball. When your priorities are in the right order, you can be successful in the classroom and on the court."

Wando High School 2021-2022 Volleyball Roster

Reece Campbell	Ella Hudock-12	Mackenzie Rowan
Addison Castles	Emily King-12	Emma Sanders
Emma Cormack	Taylor Martel	Nena Schrecker
Taylor Feher	Ellie Middleton	Emily Sturdivant
Aureana Fisher	Bridey Potter	Hannah Togami
Kat Hranowsky	Elise Romberg	Hastings Witt

"Academic achievement does not happen by accident," said AVCA Executive Director Kathy DeBoer. "I'm so proud of the hundreds of coaching staffs that make excellence in the classroom a priority."

R.B. Stall presents special artwork to animal society

R.B. Stall High School art students from the 2021-2022 school year donated their works to the Charleston Animal Society (CAS) where it is now prominently featured at the entrance of the Post and Courier Foundation Education Room.

Assistant Principal Claudia Newbern helped facilitate the donation of the colorful mural depicting a dog and cat.

"When CEO Joe Elmore came to pick it up, he said, 'I want to bring the people from the shelter back to see all of this artwork here at Stall', Newbern explained. 'I want them to see what you guys have done'," Newbern explained.

A week later, a team of 15 representatives from the shelter came to see the artwork and were amazed at the talent.

The mural is made of tiles and is titled "Making Happy Homes." It magically ties together the animals in the painting with a historic Charleston single house and the Arthur Ravenel Bridge to bring out a true sense of community.

Art Teacher Tracy Partridge said working with the students on the mural was a bonding experience.

"It was therapeutic for us, and we all love animals," said Partridge. "If we haven't connected on one level, we end up talking about their dogs at home or what pets they do have at home. Especially at a time like this, it's nice to talk about something that's so personal, but brings so much love into our lives."

Sculpture Instructor Raymond Hampton agreed with Partridge that

working on the artwork was a nice break from the difficulties with the pandemic, economy, and other social issues. A mutual love of animals was one way to add a positive impact on society, according to Hampton.

The mural was just one of the hundreds of pieces of art completed as part of an end-of-year art show at Stall. The artwork included paintings, glasswork, sculpture, and other art of all shapes, sizes, and mediums.

"These students have this raw talent in them that they don't realize," said Hampton. "I think our teachers bring that out. When we have an opportunity to grab somebody from the community and say, 'Hey, look what we do!' They respond as the Charleston Animal Society did, that is just so cool."




R.B. Stall art students



Stall art on display



Inaugural CCSD Football Jamboree



August 12, 2022

Charleston County School District hosted its inaugural Football Jamboree on Friday, August 12, 2022. High school teams from across the district competed against each other at the Robert E. Hayes Field at the District 2 Regional Stadium in 20-minute exhibition games.



SOA SENIOR NAMED AS National Student Poet



Winslow Hastie Southeast Region

Winslow Hastie, Jr. a senior at Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) was one of five students chosen as a National Student Poet by the The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers partner to present the National Student Poets Program (NSPP), the country’s highest honor for youth poets presenting original work.

The five outstanding high school poets whose work exhibits exceptional creativity, dedication to craft, and promise are selected annually for a year of service as national poetry ambassadors.

“Charleston County School of the Arts is thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of this gifted writer,” said Principal Dr. Shannon Cook. “We look forward to seeing this opportunity unfold and the contributions he will make through this platform.”

National Student Poets are chosen from the National Medalists in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards with input from a jury of established poets and leaders in education and the arts. Throughout their year of service, the Poets will serve as literary ambassadors and will share their passion for poetry, literacy, and the literary arts with their communities and throughout their regions. Engagement includes service projects, workshops, and public readings. In addition, each Poet will receive a \$5,000 academic award.

Hastie is in the Creative Writing program at SOA. He began writing poetry in elementary school and has continued in middle and high school through at SOA. Living in Charleston for most of his life, he has learned to love and appreciate the outdoors and finds inspiration in the landscape and wildlife around him in the Lowcountry. Hastie frequently uses nature and the outdoors as common themes throughout his poetry and short stories. He enjoys using poetry as a medium to articulate and convey imagery, in particular, to recreate vivid images from the natural world.

“Mr. Hammes, Ms. DeTiberus, and I could not be more proud of Winslow. He came into our program in sixth grade with a distinct voice, a keen eye for detail, and a deep-seated love for the natural wonders of the Lowcountry. Through the years, he has – with genuine ardor – steadfastly honed these gifts to become not only a stellar wordsmith, but also, an encourager to his classmates, whom he challenges and uplifts on a daily basis in our writing workshop. He’s going to be an exceptional poetry ambassador.”

– BETH WEBB HART, SOA CREATIVE WRITING TEACHER



Charleston County School District security staff joined together with School Resource Officers and School Security Response Team (SSRT) members from the Charleston Police Department, Charleston County Sheriff’s Office, Mount Pleasant Police Department, and North Charleston Police Department for its annual training conference to kick off the new school year. Speakers from various CCSD departments and community organizations presented on topics such as district security protocols, working with students with disabilities, trauma-informed practices, threat assessment, and drug trends. Thank you to all of our partner agencies for the work you do to keep our students and staff safe!

Charleston County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or any other applicable status protected by federal or state law. Questions about non-discrimination policies should be sent to Charleston County School District, 75 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401 | Phone: (843) 937-6300 | communications@charleston.k12.sc.us

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