

# 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 5 | Edition 12 | December 2022

## CCSD's Vision 2027: Where all students read on grade level by grade 5

Superintendent Don Kennedy looks back on his childhood with great admiration for his parents who instilled in him the importance of education and work ethic.

His parents grew up in the 1930s in rural Fairfield County, north of Columbia, SC. During their marriage, they struggled financially as they raised eight children. Those struggles were due in large part to the lack of educational opportunities for black children. His mother attended school in a one-room building run by her church. Public school was not available to her or to children of color; in fact, educational opportunities, in general, were few and far between.

Knowing the opportunity that education provided, Kennedy's parents were adamant that all eight of their children graduate high school and attend college.

All eight children lived their parents' dream; in fact, the Kennedy children were the first generation of the family to do so.

A college education changed not only the trajectory of Kennedy's life but also that of his children and grandchildren.

"The life I have been able to live and provide for my family was unimaginable to me as a child," Kennedy explained. "The vision my parents had for me and my siblings unleashed the untapped potential in me and many generations of Kennedys. Vision 2027 is what I view as a way to unleash untapped potential in the children of the Charleston County School District."

Vision 2027 will ensure that all students read on their grade level by the time they leave elementary school, producing life-changing outcomes for CCSD students.

"If we can help children reach their potential to read well, we will also positively impact math, science, social studies, and other areas necessary for their long-term success," said Kennedy.

The goals and guardrails developed over months of engagement with the community and the Board of Trustees will be used as the path toward achieving Vision 2027. The strategies to meet each goal drive CCSD's plans to spend remaining federal ESSER funds earmarked for learning loss suffered during COVID-19.

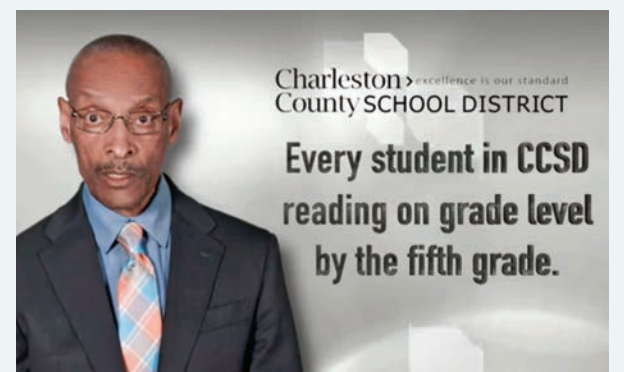
"Many of our students were struggling readers before the pandemic," said Kennedy. "According to the 2022 South Carolina school report card, only 53.3 percent of our students are meeting or exceeding grade level expectations [on the SC READY English Language Arts test]. We want to build a system where our students are prepared academically so they can enter the next grade successfully, graduate high school on time, and enter college or obtain a good-paying job after leaving CCSD."

Kennedy explained that reading on grade level is essential so that students are able to comprehend and understand what they are reading. Research shows that students who leave elementary school reading on grade level are four times more likely to graduate from high school on time and are prepared to enter post-secondary plans.

For students living in poverty and children of color, the percentages reading on grade level are much worse. Seventy-seven percent of CCSD's African-American students and 70 percent of Hispanic students read below grade level.

"These percentages have to improve significantly," said Kennedy. "If they do, these students' lives and the lives of their families will be impacted far into the future. I know how hard this work will be. We need the commitment of every teacher, student, parent, and administrator to begin the steady process to bring about change. CCSD cannot truly succeed until all students read well."

To achieve this ambitious goal, Kennedy created an Office of Literacy-Based Learning to focus on the District's work around literacy. Throughout the school year, the roll-out will continue with a core curriculum along with training in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) for PreK-3rd grade teachers. Additionally, targeted intervention options will be available to all schools for students who need additional support.



## CCSD HOSTS EARLY LEARNING KINDERGARTEN READINESS SYMPOSIUM



Charleston County School District (CCSD) held an Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Symposium on November 30, 2022 to expand collaboration among agencies. Local childcare providers and municipal partners joined Kim Foxworth, the district's Executive Director of Early Learning Readiness Programs, and her team to engage and collaborate on the important topic of early learning and kindergarten readiness. The focus was to collectively identify and define the academic and social-emotional skills of a Kindergarten-ready child.

The day-long symposium featured multiple breakout sessions led by state agency leaders and local childcare providers. Sessions focused on readiness resources, common expectations, and building collaborative networks. Dr. Jill Dent, Bureau Director of Early Childhood for the Mississippi Department of Education was the keynote speaker.

CCSD offers early childhood education from birth to five years old beginning with Early Head Start (0-2 years old), Head Start (3-year-olds), and Child Development (4K). The mission of CCSD's Early Learning community is to provide rigorous, developmentally appropriate instruction that incorporates social-emotional learning in a safe and nurturing environment.

"Convening all of our early childhood education practitioners and stakeholders is crucial to ensuring we have common identifiers of readiness, as well as the resources, supports, and training available to help get students kindergarten ready," said Foxworth.

Under the leadership of Foxworth, staff has begun to implement strategies to address the gaps to ensure all children that enter CCSD system are Kindergarten-ready.

"The expansion of seats in our early learning program is just one input into the early learning component of the K-12 ecosystem as access, opportunities, and engagement [or enrollment] must all occur in tandem to support successful outcomes of readiness," Foxworth explained.

The symposium is CCSD's first-ever gathering of local public and private childcare providers, state agencies, higher education institutions, elected officials, and municipal partners.

"Center-based, school district, and family home child care providers from the Charleston community will build ties that ensure continued partnership in readying all children for Kindergarten, positioning our community to remove barriers to access for early learning opportunities," explained Foxworth

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"Meeting Street Scholarship meant not thinking about money when I needed to be thinking about a reading or a paper. It meant not standing here already owing \$10,000 in student loans. It meant keeping my dreams in focus."  
Alexis Pinckney, Early College HS '21

## CCSD's new Board of Trustees

Charleston County School District welcomed the new Board of Trustees last month and hosted a day-long orientation with students and staff.

APPLICATION WINDOW OPENS JANUARY 24, 2023

**JANUARY 24, 2023**  
Application opens

**JANUARY 28, 2023**  
Virtual Choice Fair

**FEBRUARY 9, 16, & 21, 2023**  
Application assistance events

**FEBRUARY 24, 2023**  
Application closes

**APRIL 3, 2023**  
Acceptance notification to families

**APRIL 20, 2023**  
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 2023.

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

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Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT

Send your news and celebrations to [sully\\_witte@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:sully_witte@charleston.k12.sc.us)

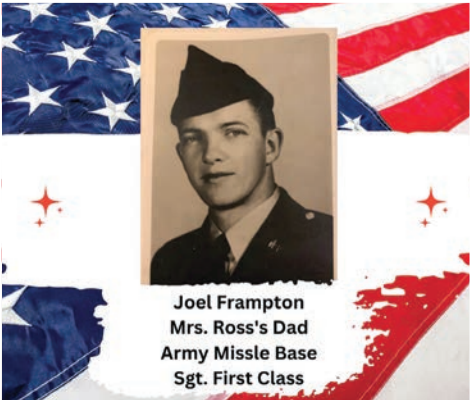
STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF OUR WORK!



# CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY



Eric Scanlon,  
Mrs. Scanlon's Husband  
Lula and Lydia's dad  
Marines, E5



Joel Frampton  
Mrs. Ross's Dad  
Army Missile Base  
Sgt. First Class



Don Hill  
Mrs. Hill's Husband  
Lt. Colonel, Army

Belle Hall  
Elementary  
School

## Division of Operations

The Charleston County School District Division of Operations honored its Veterans in November. The West Ashley High School (WAHS) JROTC participated in the event along with the WAHS Travel Cats.



## Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony

On Friday, November 4, 2022, three Charleston County School District administrators participated in the Joint Base Charleston Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony. Jamie McCarthy (Lambs Elementary School - Principal) 628th Air Base Wing and JB Charleston, CCC; Christopher Haynes (Jerry Zucker Middle School - Principal) 437th Airlift Wing, CC; and Herbert Singleton (Military Magnet Academy - Assistant Principal) 14th Airlift Squadron were paired with a military counterpart and will have the opportunity to learn about Joint Base Charleston's diverse missions. The Joint Base Charleston Honorary Commanders Program was developed to encourage an exchange of ideas, experiences, and friendship between key members of the local civilian community and the Charleston military community. The program provides a unique opportunity for members of the Charleston area to shadow commanders of a wing, group, and tenant units across Joint Base Charleston.



James B.  
Edwards  
Elementary  
School

Laurel Hill  
Primary  
School



North  
Charleston  
High  
School



St. Andrew's School of Math and Science



# Students collect flip flops to support children in Liberia

Students in Charleston County School District (CCSD) have once again supported an annual effort to collect flip flops for children and families in Liberia.

Earlier this fall, Dr. Helen Frazier, who has previously served on both the CCSD Board of Trustees, and District 23 Constituent Board, coordinated with principals at Baptist Hill Middle High School and E.B. Ellington Elementary School and Jane Edwards Elementary School to host the drive which resulted in the donation of several hundred flip flops.

Dr. Frazier will be making a return trip to Liberia in January; she has visited Gbarnga in Bong County in previous years with her sister to support a non-profit organization that works to change the lives of less-fortunate children through providing necessary physical items (food, clothes, and sanitation products) and education. The Flip Flop campaign is in cooperation with “It Takes A Village,” a 501©3 charitable organization with a mission of providing educational and humanitarian outreach activities to individuals and communities here and abroad.

Dr. Frazier noticed large numbers of kids walking around barefoot. Since part of all three schools vision is to serve the community, all three schools were eager to participate.

“My wife and I have always believed that there are givers and takers in the world,” said Dallas. “We all know what it feels like to receive; however, how many of us have experienced the joy of giving. Participating in the flip flop campaign allowed our students to step outside of themselves to do for others; to do for those in great need. Our hope is that they recognize that the more they give, the more they will receive.”

De Jong said that Baptist Hill students, families and staff are fortunate to have the ability to support this yearly event.

“We have surpassed our last events numbers by 120 sets of flip flops and want to increase next year’s total number to 600 pairs,” said De Jong. “Thank you Dr. Frazier for the continued support of our school and for allowing us here at Baptist Hill to participate in such a worthy cause.”

Principal Logan said the loving and caring children at Jane Edwards Elementary were excited about the Flip Flop campaign.

“Our Social and Emotional Learning curriculum begins with lessons focused on empathy and the Flip Flop campaign has allowed students to reflect on empathy in action,” said Logan. “We are thankful for the opportunity to participate in this worthy cause. Showing kindness will always be emphasized at Jane Edwards.”



# Slow Down for Students: James Simons parents push for pedestrian safety



James Simons Montessori School parents, guardians, and students, along with other downtown school parents, were encouraged to walk to school on November 14, 2022, to advocate for traffic safety awareness, especially in the downtown area. Students and their families walked with signs that said “Slow Down for Students.” One parent dressed up as a turtle and stood at the intersection as students and families crossed the intersection of Rutledge and Moultrie Street on their way to school.

The event was organized by Andrea Grabman and other James Simons parents. Grabman reached out to members of the Friends of James Simons (FOJS) board, who are also parents, and together, they put their idea into action.

“This slogan and students walking in mass to school will hopefully bring attention to the fact that these intersections are effectively school zones,” explained FOJS chair Kimberly Gleason. “We hope this effort will emphasize the issue that these intersections are also student crossing zones and drivers need to be mindful of pedestrians, specifically students, as they travel through their school zones.”

FOJS Extracurricular Enrichment Director Dominique Godfrey added there has been positive momentum behind safety for walkers and bikers on the streets and intersections near James Simons.

“Local leaders, parents, and Charleston Moves have been making great strides,” said Godfrey. “As a result of the momentum that was created, parents wanted to capitalize on the idea to raise awareness for the safety of their student pedestrians.”

Families who didn’t live close enough to walk were encouraged to ride their bike. If they didn’t live close enough to ride their bike, they were encouraged to park at the Hampton Park and walk from there.

“Whenever our school comes together in events like these, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the community of caring people that we are a part of and the lessons in activism that we are teaching our children,” said Godfrey.

School staff, parents, and students look forward to working with additional schools in downtown Charleston to do more of the events in the future.

# CCSD recognized for grounds maintenance excellence

The Professional Grounds Management Society® (PGMS®) recognized Charleston County School District (CCSD) with an Honor Award in the Society’s 2022 Green Star Awards® competition. The award was given in the Educational Institution School Grounds (K-12, Technical Schools, and Community Colleges) category for exceptional grounds maintenance.

Winners were honored during the Society’s 2022 Awards Celebration held last month, in conjunction with the School of Grounds Management Annual Conference & Equip Exposition in Louisville, KY, October 18 – 21, 2022.

Dennis Burgess (Plant Operations Officer) and Michael Dellinger (Grounds Manager) were in attendance to receive this award on behalf of CCSD.

“We are extremely proud to receive this honor that recognizes our district on the national level,” said Burgess. “It speaks volumes to the expertise, hard work, and dedication put forth by Plant Operations and Service Solutions to provide beautifully maintained school grounds.”

The Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence, complementing other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction. Overall, PGMS presented nine Grand Awards, its highest honor, as well as 19 Honor Awards, and one Merit Award.





# AROUND CCSD

## DONUTS FOR DADS AT ZUCKER

Fathers, father-figures, mothers, grandparents, other family members, and mentors gathered in the cafeteria for Jerry Zucker Middle School’s annual Donuts for Dad event on Thursday, November 10, 2022. North Charleston Police Chief Reggie Burgess and North Charleston Assistant Fire Chief Christian Rainey were the guest speakers for the event. The morning’s festivities also included a tie-dying contest and games with prizes. Krispy Kreme and Food Lion were the food sponsors. The event was organized by Zucker Parent Advocate Dwayne Crankfield and the PTO.



Zucker Middle School

## DUNSTON STUDENTS RECEIVE NEW BIKES

Students at Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School are “going places” thanks to former CCSD teacher Katie Blomquist, her non-profit Going Places, local businesses, and volunteers from the community. On Monday, November 14, 2022, every student (448) found out they received a brand-new bike. Students, staff, and families met outside and then watched as dozens of volunteers hoisted large tarps to reveal hundreds of bicycles with the name “The Reason” on them.

Blomquist and Going Places have now arranged for new bikes to be donated to every student at eight CCSD schools: Pepperhill Elementary (2017), Mount Zion Elementary (2018), Sanders-Clyde Elementary (2019), Edith L. Frierson Elementary (2019), Stono Park Elementary (2020), Jane Edwards Elementary (2020), Lams Elementary (2021), and Matilda F. Dunston Elementary (2022). Charleston Development Academy will become the ninth school later this week. Several more schools have received bikes through mini-reveals as well.

Charleston County School District is thankful for Ms. Blomquist’s commitment to spreading joy in the CCSD community, and for the work done by Going Places, local businesses, and volunteers.



Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School

## BOOK CHARACTER DAY AT JBE

Cara Dolan’s second grade class at James B. Edwards Elementary School participated in Book Character Day. The students chose a character from a book they loved and then dress up as that character. The students then parade around the school to show off their costumes. The students shared traits about their characters and shared with the class how their character fits into the story.



James B. Edwards Elementary School

## NEW SHOES FOR LADSON STUDENTS

All 855 of Ladson Elementary School’s students were so surprised and excited to receive a brand new pair of socks and tennis shoes this in November. Kirsten Aikens, Ladson’s Communities in Schools partners, Truist Bank, and many volunteers made it possible to fit each child for the perfect shoe!



Ladson Elementary School

## LATINO FAMILY LITERACY PROJECT AT CORCORAN

Charleston County School District celebrated Latino Family Literacy Project with a graduation event at Otranto Library. This was an eight week Family Literacy program held in Spanish for A.C. Corcoran Elementary School parents with children in CD through first grade. A morning session was offered in person and an evening session via zoom. Each week participants read an age-appropriate bilingual book and shared strategies to make reading a fun, engaging family activity. Seven of our 14 graduates were able to attend the graduation.



A.C. Corcoran Elementary School



# CCSD SPORTS



## BAPTIST HILL WEIGHT ROOM

Baptist Hill Middle High School unveiled a new and improved weight room for student-athletes. The result of the expansion is a state-of-the-art facility and all new equipment.

## GIRLS ON THE RUN PROGRAM

The Girls on the Run program at Stiles Point Elementary School finished out their season with a 5K at Riverfront Park in North Charleston on Saturday, November 12, 2022. All girls run with a running buddy, usually a family member, or volunteer from the community.

There were two teams of girls (40 total) that took part in the program and 5k, along with eight teacher-coaches from the school. All coaches volunteer their time to work with the third, fourth, and fifth grade athletes. The program takes place every year from August to November and culminates with the anticipated 5K.

Whitesides Elementary School also participated. Coached by Ms. Seebold and Ms. Steele the girls worked very hard over the last several months to prepare.



Stiles Point Elementary School



Mamie P. Whitesides School Elementary

## WANDO WINS STATE TITLE IN BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY; LIEBERT REPEATS AS INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMP

Wando High School's boys' cross country team won its third South Carolina High School League team state title, and first since 2015, with a convincing performance at the AAAAA state meet in Columbia on November 10, 2022. Led by Jake Liebert, the Warriors captured the championship by 38 points over runner-up Fort Mill.



Wando's boys and girls cross country teams



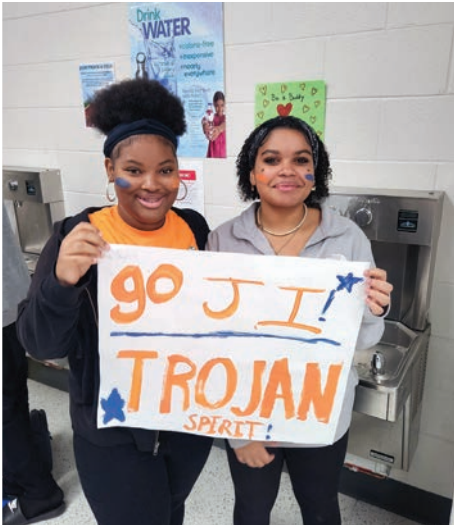
Jake Liebert

Liebert won the race with a time of 15:13 to repeat as the individual SCHSL AAAAA gold medalist (he shaved 28 seconds off his winning time from last year). Teammates, Brendan Gomez and Tanner Jelliff ended up third and fourth overall, respectively. Both earned all-state honors as well as teammate John Teachman who finished 13th. The Warriors actually had five runners finish in the top 20.

### 2022 Wando Varsity Boys' Cross Country Roster:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jack Butler (freshman)  | Jake Liebert (junior)     |
| Brendan Gomez (senior)  | John Teachman (junior)    |
| Brennan Harp (junior)   | Zach Teachman (8th grade) |
| Tanner Jelliff (senior) | Gansen York (freshman)    |

Head Coach: Bret Davis  
Assistant Coaches: Bradley Ross and Jennifer Emerson



## CAMP ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL TROJAN WALK

Last month, students at Camp Road Middle School cheered on James Island Charter High School Football players in an effort to pep them up before their big playoff game. This annual tradition is one students look forward to every year.



# CCSD, MUSC, AND TTC TEAM UP TO EXPAND HEALTHCARE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce a partnership with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and Trident Technical College (TTC) that will expand opportunities for Charleston area students to explore and become certified in health sciences careers. The pathways program will start at Burke High School in the fall of 2023.

This new partnership creates career readiness pathways for students while supporting community development and workforce engagement to address shortages in a plethora of critical roles in health care, including but not limited to phlebotomists and certified nursing assistants, registered nurses, and physicians.

“This exciting partnership will be critical to building an ecosystem that supports positive student outcomes and opportunities across Charleston County,” said Superintendent Don Kennedy.

According to the October 2020 MUSC Economic Outlook Study, healthcare is one of the economy’s largest industries at the state and national levels. In South Carolina, health care is a \$14 billion industry that comprises nearly seven percent of the state’s economy. The demand for healthcare-related services has increased over the early 21st century, primarily due to the aging U.S. population and the retirement of older generations from the workforce.

As a result, there is a greater need for healthcare workers across various occupations, which occupy nearly 8.5 percent of the workforce and represent almost two-thirds of the top 30 occupations projected to grow the fastest through 2026. Rising demand for services has also correlated with a rising demand in post-secondary education, which nearly 65 percent of jobs across the country require in some form, according to recent estimates. This partnership seeks to foster entry to



Burke High School will launch program next school year

post-secondary programs at an early level for CCSD students in the field of healthcare services. It enhances student experiences and future earning potential.

“Students will not only be able to be enrolled in dual credit courses but will also earn valuable experiences to prepare them for high-wage health care professions,” said Deputy Superintendent Anita Huggins. “We are beyond delighted to launch this program at Burke.”

In addition, interested students can transition to post-secondary educational providers with multiple pathways to associate, bachelor, and graduate-level programs.

“The partnership between these three institutions will benefit generations of CCSD students by providing unparalleled opportunities for highly skilled careers right here at home in our community,” added CCSD Board Chair Rev. Dr. Eric Mack. “I couldn’t be more excited about the future of education here in the Lowcountry.”

According to MUSC, individuals working in healthcare-related fields

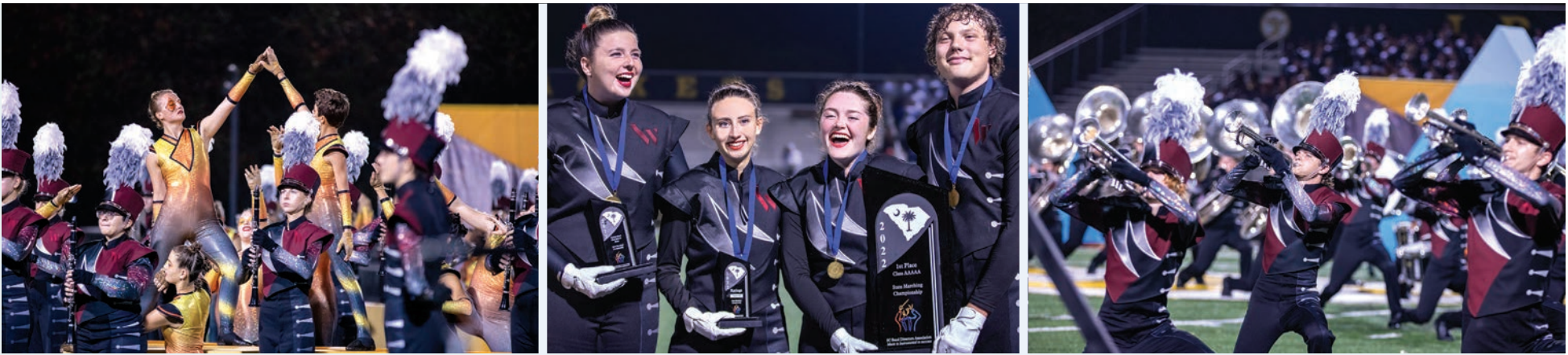
make, on average, \$22,000 more than the average wage among all jobs in South Carolina.

“Health care is a highly rewarding field. In the post COVID era, we need talented and dedicated individuals in almost every dimension of health care delivery,” said MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D., FACS. “This educational initiative with CCSD and TTC is an exciting opportunity. Providing the necessary guidance and experiences that today’s students require to prepare for a career in health care will create significant and long-lasting positive impacts for our local communities and the entire state.”

“We live in a booming area, and the health care needs of the region grow along with the population,” said Trident Technical College President Mary Thornley. “This partnership will give students the chance to explore a variety of in-demand health care occupations and get a head start on preparing for a career in this highly rewarding field.”

All eligible students in CCSD can apply to the program through the school choice process. The partnership will kick off in spring 2023 with a “Discover MUSC” interactive career fair. Students from middle and high schools throughout the district will participate in the field trip designed to spark curiosity and build awareness of the many professional pathways available in the local healthcare network.

“Burke High School is incredibly fortunate to engage in this transformative partnership with MUSC and TTC,” explained Burke’s executive principal, Cheryl Swinton. “This collaboration will expand pathways to success through our already-established Health Science program and increase related course offerings at our school. Most significantly, it ensures more students get equitable access to training that will educate and prepare future generations of healthcare workers. I look forward to continued opportunities through this experience.”



# Wando’s marching band wins 14th state championship

On Saturday, November 5, 2022, the Wando Marching Band captured their 14th South Carolina 5A state title, sweeping all captions including Outstanding Music, Outstanding Visuals, and Outstanding General Effect with a score of 96.45.

The Warriors have competed in the state marching band competition 14 times since 2005 and won the championship each time. The 14th win sets a new South Carolina state marching band record for most wins of any program in the state, breaking the Warriors’ previous record of 13 state championships.

“It doesn’t matter how many times we’ve won the state championship,” said Bobby Lambert, Wando Band Director. “Each title is incredibly special as the challenges and hurdles around us seem

to raise each year. From illness to pouring rain during finals, these kids have continued to face every challenge and rise above them beautifully.”

Wando’s show this year, Ascension, signifies the rise above all the obstacles facing our world since the pandemic.

“The show is a three-part work of performance art that explores the mystery of the unknown, yet the drive to explore,” explained show designer Michael Gray. “The revelation of finding your ‘personal’ mountain and conquering it. Lastly, we explore the victory of overcoming, the power, jubilation, and joy of realizing that each performer in the Wando band is a survivor on the field and in life.”

The show features the musical selections, Rest by Frank Ticheli,

Canyon by Phillip Glass, and Survivor, arranged by Jay Bocook and Vince Oliver.

The championship comes two weeks after Wando finished second in the Bands of America Regional Championships in Orlando.

The Bands of Wando are under the direction of Lambert, Lanie Radecke, and Jeff Handel. Michael Gray is the Program Coordinator for the Wando Marching Band, and Brian Winn is the Director of Color Guard.

The Bands of Wando thank the community, the Charleston County School District, the Town of Mount Pleasant, its Harmony Sponsors, the Bands of Wando Foundation, parents, and alumni for their continued support. For more information visit [WandoBands.org](http://WandoBands.org).



## JENNIE MOORE CELEBRATES 50TH DAY OF SCHOOL

The Child Development classes at Jennie Moore Elementary School celebrated the 50th day of school by dressing up in the style of the ‘50s, learning dances, blowing bubbles, and having root beer floats. They also had a Thanksgiving Balloon Parade, marching all around the school holding their balloon creations.



## Supporting Multilingual learners

The Office of Multilingual Services and Outreach hosted Multilingual (ML) expert Valentina Gonzalez to present on how to support Multilingual learners with reading and writing. Staff in attendance included music teachers, teacher assistants, parent advocates, reading coaches, exceptional children educators, and school counselors.

Major takeaways for participants centered around the power of sharing people’s stories, assuming that students have “greatness”, all students can learn with the correct scaffolds and supports, and that ML students come to the classroom with great experiences to support learning.



# Unsung Heroes at CCSD

**Chad Vail**  
*CCSD Career & Technology Education*

Congratulation’s to Chad Vail, CCSD’s Work-based Learning Partnerships Coordinator  
CCSD Career & Technology Education

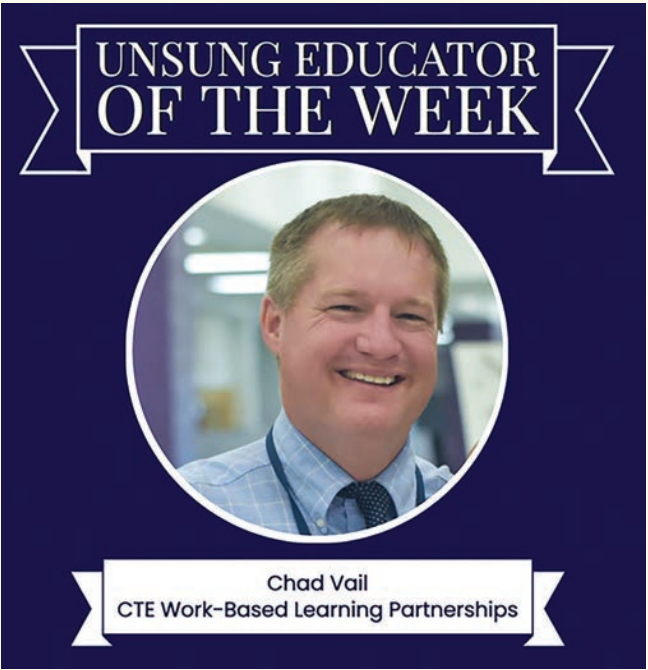
“The first time I met Chad he came into my classroom and wrote on the whiteboard, “IT’S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS”!

I came to realize very quickly, this was not just lip service! The guy is always on the move working, day and night! He works with businesses to create internships for our students, and constantly follows up with these scholars and supervisors.

These partnerships are so vital in preparing our students for a variety of different careers and he has made it a priority to promote STEM/STEAM activities in our schools!

I have never met anyone with more passion for their job and life than Chad!

Not to mention, he probably is the nicest person that you will ever meet! If our job is to prepare students for life after high school, give Chad and his team an A+ for the work they are doing!”



**Unsung Educator of the Week**



Darlinda Cox – Child Development  
Drayton Hall Elementary

**Darlinda Cox**  
*Drayton Hall Elementary School*

“Darlinda Cox is the most passionate, caring, selfless, creative, and dedicated educator I know. CCSD is lucky to have her join in as a Child Development Teacher this year at Drayton Hall Elementary.

Darlinda is a team player and always goes the extra mile in and out of the classroom to make learning fun! Darlinda goes above and beyond to engage her students. She spends countless hours creating exciting lessons to engage her students. Darlinda Cox is the type of teacher that every parent wants for their child!

We need more teachers like her in our profession.” –nominated by a colleague

**Mike Grant, Student Concern Specialist**  
*CCSD Early College High School*

“Mr. Grant greets all ECHS students as they enter the building each morning with a smile and words of encouragement. He also encourages them to grab some breakfast that is “delicious and nutritious!” He generally cares about the well-being of our students and takes the time to check on students when he senses there is a need.

Mr. Grant also helps to keep our students safe as they attend their college classes at the TTC Palmer Campus. He checks all the doors to ensure safety protocols are met and helps keep attendance records for these classes. He will tell you he has the best job in the world and we at ECHS are so lucky he’s ours.” --nominated by a colleague



**Unsung Educator of the Week**



Devlin Deveney, Music Teacher  
E. B. Ellington Elementary

**Devlin Deveney**  
*Music at E.B Ellington Elementary School*

Mrs. Deveney is the heart and soul of our fine arts department at E. B. Ellington. She leads the arts integration initiative at our school by modeling collaboration between the arts and general education teachers. She is reflective and constantly fine tuning her craft by seeking opportunities to learn, not just about music education, but also general education curriculum and initiatives. She takes Spanish classes in her free time to better connect with our multilingual learners. At Ellington, she is also responsible for most of the large grants and collaborative partnerships with community organizations, such as Charleston Stage.



# STEM studies picking up STEAM in CCSD

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is at the forefront when it comes to offering students STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) experiences and educational opportunities. In recognition of National STEM Day, November 8, 2022, CCSD highlighted the various programs offered across the district.

STEM curriculum is specifically designed to prepare and inspire generations of learners to meet the challenges of our 21st century society by fostering technological literacy, academic achievement, innovation, collaboration and creative problem-solving.

“From McClellanville to Edisto, all students throughout CCSD have access to academically rigorous and relevant Project Lead The Way (PLTW) STEM instruction that prepares students for the high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage occupations of the 21st century global economy,” said Rich Gordon, Executive Director of Career and Technology Education. “Students learn how to problem-solve, think strategically, and work in teams, all the while building determination and grit.”

STEM and STEAM instruction is available to all elementary through high school students in various ways.

For example, fifth grade students at Julian Mitchell Elementary School participate in a STEAM leadership group. Under the guidance of Margeaux Coyne, science lab teacher, students are learning about sustainable garden projects thanks to a BOSCH grant. Some of those funds were used to kick start culinary activities as well.

Mitchell is a constituent magnet where math and science are infused into all curriculum.

“Our EL and Bridges curriculum has STEM activities embedded in the lessons,” said Coyne. “We use our science lab to either build background knowledge before class lessons, or extend and enhance the lessons already taught. For example, in Bridges Unit



Left to right: STEAM at James Island Elementary School, STEM at A.C. Corcoran Elementary School, and STEM at Julian Mitchell Elementary School

8, third grade students build model bridges. When students come to the science lab, they continue to build bridges around a specific problem. Students will make evidence-based claims to support why their bridge would be the best choice.”

“These activities are bringing real-world opportunities to our students,” explained Coyne. “This year, I am writing another Bosch grant to continue the work we have started called Farm to Table Cooks Up Leaders.”

Coyne’s science lab is also full of hands-on activities. This month students are preparing to plant an urban garden. Students will design their own crop plan, start plants from seed, harvest, compost, and cook their own recipes.

“We want our students to have numerous opportunities to be creative, innovative, and make real-world connections,” added Coyne.

At A.C. Corcoran Elementary School, Susan Farmer is teaching her students about aeronautics. A representative from Trident

Technical College presented an overview and virtual tour of their new S.C. Aeronautical Training Center and discussed programs that they offer with a focus on the connection to STEM and a brief exploration of those careers. The students were treated to hands-on STEM activities as a result.

Laing Middle School’s STEM approach is a whole-school initiative that focuses on improved academic performance, 21st century career skills, and information on STEM professions.

Analyn Haynes is the pre-engineering instructor at Laing Middle school. Her classes are all project-based.

“Students are given a problem to solve,” said Haynes. “They use their engineering design processes to come up with solutions that they have tested and retested. Students show their understanding of the skills taught to them through their builds and make sure to present their research and solutions to the class at the end of their projects.”

## THREE CCSD SCHOOLS EARN AWARDS IN ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS GREETING CARD COMPETITION

James Island Elementary School finished in first place in the Elementary School Division for the 2022 Holiday Festival of Lights Giant Greeting Card Competition. Harbor View Elementary School came in second in the same division, and Orange Grove Charter Middle School took second in the Middle School Division.

This year, 38 specially-designed cards from student groups in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties are on display in Santa’s Village at James Island County Park.

James Island Elementary art teacher Suzanne Baranoski said a collaborative effort between their team of fourth and fifth graders

and a teacher assistant led to their idea for the greeting card.

“We were brainstorming ideas for something fun and related to the theme ‘There’s no place like home for the holidays,’” said Baranoski. “One of our Kindergarten assistants (Lynn Shepard) had the idea of a campground theme and ‘home is wherever you are’ since so many of us have been to the campground at James Island County Park. Our students were so excited for their art expressions to be rewarded in this way. Thank you, James Island County Park, for another awesome year!”

Student groups compete in the elementary, middle, or high school division. The winners are selected by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission. The top three schools in each division receive a plaque and cash award for use in their school arts program.

All of the cards will be on display at the Holiday Festival of Lights through December 31, 2022.



Left to right: James Island Elementary School, Harbor View Elementary School, and Orange Grove Charter Middle School

## Expanded Learning (Kaleidoscope) Officer graduates from prestigious Riley Institute program

Harold Sanders, a 21st Century program officer for Charleston County School District (CCSD), recently completed the South Carolina Afterschool Leaders Empowered (SCALE) Fellowship as an inaugural participant.

The Riley Institute at Furman and the South Carolina Department of Education have partnered to offer SCALE, a new program that prepares individuals across the state to be strong leaders in the field of afterschool and expanded learning.

Sanders had the opportunity to connect with and hear from other afterschool and summer learning professionals in a structured, well-designed curriculum.

“Mr. Sanders’ selection to this prestigious inaugural program was not surprising to me at all,” said Jason Sakran, Director of Expanded Learning (Kaleidoscope). “Our department is one of the largest, most well-organized afterschool programs in South Carolina and Mr. Sanders’ contributions to our team are immense.”

Sanders was one of only 20 applicants chosen for this inaugural year. Each year for the next three years, SCALE will convene additional diverse cohorts of emerging summer and afterschool learning leaders, providing them with the resources they need to build strong partnerships, secure funding and design and scale effective programming. Ideal participants are leaders who work in the school district or are partners with school districts to provide evidence-based afterschool and summer learning programs. Participants receive continuing education credits for their participation.



Harold Sanders

“It was great being a part of the fellowship,” said Sanders. “I was able to learn what others were doing across the state as well as share what we do here in our department.”

SCALE was a hybrid in-person and virtual educational experience. The program began with a weeklong intensive course on Furman’s campus from February 20-25, 2022. SCALE Fellows then participated in monthly webinars, took part in a field trips to a nationally-acclaimed summer learning program, and worked on a capstone project related to afterschool or summer learning. The program was grounded in deep discussion and led by a diverse faculty with afterschool and summer learning expertise.

“I can truly say it felt good knowing others shared the same passion and drive to deliver quality programs to the families we serve,” added Sanders. “I can see the shift across the state that the afterschool hours can be meaningful if used correctly. I am very excited about the afterschool movement that is taking place.”

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### Focus ON CCSD

#### Focus on Charleston County School

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