

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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Summer SAIL and SMAART programs make successful return

Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Summer SAIL (Students Actively Involved in Learning) and SMAART (Students Mastering the Academic Arts) programs were held this summer after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19; the only interruption to the programs in two decades. SAIL serves Academically Gifted and Talented students, and SMAART serves Artistically Gifted and Talented students.

Elizabeth Uptegrove, Assistant Academic Director and Gifted and Talented Coordinator, said the SAIL program came back with a strong focus, offering more in-depth and complex student activities to a more diverse student population than ever before. Additionally, in an effort to expand student opportunities, the Gifted and Talented website offers multiple at-home enrichment activities for continued learning.

At James B. Edwards Elementary School, almost 300 Gifted and Talented students from across the district (rising grades 3–6) participated in the 15-day program. Fifty students received scholarships to attend; transportation and meals were provided as well.

"This is more than just a camp," said Corrie Glover, Director of Summer SAIL. "It is a program with curriculum and instruction that requires students to dig deeper into the lesson. It is a challenging and accelerated experience to help them academically."

According to Dr. Denise A. Santos, CCSD's Assistant Director of Visual & Performing Arts, Summer SMAART is also more than just a camp. While fun and entertaining, Summer SMAART offers professional instruction in dance, drama, music, and visual arts. Classes in those categories are designed to appeal to a variety of interests.

"From the first day when students attend our program, they are immersed in the arts in ways that they cannot experience during the regular school year," said Santos. "Students are surrounded by peers that have similar arts interests, teachers who are artists themselves, and the whole atmosphere is one of creativity and outside-of-the-box thinking."

Summer SAIL



SAIL is the main service model for Gifted and Talented students in CCSD.

In Summer SAIL, each class is unique and there is something for each student's interest. Examples include coding, robotics, and mysteries of the ocean.

"Programs like this continue to challenge students during the summer and bring like-minded students together," added Glover.

Peter Scholz is a rising fourth grader at St. Andrew's School of Math and Science. He likes Summer SAIL because of the combined aspects of learning and fun. Scholz participated in architecture, chemistry, and coding.

"I like science and chemistry, and Summer SAIL offers educational classes where I can experience learning while having fun," said Scholz.

"I am leading the Mysteries of the Deep Blue Sea course," said Rachel Adams, Gifted and Talented teacher. "The students are engaged and interested in all things ocean. They are building models of the ocean floor, learning mapping, ocean zones, and uncovering which animals and life survive in each zone. We're

studying our local waters as well to compare to the larger picture."

There are ten different choices of classes for the students to pick from and each one is full.

Angie Alves is teaching Action and Reaction – Newton's Laws of Motion.

"It involves engineering, problem-solving, and communication of their findings," said Alves. "It is such a positive experience for students to take topics we're studying and apply them to new situations."

Isabella Mitchell is a rising fourth grader at Charleston Progressive Academy. She enjoyed participating in classes about Survival, The Magic of Chemistry, and Build it Better. She was particularly excited that the Juneteenth commemoration was included in their themes of Survival and Build it Better.

"You get to feel, touch, and breathe what you're learning in Summer SAIL," said Mitchell. "It is fun because it is hands-on and each activity goes with the lesson we're learning."

Alves explained that the hands-on approach to activities was intentional so the students were engaged.

"According to the parents, the students are talking about our activities at home, still thinking and pondering and trying new things with their projects," said Alves. "That is exciting to hear."

Adams said that students were encouraged to lead the way in their learning.

"That resulted in each scholar being invested in each activity," said Adams. "It was also fascinating to see how quickly the students acclimated to this new environment. They easily were able to work together and share dialogue. The students here want to learn and are respectful of the learning environment."

Both Scholz and Mitchell said they will be back next summer.

"I love SAIL at school and this is another way of learning over the summer," said Mitchell.

Summer SMAART



Like Summer SAIL, students in rising grades 4-8 who are identified as Gifted and Talented in an arts area get to attend Summer SMAART. Students must go through an identification process that includes a nomination, submission of audition or portfolio materials, and adjudication of the materials. If they successfully go through the process, students receive an invitation to participate in SMAART.

Out of the 300 students who attended Summer SMAART, 45 were awarded scholarships.

Students who attend Summer SMAART have the opportunity to explore, create, and experiment with the end result being having pushed themselves beyond what they thought they could do. The program culminates with performances and showcases of student work where students invite their families to experience the end result of their time at SMAART.

SMAART is a three-week intensive summer program where students take classes in their chosen "major," which is their primary area where they are identified as gifted and talented. Students are also given the opportunity to explore other Arts areas, as they rotate through "minor" classes in the afternoons each week.

"This year, we offered classes in many areas of the arts that provided students opportunities beyond the regular classroom," said Santos.

Summer SMAART offered ensemble classes in Band, Choir, Steel Drums, Piano, and Orchestra, as well as a Musical, Digital Music Studio, Film Music and Composition, The Actor's Studio, Musical Theatre Workshop, Studio Art, Textile Art, Performance Art, Artist Sketchbook, and Choreography for the Stage.

"We strive to provide creative opportunities for students to develop their talents and interests in the arts," added Santos. "Last day performances and exhibitions were a great success and a testimony to the quality instruction provided to our students. I think the parents were pleased and I am positive the students had a wonderful three weeks, as evidenced by the beaming smiles I saw."

SUMMER ENRICHMENT AT CCSD



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CCSD remembers longtime coach, Dave Spurlock



Dave Spurlock

During his time at West Ashley, Spurlock led the Wildcats to the playoffs twice. The second time they defied the odds and advanced to the final round but were knocked out by Socastee.

Coach Spurlock was instrumental in helping to establish the West Ashley Athletics Department.

He retired from coaching in 2007 and began his work with the district office.

Dave Spurlock, a longtime coach and administrator for Charleston County Schools (CCSD) passed away in June. Spurlock, who spent 42 years with CCSD before retiring in 2016, was 69 years old.

Spurlock retired in 2016 at age 63 after 42 years in CCSD as a coach, teacher and administrator.

He began as a coach at the old Garrett High School in 1974, and spent nine years as athletic director for CCSD.

After four years at Garrett, Spurlock moved to the former St. Andrews High School as an assistant football and head baseball coach.

He led the Rocks to a state title in his first season in baseball in 1978, then became the head football coach in 1982. Spurlock remained at St. Andrews until 2001, when West Ashley High was created with the merger of St. Andrews and Middleton High.



Culinary students and staff from Wando High School in San Diego



Molly Gordon and Taiye Akinjobi

Wando culinary students collect multiple honors at national FCCLA Conference

Culinary students and staff from Wando High School made the most out of their recent trip to San Diego, CA for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) 2022 National Leadership Conference. One graduating senior won a gold medal, and several others brought home silver medals from their competitions. In fact, Wando is the only school from South Carolina to have a top-3 finalist (gold medal) at this year's conference, one of a handful of schools where every competitor earned a gold or silver medal.

Wando's culinary students participated in the national competition (June 29 through July 3 in San Diego) thanks to excellent performances at the state level.

Leading the way in the FCCLA STAR (Students Taking Action for Recognition) Events was Taiye Akinjobi. She earned a gold medal and placed third in the country with her Chapter Service Project Display. Akinjobi (Class of 2022) executed a trifold presentation

on how she founded and opened Warriors United Food Pantry, which is a grocery store style food pantry now available for Wando families.

"This was the first year National FCCLA recognized a 'top-10' in each STAR Event category, so Taiye is the first ever SC Student to be in the top three," said Wando Chef Instructor Molly Gordon (who also serves as the school's FCCLA adviser). "Taiye said that no matter the medal color she received, she was happy to be a servant leader to help food insecure students at Wando."

Alex Henderson and Darya Zlati both earned silver medals in the Culinary Arts STAR Event. They prepared a sautéed chicken breast with an herb sauce, rice pilaf, and garlic green beans in 60 minutes. M.J. Miller received a silver medal in Career Investigation. She researched and completed a portfolio outlining the career of an executive chef. Miller job shadowed, conducted self-assessments, and described how Career and Technology Education classes

prepare her for the future.

Maggie Newton won a silver medal in her Baking and Pastry STAR Event. She made chocolate chip cookies, cream puffs, blueberry muffins, and decorated a cake within two hours and 45 minutes.

The students and staff enjoyed opportunities outside the conference as well. They saw sea lions at La Jolla Cove, visited the San Diego Zoo, and tried the local cuisine in area restaurants.

"FCCLA is such an amazing organization and truly builds leaders in local youth," added Gordon. "It is so fun to see timid students grow into themselves as powerful, confident, and inspirational leaders. These students will be able to take their new leadership skills and excel in life in and out of the workplace."

FCCLA is a student-led Career and Technical Organization that promotes greater understanding between youth and adults and democracy through cooperative action in the home and community.

No-cost summer meals for kids and teens provided by Charleston County School District



As part of its efforts to ensure kids have access to breakfast and lunch meals during the summer months, Charleston County School District (CCSD) is pleased to announce that 36 summer "open" sites will be serving summer meals to kids and teens. All kids and teens 18 and under can receive these meals free of charge. No registration is required. CCSD's Summer Meals Program will operate Monday through Friday until August 5, 2022.

The summer months are one of the hungriest times of year for many kids. The need will be even greater this summer as the nation continues to grapple with the pandemic and its continued impacts.

"Inflation is at an all-time, including the soaring prices of food, with no end in sight," said Jeremy Tunstill, CCSD's summer meals program coordinator. "Many families will struggle to put food on the table. I believe that our summer meals program can help these families in some small way."



To find a site near you, please open this map or click this link for a printable PDF version. To learn more about CCSD's Summer Meals Program, visit their website. Due to changes at the federal level, CCSD is no longer able to offer summer multi-day meals for parent pick-up as in previous summers.

FOUR ADDITIONAL CCSD GRADUATES EARN 2022 COLLEGE-SPONSORED National Merit Scholarships

Four more graduates from Charleston County School District’s (CCSD) Class of 2022 earned college-sponsored National Merit Scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) this year. They are part of the fourth and final group of winners in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, which was released this week. A total of 18 CCSD students earned scholarships from NMSC in 2022

THE FOLLOWING CCSD STUDENTS EARNED 2022 COLLEGE-SPONSORED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS:

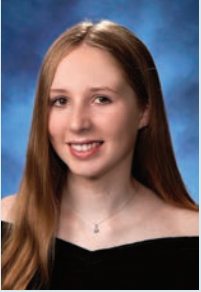

ACADEMIC MAGNET
HIGH SCHOOL



Anna L. Tangemen
National Merit Loyola
University of Chicago
Scholarship

David Y. Wang
National Merit Clemson
University Scholarship

WANDO
HIGH SCHOOL



Austin B. Foye
National Merit
University of North Texas
Scholarship

Sarah G. Rickborn
National Merit
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Institute Texas
Scholarship

NMSC announced the names of more than 1,200 winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities. These recipients join more than 2,600 other college-sponsored award winners from June. Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the finalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

“We are so proud of these two scholars for their latest remarkable accomplishment,” said Jacob Perlmutter, Academic Magnet’s principal. “David and Anna exemplify the character of our school, not just in academic excellence but in many other ways like service and building community.”

This year, 155 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 82 private and 73 public institutions located in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

“We at Wando High School are truly honored to congratulate two seniors on being offered college-sponsored Merit Scholarships from NMSC,” said Wando’s outgoing principal, Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer. “As Austin Foye and Sarah Rickborn prepare to attend these wonderful institutions, the Warrior community stands

proud of their academic accomplishments. We look forward to hearing of their continued success.”

More than 7,200 finalists were selected to receive National Merit Scholarships in 2022, totaling nearly \$28 million. Winners are students who have, according to evaluators, the strongest combination of academic skills and achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. The majority of National Merit Scholarships offered each year are underwritten by approximately 400 independent corporate and college sponsors that support NMSC’s efforts to honor the nation’s scholastically talented youth and encourage academic excellence at all levels of education.

North Charleston High School’s Ka’mya Grant placed first at the South Carolina Beta Convention



North Charleston High School’s (NCHS) Ka’mya Grant placed first at the South Carolina Beta Convention in February. Students and staff traveled to Nashville with Beta Club officers where Grant placed sixth in the nation placement in 10th-grade agri-science. Grant and club officers also participated in a leadership seminar while in Nashville. The National Beta club is a service organization whose core tenets include service, leadership, character, and achievement. NCHS’ beta club was founded in 1936 but had been inactive in recent years. The club was restarted by Jessica Townsley during the 2021-2022 school year.



Bobcat Cadets attend STEM Academy at South Carolina State University

Baptist Hill High School cadets participated in JROTC’s first ever Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) camp at South Carolina State University (SCSU). Baptist Hill was one of 45 North and South Carolina high schools that attended. Two Baptist Hill Cadets were among 270 cadets who participated in the STEM program. The camp was appropriately named “Camp Bulldog” after SCSU’s mascot. The cadets were given a choice between Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry, Nuclear/Physics, Cyber Security, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science to explore during camp. All instruction was provided by South Carolina State’s excellent faculty and staff. In addition to the classroom instruction the cadets were given presentations by Boeing and Savannah River Plant, introduced to drone operations and went on field trips to The Citadel and North Charleston Sewer District. The camp culminated with each STEM group presenting their final projects to their fellow cadets.



CCSD STUDENTS' WORKS DISPLAYED AT MUSC



This past school year, Medical University of South Carolina's (MUSC) Arts in Healing program worked to develop a Community Gallery of artwork. Charleston County School District (CCSD) students and teachers were given the opportunity to submit artwork to be considered to become a part of the Community Gallery.

MUSC's Community Galleries are a part of a larger effort from Arts in Healing to reach the larger Charleston community, while continually supporting those served within the walls of MUSC hospitals. From student-created work to poetry written by teachers, the Community Galleries exemplifies the innovation and creativity of our friends within the Charleston County School District.

The following CCSD students and teachers' artwork have been selected to be a part of the MUSC Community Gallery, and are currently on

display in the Main Hospital, as well as in the Rutledge Tower.

- Ariana Lane - Student, Charleston County School of the Arts
- Barbara Richardson - Teacher, Charleston County School of the Arts
- Lydia Woods - Student, Jane Edwards Elementary
- Abigail Short - Student, Charleston County School of the Arts
- Paul Visser - Teacher, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School
- Tova Sigman - Student, St. Andrews School of Math and Science
- Audra Elm - Student, Charleston County School of the Arts

"It has been such a privilege to have CCSD student and teacher artwork selected to be a part of the MUSC Community Gallery," said Denisse A. Santos, Assistant Director of Visual and Performing Arts.

"This project has been a true community effort that acknowledges the power of art and aesthetics in the healing process. Walking through the halls at MUSC and seeing all of the artwork is truly inspirational, and it is a privilege to have CCSD represented."

Through philanthropic support and a grant funded by OneMUSC, Arts in Healing has transformed the lobbies of both University Medical Center and Rutledge Tower. These transformations allowed for monetary awards to be made to teachers, students and community members whose artistic creations now make a difference in the health and well-being of our patients, families, visitors and staff. With over 50 works, the pieces in the Community Galleries offer moments of escape, affirmation, and encouragement to all who walk through our doors.

Three NCHS students chosen to attend Summer at Benedict College



Alumni of the program have gone on to have engineering careers at the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Others have even started their own businesses.

"We are grateful for the community's contributions as well as the gifts and financial contributions from Maximum Consulting Services, LLC," said Pryor. "This will enhance the student's experience so that they can immerse themselves in the college setting without distraction. I have tasked myself with pushing these students to take their education to the next level after they leave NCHS and it is our hope that this opportunity will further that."

The four-week residential program is funded by the Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. The program has been in place for nearly 20 years and started at South Carolina State University.

Three students from North Charleston High School were awarded the opportunity to attend the Summer Transportation Institute at Benedict College from July 5 – 28, 2022.

The Summer Transportation Institute at Benedict College looks to expose high school students across South Carolina to educational and career opportunities in the transportation industry.

J'wan Brown, Z'marion Brown, and Trinity Halls were selected for the program and will receive weekly stipends of \$100.00 over the four week program.

Maxine Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Maximum Consulting Services, LLC hosted a meet and greet for the families June 29, 2022 and presented the students with going away gifts that included items essential to their success during their time at the institute.

The students went through an application process at the school level and after careful consideration were selected with the help of Family Advocate Abria Pryor.

"Students were chosen based on their GPA, and references, but just as important, we wanted students who would represent North Charleston High School well," said Pryor. "This is a tremendous opportunity for these students."

The students will have access to workshops conducted by statewide and local transportation leaders. There will also be field trips to Boeing of South Carolina and the Challenger Learning Center. Students will learn about roadway construction and road safety.

"Transportation is often times thought of to be just only engineers but transportation is such a vast industry," said Summer Transportation Institute program director Dr. Vareva Harris.



2022 Trident Region Technology Champion

Congratulations to Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (CRCAS) student Marion Major on being named the 2022 recipient of the Trident Region Technology Champion. This award recognizes a student who exemplifies sound work-based practices while applying academia to real life, real work, and real-world situations in the business/industry environment.

Marion was recognized at this year's SC Education and Business Summit in Greenville on June 27. His parents, along with Flint Mincey, CRCAS Automotive Collision & Repair Instructor, Principal Vanessa Brown, school counselor Shirley Godfrey-Jackson, and Doug Vilhauer, CCSD's Sign Language Interpreter, were in attendance.



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