

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 4 | Edition 11 | November 2021



Dance recitals



Fine Art

Despite pandemic, students still enjoying fine arts in Charleston County schools

Charleston County School District (CCSD) offers an abundance of options for students participating in the fine arts. While things were slightly different last year due to COVID-19, band, chorus, and various fine arts simply adjusted. The 2021-2022 school year looks a little different as well, but fine arts instructors say their students are thriving.

According to Denisse Santos, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for CCSD, safety protocols are still being followed.

According to Denisse Santos, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for CCSD, safety protocols are still being followed.

"We are now allowed to sing indoors, so there are more precautions in place," said Santos. "The students must stand at least six feet apart to sing, and we've installed air purifiers with HEPA filters in every choir room that supplement our building systems that are already exchanging air four to six times per hour."

Santos explained that other measures include only allowing for 30 minutes of singing at a time. In the case of band members, they wear special musician's masks while they play and bell covers are used on their instruments. Dancers must distance themselves by at least six feet.

"The arts are alive and well in CCSD because our teachers are so committed and passionate about providing opportunities in the arts for our students," said Santos. "They've done everything they can to keep the arts going whether it is music, dance, drama, or visual arts. Teachers have gone above and beyond to figure out ways to continue to offer quality education in the arts despite the challenges."

District and school administrators have also been extremely supportive of continuing to offer arts opportunities, Santos explained.

"We have received additional funding to provide what students need such as additional supplies and instruments due to safety protocols," said Santos. "That kind of support is amazing."

Delaney Shorb, the dance teacher at E.B. Ellington Elementary, said that there have been some things students weren't able to do last year and this year, due to social distancing and other protocols, but there have been new twists to their routines, expanding opportunities for students to learn dance.

Last year, Shorb's students performed a virtual showcase of Frozen.

"The students loved it because they could still do a full performance that could be viewed by more people than the number of seats in our auditorium," said Shorb. "This year we are still moving forward with our on-stage production in hopes that we can open the auditorium up to a few guests as well as offer the virtual option, which in turn, continues to increase our audience."

Santos said passion and creativity from teachers like Shorb have been what has made the arts possible over the last two school years.

"The arts help our students become college and career ready," said Santos. "In the areas of the arts, we have to continue to provide high-

quality education to prepare students to get into arts programs to study in college or careers. This is not the time to slack off and put a hold on this because, for the kids, time doesn't stop. CCSD will continue to offer opportunities for them."

Santos added that during the pandemic, the arts are the very thing many students turned to which helped get them through.

"If we don't facilitate creative outlet opportunities for our own students to learn, we impede opportunities for them to express their creativity, especially in times like this," added Santos. "The pandemic has shown us how important the arts are to our emotional well-being. People turned to the arts when they needed comfort, creativity, and an outlet for stress. That says a lot about what we're doing for our students. We're committed to continuing to push on and become bigger and better."

At E.B. Ellington, they're doing just that, according to Shorb. She teaches all students in every grade. That has its challenges, she said because not every student wants to dance.

Shorb has structured the class to accommodate everyone, and she's seen growth in the ones who were the least interested.

"Dance, specifically, is beneficial to teaching to the whole child," Shorb explained. "It helps students develop empathy towards one another, and they truly begin to care about each other. Dance also teaches students to express their emotions. It has been awesome to see the students that I would never expect to like dance class be the ones to express their interest in performing. They are the ones who want more."

"This year we are looking forward to creating, dancing, and performing more," said Shorb. "COVID-19 won't slow us down. We're going to do just as much performing and we're looking forward to next year when we can share all of our hard work with the community."

"COVID-19 safety accommodations have been tougher on our music programs than on any other education program," said Chief Operating Officer Jeff Borowy. "Through it all, our teachers have done an incredible job of both keeping students engaged and in sharing ideas on safe practices with district leadership. I can't thank them enough for their 'show-must-go-on' attitude!"

Alyssa Lambert, chorus teacher at Moultrie Middle School, explained that it was hard for her students to stay motivated last year.

"They signed up to be in chorus class so they could sing and ultimately they were unable to sing as often as we traditionally would," said Lambert. "That kind of frustration resulted in students not signing up for chorus this year, which is discouraging. I am hoping to reignite the public's passion for encouraging their children to join a music ensemble in sixth grade."

The Moultrie chorus performed two concerts at the Mount Pleasant Farmer's Market (which is an outside venue) last year. The first performance of this year will be there as well.

"I can't say 'thank you' enough to the district for providing HEPA air filters," said Lambert. "Now my students can sing indoors for a substantial amount of time thanks to the advanced filtration system. Today, my sixth graders are trying out for solos which we weren't even able to do last year. We've had to make as many adaptations as possible but this year I feel like there is light at the end of the tunnel, which is amazing."

Lambert is grateful to the families who stuck with music education.

"Last year was a test of tenacity and fortitude to not give up," said Lambert. "This year we are just focusing on meeting every learner where they are musically and taking them farther than they ever thought possible."

The well-known and historic Burke High School marching band faced similar hurdles.

Director Linard McCloud explained that his historic band program is based on cooperation and collaboration with middle schools which makes for an easy transition.

"When the pandemic hit, it negated that scenario because we didn't have as much contact with middle schools and rising ninth-graders," said McCloud. "This year, we lost kids to disinterest and other reasons. I had 16 students and was only able to retain about four of them. Many didn't have access to WiFi or chose to get jobs instead. I'm sure all schools took a hit with size. The ones who did come back are having to play catch up."

McCloud acknowledged that the pandemic taught him that he and his colleagues are better teachers than they thought.

"We had to do things we've never done before," said McCloud. "We had to find virtual programs that are compatible with music. We had to do what we could to make ends meet."

"In some cases, I am trying to teach everything all over again and it has been hard," said McCloud. "Many of our CCSD bands are still trying to make it in spite of the size and instrumentation we now have. We hope everyone understands that performances from bands aren't the same; we are not in the position where we can do as much as we did in the past."

McCloud said that students are learning to read music again or better learn their scales and techniques. In the case of Burke, it's a lot like starting over, but not quite, he explained.

The Burke band still plans to perform, but on a smaller scale. Some competitions are tentatively scheduled as long as it is safe to travel.

"We're going to have a successful year if we all stay safe and follow COVID-19 protocols," said McCloud. "Our band is working to get better than where we were before. We're going to be showstoppers again very soon."

GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDS CCSD SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses in the Lowcountry and the state of South Carolina, the Mark Cobb Memorial/Ron McWhirt Golf Tournament raised more than \$15,000 for scholarships for students of Charleston County School District employees. More than 100 golfers participated in the 19th annual event at the Coosaw Country Club in North Charleston.



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CCSD CELEBRATES RED RIBBON WEEK



Buist Academy



Ladson Elementary



Northwoods Middle



Chicora Elementary



Springfield Elementary



Sanders-Clyde Elementary



Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary

UNITY DAY AT CCSD

Schools across Charleston County School District recognized National Bully Prevention Month by participating in Unity Day and wearing orange.



Ashley River Creative Arts



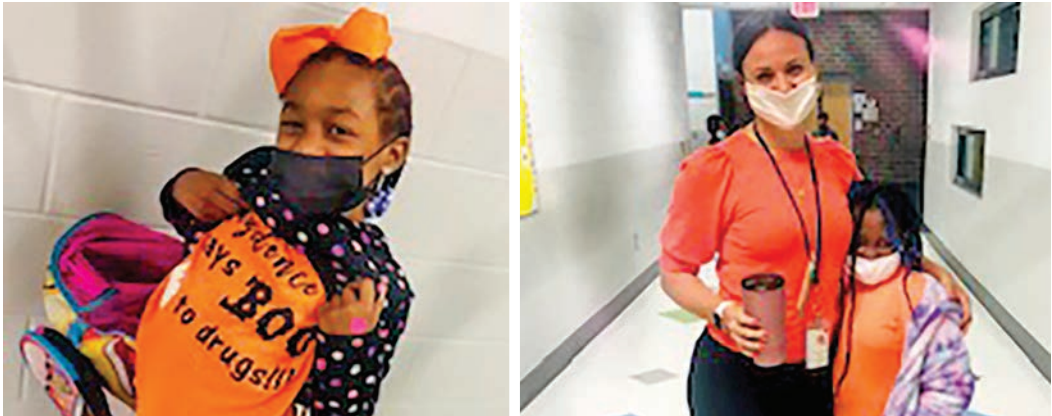
Deer Park Middle



Buist Academy



Liberty Hill Academy



Chicora Elementary



Simmons-Pinckney Middle



North Charleston Elementary



Oakland Elementary



Stono Park Elementary



Jerry Zucker Middle

SNAPDRAGON BOOK FOUNDATION RAISES MONEY TO DIVERSIFY SCHOOL LIBRARY ON EDISTO



The remodeled library at Jane Edwards



Students love to read at Jane Edwards



A grant will provide new books for students at Jane Edwards

The Snapdragon Book Foundation raised \$6,915 through a fundraiser for Jane Edwards Elementary School’s library.

The money will be used by librarian Jill Smith to purchase new books.

"We greatly appreciate the Snapdragon Book Foundation and the generous donors for supporting our school's goal of connecting students to the cultures of the world through books," said Principal Jarmalar Logan. "Our incredible teacher librarian, Mrs. Smith, continues to revitalize our library and library services in many ways. She has prioritized updating our book collection and this has made a positive impact on our school community."

The Snapdragon Book Foundation was created in December 2008 to provide funds to improve school libraries for disadvantaged children. Founded by a former school librarian, this foundation exists to put books in the hands of kids in a time when many schools are reallocating their funds to technology and audiovisual equipment.

"Jane Edwards Elementary School is a small, rural Title I school that serves a diverse community," explained Smith. "The school has 70 students from a wide variety of backgrounds and does all it can to help them learn about the world and the people in it. However, the library's book collection is aging and does not represent the reality of the students, the community they live in, or the world at large."

"This is such an incredible opportunity for the students at Jane Edwards," said Christy James, Library Media Services Coordinator for Charleston County School District. "Ms. Smith continuously works to provide a more inclusive and compassionate library collection and this generous gift from Snapdragon Book Foundation is going to add so many beautiful books towards this goal."

Books that celebrate inclusivity and diversity like "Amira's Picture Day" and "It's OK to be Different" will be read during story time and featured in the library. Students will grow their compassion for others by reading "We Could be Heroes" and "Some Kids Use Wheelchairs."

These books will be recommended to classroom teachers as well as students, and prominently displayed for student checkout. In addition, Smith will engage in conversations with students about the diversity they encounter in the books they read together, and when appropriate, students will participate in novel engineering challenges, where students will identify problems from these stories, design realistic solutions, and engage in a design process while reinforcing their literacy skills.

Smith explained that she was compelled to apply for the grant after a preK teacher came to her asking for books with children in wheelchairs. The library only had one book on that subject. That led Smith to do a diversity audit.

According to the audit, the collection suffered from an inadequate representation of marginalized groups, like the student who is wheelchair-bound.

"She is not the only student who would be considered marginalized," said Smith. "We have African-American students who need to hear their own voices represented in the books they read. We have Hispanic students, some who have been here all of their lives, but others who came to America only a few years ago. I want them to see themselves in the stories that they are reading, but I also want other students to see characters like them in those same stories."

Smith hopes that through these books, her students will learn about the plight of others and, hopefully, come to find a part of themselves.

"This project will help students see themselves in books as well as letting them look through windows and learn about characters who live different lives, with an end goal of helping the students realize that we are not so different after all," said Smith. "Miss Jane Edwards, the school's namesake, knew this in 1954 when she said, 'reading is the key that unlocks the door to everything'."

Smith's grant request was to fund a library project called 'Opening Windows to the World Through Reading.' The purpose of this project is to allow students to experience the diversity of the world through an all-inclusive library collection.

CCSD swimmers shine in SCHSL state finals

Swimmers from four Charleston County School District swimming programs combined to win five individual/relay championships at the South Carolina High School state meet earlier this week at the North Charleston Aquatic Center. This is in addition to the Wando girls taking home the AAAAA team state title and four individual/relay gold medals.

Lucy Beckham girls

Katie Grace Vandergrift (not pictured) won the program's first-ever individual state championship with a time of 58.91 in the 100-yard butterfly in the AAAA finals.

The Wando boys just missed out on the AAAAA team championship, coming up short by four points (314-310) to J.L. Mann. Lucy Beckham's boys' and girls' teams also finished as runner-ups in the team standings in the AAAA meets.

Academic Magnet boys

Kyle Hertwig (right and middle/right) defended his AAA state title in the 50-yard freestyle, recording a time of 21.41 (he won last year's event at 22.10). Teammate Jack Troy (far right) captured the AAA state championship in the 500-yard freestyle thanks to a winning time of 4:51.19.



James Island boys

Luke Nixon (left) secured gold in the SCHSL AAAAA 500-yard freestyle finals thanks to his time of 4:41.95.



Wando boys

The Warriors' 200-yard medley relay team of Charlie Green, Will Slowey, Mason Camp, and Chase Healy captured the SCHSL AAAAA state championship with a time of 1:37.00.

Principal of Angel Oak earns honor from Palmetto State Arts Education

Angel Oak Elementary School's principal, Judith Condon, made a decision to invest in the arts when she arrived at the school in 2017. That investment led to a range of opportunities for the students, and eventually, recognition for the school at the state level. Condon is the 2021 Palmetto State Arts Education (PSAE) Arts Administrator of the Year Award.

The honor goes to administrators who demonstrate a commitment to arts programs, make a difference in the lives of South Carolina's school students, and uphold the mission of the PSAE to advance learning in and through the arts for all students.

"I am honored to receive this recognition," explained Condon. "Our arts-integrated model at Angel Oak continues to be a driving force that supports overall school improvement, student engagement, and achievement. This award also recognizes the hard work of the teachers, staff, students, and families at our school as they work to think differently about curriculum, instruction, and assessment in order to serve this new generation of learners".

Condon was honored at the PSAE Conference in Columbia earlier this month, and was recognized by the Charleston County School District's Board of Trustees during this week's Board meeting.

In 2018, Angel Oak was the recipient of a federal SmART Literacy Grant

(over 2.1 million dollars) with ArtsNow to support Arts Integration training for teachers, artist residencies and arts experiences for students for a four year period. In this final year of grant implementation, the school will host "Demonstration of Learning" Days to share effective practices and impactful academic data supporting this model. Teacher portfolios have been recognized by ArtsNow as exemplars in showcasing the implementation of the grant.

In addition to implementing an arts integrated model with fidelity, staff at Angel Oak provide accelerated arts opportunities in dance, visual arts, music (and more) in which students can participate. Related arts teachers participate in "AI Push" blocks to work alongside and collaborate with general education teachers to integrate learning. The school has built an impressive strings (orchestra) program, a STEAM makerspace class and supports a thriving drama club. Local partnerships with organizations including Engaging Creative Minds, the College of Charleston Opera, YoArt, Charleston Jazz, the Charleston Gaillard Center, Charleston Stage and Palmetto City Ballet have helped students to recognize the power of the arts in the school and the community. The school hallways also serve as an interactive gallery space for "The Faces of Innocence" photography project in collaboration with the Besharat Gallery in Atlanta.



Judith Condon

National Custodian Week

Stiles Point Elementary celebrated the late Larry Doniphan, beloved day porter



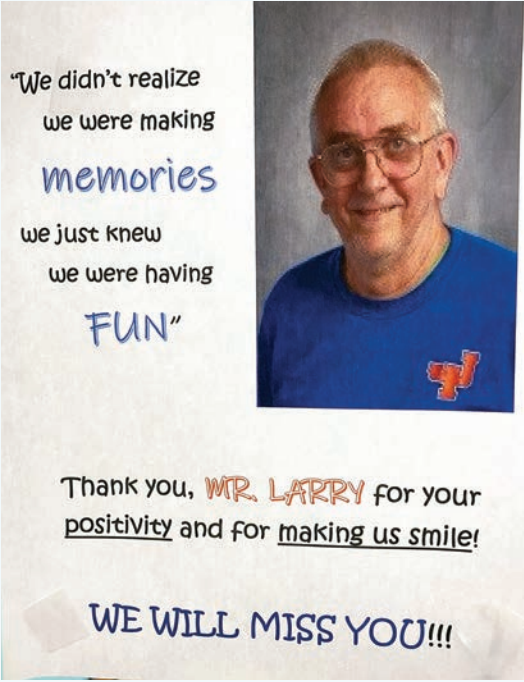
National Custodian Week is celebrated annually in October as a way to recognize those who keep schools and workplaces clean and running smoothly.

This day serves as a reminder to everyone that the custodians at their workplace need to be appreciated. Their role is diverse and they do so much more than just clean, they also perform building maintenance and fix anything that is broken. Without them, students wouldn't have a good, safe, and clean learning environment.

Across Charleston County School District, custodians were honored in a multitude of ways. From parties, to gifts to decorations students and staff went all out to recognize their colleagues.

At Stiles Point Elementary the school celebrated the late Larry Doniphan, their beloved day porter. The hallway was covered in banners, cards, posters, and pictures honoring and celebrating him outside of his office.

The hall remains decorated, as now it is a memorial. Students and staff turned tragedy into remembrance by wearing orange and blue in honor of the James Island Charter High School boys basketball team – Doniphan's favorite. He worked with the team and kept the clock for the games for many years. He had no wife or kids, so the students were his family. Students even pretended to be "Mr Larry" at recess and played by cleaning and fixing things. They all loved him. He was an icon Stiles Point.



PRINCIPALS MONTH AT BUIST

Like every school in CCSD, Buist celebrated their principals and administrators by showering them with appreciation during Principals Month in October.

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH



#ThankAPrincipal





HIGH SCHOOLS
ACROSS THE DISTRICT
CELEBRATED
HOMECOMING
IN STYLE!

Top Left: Wando
Middle left: St John's
Bottom left: West Ashley
Top right: Burke
Bottom right: Baptist Hill



THE WORKS OF TWENTY-TWO SOA GRADUATES TO BE PUBLISHED BY UNIVERSITY PRESS OF MISSISSIPPI

Twenty-two Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) graduates will be published by the University Press of Mississippi in a new book due out in August. The book features interviews with two-term United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins.

SOA English Department Chair, John Cusatis, Ph.D., teaches contemporary poetry to AP English Literature students. As part of that unit, students contacted high profile poets such as Collins and asked them to discuss their work, first via phone and then virtually.

“Students researched Collins before interviewing him, and now their interviews have joined the existing research,” said Cusatis. “Bringing poets into the classroom via conference call, Skype or Zoom, humanizes them. It makes the literature we study real.”

Through the years, Cusatis has helped facilitate the publication of more than three dozen of these interviews in the Dictionary of Literary Biography, published by Gale. They are available in print and most are also available to CCSD students through the database MackinVia.

Cusatis was inspired to propose a book of Collins' interviews to the University Press of Mississippi for possible inclusion in their esteemed "Literary Conversations Series," popular with students, scholars, and general readers worldwide. As a result, Conversations with Billy Collins will be published in August 2022.

“Poets have responded well to the request to be interviewed,” said Cusatis. “They are especially pleased that high school students are not just

reading contemporary poetry but are able to read it carefully enough to ask informed questions about the poets' work. One poet who befriended our school and spoke to my students on five different occasions is former United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins, dubbed ‘the most popular poet in America,’ by The New York Times.”

Conversations with Billy Collins chronicles the poet's career beginning with his 1998 interview with Terry Gross on Fresh Air, which exponentially expanded his readership, three years prior to his being named United States Poet Laureate. Other interviewers range from George Plimpton, founder of the Paris Review, to Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Henry Taylor to a Presbyterian pastor, and a physics professor.

Over the course of the 21 interviews included in the volume, Collins discusses such topics as discovering his persona, that consistently affable voice that narrates his often wildly imaginative poems, why poetry is so loved by children but often met with anxiety by high school students, and his experience composing a poem to be recited during a joint session of Congress on the first anniversary of 9/11, a tragedy that occurred during his tenure as poet laureate. He also explores his love of jazz, his distaste for gratuitously difficult poetry and autobiographical poems, and his invention of a mock poetic form: the paradelles.

“Irreverent, incisive, and deeply life-affirming, like his twelve volumes of poetry, these interviews, gathered for the first time in one volume, edify and entertain readers in the way his sold-out readings have done for the past quarter century,” explains the publisher's jacket

copy.

“There is no better source for understanding how a poem comes into existence than the poets themselves,” added Cusatis. “As a result of their extensive research, drafting, interviewing, transcribing, and editing, these SOA graduates, all credited in the book, are published authors.”

“I am so proud of our students and their gifted teacher, Dr. Cusatis, for their contributions to this project,” said SOA Principal Dr. Shannon Cook. “I was present in one of the interview sessions with Mr. Collins and was impressed with the knowledge and insight reflected in the questions they posed to this renowned poet and classroom guest. We at Charleston County School of the Arts have much to celebrate as this collection is published and shared worldwide.”

The most recent SOA graduates who are credited in the book include Hannah Burton, Alex Clifford, Maya Cline, Caroline Conway, Ellen Emge, Hannah Jones, Christina Lewis, Luke Shaw, Layla Wheelon, John White, and Kitty Zheng (Class of 2020 and 2021) in addition to graduates from the Class of 2011 and 2012, Jordan Baer, Colleen Brennan, Mary Lee Carter, Austin Cope, Stephanie Hardy, Free Kopsak, DeVante Lee, Rachel Riddle, and Madison Smith.

“My most influential professor at the University of South Carolina, Matthew J. Bruccoli, edited the first volume of the Literary Conversations Series, a collection of Ernest Hemingway interviews, in the mid-1980s,” said Cusatis. “It is an honor to have edited this most recent volume on Billy Collins and to be able to include the work of my own students.”



“There is no better source for understanding how a poem comes into existence than the poets themselves. As a result of their extensive research, drafting, interviewing, transcribing, and editing, these SOA graduates, all credited in the book, are published authors.”

JOHN CUSATIS, SOA ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIR

CCSD hosts Call Me MiSTER Tour

The CCSD Teacher Recruitment Office hosted its annual Call Me MiSTER Bus Tour Friday, November 5, 2021. During each school visit, Call Me MiSTERS from South Carolina State University had the opportunity to walk and talk with staff members while seeing CCSD students in action at EB E.B. Ellington Elementary School, C.E. Williams South (6th Grade Campus), North Charleston Elementary School, and Morningside Middle School.

As CCSD looks for ways to combat challenges within the field of education, the Call Me MiSTER Program is an essential component of teacher leadership. This year Charleston County students are benefitting from the leadership of twelve Call Me MiSTER Alumni Educators. The goal is to recruit many more MiSTERS to the CCSD family.

The mission of the Call Me MiSTER® (an acronym for Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) Initiative is to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader more

diverse background particularly among the State's lowest-performing elementary schools. Student participants are largely selected from underserved, socio-economically disadvantaged, and educationally at-risk communities.

THE PROJECT PROVIDES:

- Tuition assistance through Loan Forgiveness programs for admitted students pursuing approved programs of study in teacher education at participating colleges
- An academic support system to help assure their success
- A cohort system for social and cultural support
- Assistance with job placement



Call Me MiSTER at E.B. Ellington Elementary



Call Me MiSTER at North Charleston Elementary

Policy

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION

Code KB Issued 4/18

PURPOSE: TO ESTABLISH THE BOARD’S VISION FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS AND FAMILIES IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

Charleston
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART
OF OUR WORK!

November 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

Charleston County School District invites the participation of parents and the community as we strive to meet the ambitious goals in our Strategic Plan. The progress that has been made is due in part to the positive contributions made by parents. Parent and Family Engagement is vital to the success of the District. Research shows that when parents are involved in their children’s education, children earn higher grades, take higher level courses, graduate on time, and are able to attend college or begin their careers.


The Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA, requires all districts receiving Title I federal funding to develop, with the input of parents, a Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The ESSA legislation defines parent and family engagement as “the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring–

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at schools;
- that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their children.”

Please review the CCSD Parent and Family Engagement Policy. It details the District’s commitment to involving parents and the community in our schools. It also defines the means by which the District will carry out its obligation to engage parents and the community in decisions that impact student achievement by providing opportunities for involvement in our schools. Student achievement is our shared responsibility.

I welcome your comments and feedback on this policy. Please email those comments and any feedback you may have to parentpolicy@charleston.k12.sc.us. This will assist in the annual evaluation of the policy and help to strengthen parent and family engagement in the District.


Sincerely,



Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

75 Calhoun Street • Charleston, SC 29401 • tel. (843) 937-6609 • fax. (843) 937-6595 • www.ccsdschools.com



The board believes it can impact student achievement by improving the quality and quantity of parent and family engagement in the education of their children.

The Charleston County School District encourages, supports, and values the participation and involvement of parents/legal guardians and families in the educational experiences of their children. The district recognizes each parent/legal guardian as their child’s first teacher and acknowledges the powerful influence of parents/legal guardians on their child’s life. Charleston County School District shall develop family-friendly schools, offices, and programs that welcome and serve parents/legal guardians and families in positive and supportive environments.

Students learn best when families and schools work together and develop relationships of shared responsibility and mutual support. The goal shall be to meaningfully collaborate with parents/legal guardians of students of all ages and all grades. Charleston County School District recognizes that families are diverse in culture, language, and needs, and shall implement strategies to enhance effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and student progress.

The district shall assist parents/legal guardians in learning how home environments can support the academic achievement and overall success of students. Parents/Legal guardians and families are encouraged to be involved in their children’s learning at home through homework and other curriculum related activities. Communicating the value of an education and the importance of high expectations shall be emphasized. Charleston County School District embraces the responsibility to help parents/legal guardians access and secure educational information, services, and opportunities for their children. Strategies such as school-based parent resource rooms, parenting and child development classes, home visitation opportunities, and adult education programs shall be offered to support parents/legal guardians. Special assistance shall be provided to ensure that non-English speaking parents/legal guardians also participate as full partners in their child’s education. Parents/Legal guardians make valuable contributions to the educational process and shall be included as participants in important school and district decisions. Parents/Legal guardians are encouraged to participate in parent organizations, councils, and clubs at both the school and district level, and to serve as volunteers for classroom, school, and districtwide activities. Charleston County School District shall strive to improve the recruitment, training, work, and schedules of parent and family volunteers to more fully

support students and school programs.

As a priority focus for the district, parent and family engagement goals, initiatives, and evaluation strategies shall be incorporated into the strategic and school renewal planning processes and shall be supported, as appropriate, through the allocation of district and special revenue resources. Professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, and other district employees shall be offered to enhance the ability of schools to effectively serve all students, parents/legal guardians, and families. Charleston County School District shall recognize schools with exemplary parental and family engagement programs and disseminate these best practices throughout the district. The district shall also collaborate and cooperate with businesses, community agencies, and faith-based organizations to support the needs of parents/legal guardians and families and to provide services to the community.

The superintendent shall conduct, with the involvement of parents/legal guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy.


In fulfilling its responsibilities to the parents/legal guardians and students of Charleston County School District, the board of trustees shall adhere to the mandates of all state and federal legislation addressing parental and family engagement issues.

Any proposed amendment to this policy shall be presented to the policy committee and the board.



The superintendent will develop administrative regulations, as necessary, to implement this policy and meet requirements of the law.

Cf. 1G, 1GCA, IHAK, IHAQ, IHBC, IHCA, IKE, JLD, KBB
Adopted 4/28/03; Revised 1/23/06, 3/25/13, 4/23/18


Legal References:
A. Federal Law:
1. Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No 114-95.
2. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.
B. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
1. Sections 59-28-100 through 59-28-220 - Parental Involvement in Their Children’s Education Act.
2. Section 59-139-90 - Strategic plans to include stated goals and objectives for parent involvement.
C. State Board of Education Regulations:
1. R43-205 - Administrative and professional personnel qualifications, duties, and workloads.
2. R43-234 - Defined program, grades 9-12.





CCSD SCHOOLS
CELEBRATE
Halloween



Mount Pleasant Academy pumpkin patch



Jennie Moore Elementary rappelling



Burke Elementary trunk or treat

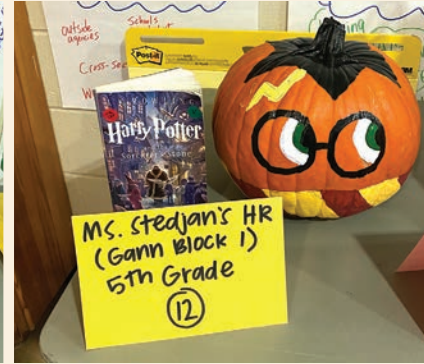


Focus ON CCSD

Focus on Charleston County School District is published for, by and about CCSD, the state of South Carolina’s premier school district where *Students are the Heart of our Work.*

Gerrita Postlewait, Superintendent of Schools

Erica Taylor, Chief of Staff

Sully Witte, Communications Officer



North Charleston Elementary pumpkin displays

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

Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF OUR WORK!