

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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Mayor Tecklenburg's Book Club and CCSD launch Mayor's Lending Libraries



Superintendent Donald Kennedy



The launch of the Mayor's Lending Libraries



Councilmember Jason Sakran

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg's Book Club, and the Charleston County School District launched a new initiative called The Mayor's Lending Libraries. This effort provides the donation of 20 children's books to all 49 Pre-K classrooms in the public schools in the city of Charleston. In an effort to encourage early reading development and family literacy, students will be able to check-out books to take home, read and return to the classroom. Additionally, books will be provided to the Charleston County School District's Expanded Learning Program. The books were donated by Charleston-based United Parcel Service stores.

The Mayor was joined by Charleston County School District Superintendent Donald Kennedy and Charleston County School District Director of Expanded Learning and Charleston City Councilmember Jason Sakran.

CCSD schools receive grants from TangerKids



Chicora Elementary



Sullivan's Island Elementary

Tanger Outlets Charleston recently presented three Charleston County School District (CCSD) school-based programs with TangerKids grants. Chicora Elementary School's Tools for Talent Development, Sullivan's Island Elementary School's Social/Emotional Learning Center, and Harbor View Elementary School's Courtyard and Garden Beautification Shade Project are all 2022 recipients.

In addition, for the first time, TangerClub members were invited to vote on the winning projects in a nationwide Member Choice poll this year. Through this new program update, the CCSD Gifted and Talented program at Chicora, Matilda F. Dunston Elementary, and Charleston Progressive Academy, led by Gifted and Talented teacher Rachel Adams finished in the top five and received an additional \$1,000. The program highlights the district's initiative to increase critical reasoning opportunities for students who demonstrate significant academic potential but are frequently under-represented by traditional gifted identification measures.

"Being awarded the TangerKids grant means the students I serve will have access to tools which will support development of their reasoning and critical thinking skills," explained Adams. "These talents are an important component of the profile of a Gifted and Talented student in CCSD. I am grateful for this funding and to be able to offer access to learning opportunities that will stretch the thinking and talents of those students I serve."

Chicora Principal Monica Smalls added that the resources would expand access and foster student growth.

"Our Chicora family is delighted to receive the \$2,500 grant from Tanger Outlets," said Smalls. "With a focus on academic accomplishment, social development, and future success, the Gifted and Talented Program empowers children to realize their full potential. Our children will access resources that will help them develop their strengths and talents in critical thinking and reasoning skills as more pupils get the chance to receive enrichment. We at Chicora are delighted that our children are being acknowledged and given this fantastic opportunity."

Tanger Outlets funded \$160,000 in classroom investments across the country through the TangerKids Grants program. More than half of grant funding is allocated to teacher-led initiatives designed to support more inclusive classroom environments for underserved schools and student populations.

The annual program is open to public and private schools. This year's winners were chosen from numerous applicants within the Charleston (tri-county) area.

"Creating opportunity for all is a top priority at Tanger," said Tanger Outlets Marketing Director Andrea Gervacio. "It's humbling to see the impact of these grants, which were requested directly by Charleston area teachers for projects that enhance learning environments and support students' success both in and out of the classroom."

Tanger Charleston team members visited Chicora, Sullivan's Island, and Harbor View to present winners with a check and celebrate the schools' educators and students on September 14, 2022.



Harbor View Elementary

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni Football Friday



OCTOBER 28
5:00-7:00PM
7:30PM Kick-Off

MORE
INFORMATION:
bit.ly/wando50

Wando's alumni and family are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship and fun!



CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES

SAVE THE DATE for Family Data Conferences

**October 21, 2022 to
December 16, 2022**

Be on the lookout for more information from your child's school in the coming weeks with dates and times for your student's family data conference this fall!



Charleston excellence is our standard
CountySCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS ARE
THE HEART
OF OUR WORK!

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CCSD SCHOOLS CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies



Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School



Pepperhill Elementary School



R. B. Stall High School



Northwoods Middle School



E.B. Ellington Elementary School

Rick Hendrick donates sweatshirts and spirit shirts to C.E. Williams North

The students of C.E. Williams Middle School – North Campus (CEW), are keeping warm this fall thanks to the school’s business sponsor, Rick Hendrick BMW and MINI of Charleston. Every sixth grade Wolverine was given a CEW sweatshirt and CEW Spirit t-shirt.

Principal Maite Porter recognized a need for students to have uniform appropriate outerwear. She reached out to Rick Hendrick and they generously responded.

The generosity doesn’t stop there.

“This is our fourth year working with Rick Hendrick BMW and MINI of Charleston” Principal Porter said. “They’ve supported our campus in many ways including supporting our faculty and staff with appreciation events, donating Thanksgiving dinners for our school and West Ashley community, donating 500 sweatshirts, and more.”

Rick Hendrick’s Shelia Thomasson is excited about the partnership as well.

“We had a great time cooking out for the staff to kick off the year,” said Thomasson. “Rick Hendrick BMW and MINI of Charleston are thrilled to include the Teacher of the Year and Principal Porter in some of our monthly employee celebrations and look forward to opportunities to welcome students and staff to the dealership for visits to learn about the automotive industry.”



Charleston Gaillard Center Celebrates Engaging 100k Students and Honors Star Teacher of the Year



In honor of National Arts in Education Week, the Charleston Gaillard Center announced that in the spring of 2022, its Education & Community Program welcomed its 100,000th student to the Gaillard Center. The Gaillard Center also announced the 2021-2022 Star Teacher of the Year, presenting Erin Bianco, a third-grade teacher at Mount Zion Elementary School on Johns Island, with the award for her dedication to integrating the arts into her classroom, even during the challenges presented during the pandemic.

Lissa Frenkel, President & CEO of the Charleston Gaillard Center, stated “The Gaillard Center’s robust education program has worked so well thanks to teachers like Ms. Bianco.”

Since reopening in 2015, the Gaillard Center has served as the community’s largest classroom, providing access for Lowcountry students to experience world-class artists and performances without financial barriers. Through its Education & Community Program, the Gaillard has welcomed in students to engage with trained teaching artists, learn through innovative programs, attend performances, and participate in in-school programs designed to complement the state curriculum, allowing the students to expand their imaginations, stretch their limits, and experience live performing arts.

Education & Community Program’s Impact 2015 - 2022

Over six seasons, the Gaillard Center has presented 57 education performances. The 100,202 students from over 130 schools in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties have enjoyed premier artists inside the Martha & John M. Rivers Performance Hall. Chosen to correlate with the South Carolina Department

of Education Standards, and inclusive of curriculum materials, the education performances for students included bringing children’s literature to the stage, with classics such as The Magic Treehouse, Don’t Let Pigeon Drive the Bus, and Miss Nelson Has a Field Day. Students have explored scientific principles through the magic of Bill Blagg and learned music theory through Grammy Award-winning artists like Ranky Tanky.

To ensure the Gaillard Center provides access to every student, Title 1 Schools receive free tickets and free bus transportation to education performances. 73% of students attending in the 2021-2022 season attended barrier free. Since launching the education program, the Gaillard Center has spent over \$200,000 in the funding of 999 school buses.

Gaillard educators also engage with students inside their own classroom. Using arts-enhanced lesson plans, the Gaillard’s Education team provides free in-school, pre and post performance workshops that prepare students for what they will see, introduce the content, tie it to the classroom curriculum, and explore the themes and content through art. Since 2015, the Gaillard has conducted 947 workshops inside the community’s schools.

Additionally, the artist-in-residence program, one of the cornerstones of the Gaillard Center, connects students with local artists to inspire the next generation and deepen students’ understanding of the process of creating work. Gaillard Artist-in-Residence Emeritus, Grammy Award winner, and member of Ranky Tanky, Charlton Singleton has taught in 80 schools and reached over 14,457 students. Artist-in-Residence Emeritus and Charleston poet laureate, Marcus Amaker has reached 4,006

students through his poetry workshops.

Star Teacher of the Year Award

On Friday, September 16, the Gaillard Center celebrated not only the 100,000 students it has reached, but also the teachers it has partnered with by presenting its 2021-2022 Star Teacher of the Year Award to Erin Bianco, a third-grade teacher at Mount Zion Elementary School on Johns Island.

This past school year, educators were faced with many challenges as the global pandemic continued to interrupt traditional classroom learning. Erin Bianco worked diligently to plan a mini-arts residency for her students and colleagues. Ms. Bianco organized field trips to the Charleston Gaillard Center so her students would have the opportunity to experience the live performing arts. She also served as a liaison, modeling and encouraging her teammates to invite the arts into their own classrooms.

Stephanie Lancaster, Education Manager at the Charleston Gaillard Center, expressed, “Erin not only brings her love for the arts to her classroom, but also to her whole school. I had the privilege of hosting a mini-residency in her second grade classroom in the fall of 2021 and hosted Black Violin workshops. She organized workshops for all of the grades at Mount Zion to ensure that all students had the opportunity for an arts-enriched workshop. When you enter her classroom, it is evident that her students participate in hands-on experiments and are not afraid to try new things. Her students constantly want to share their creations and learnings with her. Erin moved up with her class this school year and will teach 3rd grade.”


NORTHWOODS MIDDLE RECEIVES OUTRIDE GRANT – RIDING FOR FOCUS 2022

Research says that students who exercise and remain physically active throughout the day are more motivated and engaged. They tend to do better in the classroom, too.

Educators at Northwoods Middle School are ensuring that their students have every opportunity to do just that. Northwoods received a fleet of 35 mountain bikes from The Outride cycling program. The school was chosen as a recipient of the foundation’s grant for Fall 2022.

“I am so excited about this opportunity for the scholars at Northwoods Middle School,” said Principal Keturah Gadson. “The partnership between our school and Riding for Focus will allow us to introduce scholars to another healthy way to get exercise, build relationships, manage stress, and create life-long habits that can improve their overall wellbeing. Coach Reilly has done an amazing job of coordinating this experience and I really appreciate her work to ensure that, throughout the life of this grant, all of our students will have the opportunity to have the Riding for Focus experience.”

Outride is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of youth through cycling. Through research, school-based cycling programs, and matching community grants, Outride harnesses the benefits of cycling for the cognitive,



socio-emotional, and physical well-being of youth while also helping to cultivate inclusive cycling communities.

Northwoods will implement the curriculum in the Spring 2023 semester. This three year partnership will be used in the physical education courses. In addition, Northwoods has a vision of starting an after school cycling program.

“We are excited to see the growth in our students both physically and from a social emotional perspective,” said Meg Reilly, physical education instructor. “We have partnered with Main Street bike shop in Summerville who will assist in assembling the bikes and regular maintenance.”

In addition to the mental and academic benefits, the curriculum teaches the students basic bike safety. The students are responsible for making sure their bike is safe to ride by

conducting the basic ABC bike check (air, brakes, chain, and cranks). They each have their own helmet and they’re learning how to reach their target heart rate and how to check it.

Daily lessons send students peddling through various obstacle courses. There are days when the lessons center on riding etiquette, decision-making, and best practices. The students are learning about eye contact with vehicular drivers and who might have the right-of-way. What started as beginner lessons inside the gymnasium, to riding around the parking lot and then on the nearby trails, will culminate in a final lesson on road readiness. At the end of each school year, local law enforcement will join students on their final trek. The bikes are built to last five or more years. Reilly plans to add to the fleet annually so as to increase the number of students she can reach through the program.

“We are so excited for this opportunity for the scholars at Northwoods and think the data will support the school’s academic and social-emotional goals,” said Reilly. “We are hopeful that within the three-year partnership every student at Northwoods will have the opportunity to be part of the Outride Cycling curriculum and gain a great appreciation for the sport of cycling and all that the sport does to reduce stress and promote overall wellness.”

CCSD earns first ever Partnership District Award



Charleston County School District (CCSD) earned a 2022 Partnership District Award from the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University. This is the first time CCSD has received the award. The district was recognized for making excellent progress in strengthening its leadership on partnerships and for guiding schools to develop goal-linked programs of family and community engagement.

“The professional development series for Title I Parent Advisory Council board members and parent leaders presented information that increased parents’ knowledge of their own learning style as well as how to best support their students academically, behaviorally, and socio-emotionally,” said Rosa Fulmore, Title I Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator, NNPS District Facilitator. “They also learned about Robert’s Rules of Order, Title I guidelines, Parents’ Right to Know, family engagement policies, and advocating for their children.”

CCSD, a member of NNPS since 2017, described specific leadership structures, processes, and activities that help schools organize more effective and equitable programs of family and community engagement for student success in school. NNPS requires evidence of key program components including teamwork, clear goals, well-designed and well-implemented plans, direct facilitation of school-based Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs), evaluation of progress, and network connections.

“Charleston County School District is conducting evidence-based strategies to help schools become welcoming places that engage all parents and the community in ways that improve student attendance, behavior, achievement, health, graduation rates, postsecondary plans, and other outcomes,” said Dr. Joyce L. Epstein, Director of NNPS. “Even during the COVID-19 crisis, CCSD continued to work with schools on communicating with all students’ families in productive ways.”

CCSD’s district-level family engagement activity “Learning & Growing Through Professional Development” emphasized the district’s belief that parents are essential partners in supporting the overall well-being of students and the ongoing connection between home and school.

Fulmore explained that the professional development sessions for the Title I Parenting Team (school-based parenting staff) focused on best practices for family engagement, while also highlighting the resources available in our district and community. The Title I Parenting Team learned from each other by sharing information and details about their parenting events and activities. Book study discussions were facilitated by team members and provided an opportunity to share perspectives on supporting students and families.

Additionally, Chicora Elementary School and Ladson Elementary School earned Partnership School Awards. These award-winning programs and others, including North Charleston Elementary School, C.E. Williams Middle School – North Campus, and Morningside Middle School, have activities in Promising Partnership Practices 2022.

Ladson and Chicora were recognized for making excellent progress in strengthening and sustaining a comprehensive program of school, family, and community partnerships.

Ladson’s award-winning activity “The Poetry Café” included students, parents, business partners, and the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office.

Vanessa Smith, the Family Advocate at Ladson, said the project ties into the district’s Pillar III (Wraparound Services) which supports Vision 2027 – all students reading on grade level by grade 5. Wraparound services in schools are designed to give children the support they need throughout the school day, whether the support is academic, social, or behavioral. The Wraparound team at each school exists to serve the whole child and family.

Reviewers praised Ladson’s activity for its attention to the diversity of students and families in the school and community and the inclusion of multiple languages and translations. One reviewer gave the application “100 points,” a rare score on the many factors considered on the One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships, teamwork, family engagement, support from colleagues, and program design and development.

“The purpose of ‘The Poetry Café’ is to encourage reading at home and explore the path of emotion, sensitivity, and imaginative expression in order to express awareness and self-worth, as well as shaping the human inner self,” said Smith. “It allows us to brace ourselves while allowing us to understand and empathize with one another. Poetry is worthy of

asking questions, which allows individuals to view things in a different way while incorporating a diversity of voices and ways of thinking.”

Ladson Elementary is a diverse school where students speak at least three different languages. Smith communicated and collaborated with the Hispanic and Portuguese parents about the poems they would recite in their own languages. During the event, the English-translated versions of the poems were provided for the audience to follow during the presentations.

Chicora’s award-winning activity, “Cops and Pops,” was recognized for creative design, good planning, and its clear focus on student learning and success. Judges were impressed with the strong teamwork evident in their One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships. They were pleased to see that the school built a strong program structure beyond isolated activities.

Tammy Dunmeyer, the parent advocate for Chicora, stated that the program’s main objective is to emphasize the Acceleration Schools’ vision of meeting the academic, social, and cultural needs of students, families, and the community in order to foster and support the development of the whole child and the whole family.

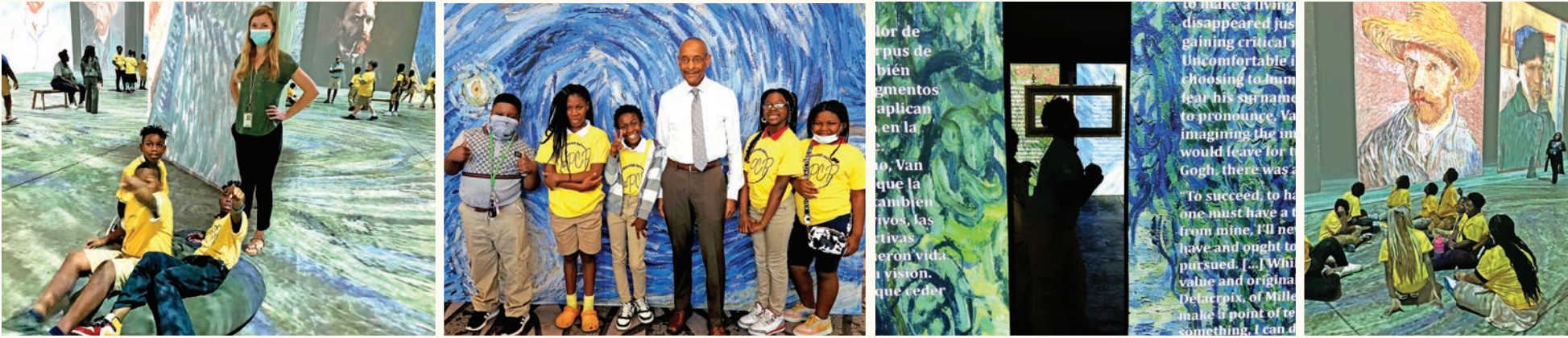
“I looked and listened every day to see what students needed and wanted to be more successful in school and life in general,” said Dunmeyer. “Our male students were afraid of the police. Some told me their fathers were also afraid. These same students were struggling academically when it came to reading. What better way to increase and improve interest in reading along with improved comprehension skills, community partnerships, and adult and child bonding?”

North Charleston Police Chief Reggie Burgess immediately supported the idea, and the school established a structure.

Dunmeyer chose a book that related to the community Chicora serves and during every session, the students, their male role models, and the police officers were sharing their personal stories as they related to the book.

“I want to aid in decreasing the 82 percent of our Black and Brown students who aren’t reading on grade level,” said Dunmeyer. “Chicora and all other recognized schools will continue to strengthen its program of school, family, and community partnerships in the 2022-23 school year to help all students succeed at high levels.”

Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience



Charleston County School District students from across District 20 attended the Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience throughout September. Superintendent Don Kennedy was able to accompany students on Thursday, September 22, 2022 from Mitchell Elementary School, Sanders Clyde Elementary School, and Simmons Pinckney Middle School. The field trips were made possible by the District 20 Principal Collaboration Program (D20PCP) which has partnered with community and civic organizations to provide enriching experiences outside of the classroom.

Forty CCSD students recognized as 2023 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce that 40 students from the Class of 2023 are semifinalists in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) released the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists.

The following CCSD students are 2023 semifinalists:

Academic Magnet

Joseph J. Benich
Nora W. Cheng
Lily K. Coulter
Spence D. Cox
Maria E. Cymbalyuk
Summer D. Desouzaz
Elena S. Graham
Dennis C. Griffin
John Habakus
Ransome W. Hudson
Henry A. Hughes
Sampson P. Kennedy
Leo Li
Irene Y. Liu
Angela Mei
Elizabeth A. Murray
Daniel T. Orvin
Finlay G. Palmer
Lilly Skinner
Cooper A. Smith
Jeffrey Song
James H. Unger
Andrew M. Wallace

Willia R. Wiley
Moyu C. Yamaguchi
Elliott P. Yarborough
Alan Zhang

Charleston County School of the Arts

Ryan R. Dickerson
Aurora L. Drye
Anna Garziera

Lucy Beckham

Thomas W. Collins
Mila K. Ganaway
Peyton C. Matheson

Wando

Brody Bundis
Alexander Fister
Samuel Henshaw
Rowan Johnson
Sydney Lewis
Inna Voloshchuk
Carson K. Walker

Lucy Beckham High School is making its debut for this honor; this will be the school’s first-ever graduating class.

“As part of our first graduating class, these semifinalists represent not only the highest academic achievement but the strength and determination that the Class of 2023 embodies,” said Anna Dassing, Lucy Beckham’s principal. “They have worked tirelessly to overcome and persevere through a global pandemic to be top in their class and we could not be more proud of this incredible accomplishment.”

Academic Magnet High School leads the state with 27 semifinalists.

“These are students who have not only demonstrated academic excellence, but demonstrated excellence in challenging times given how disjointed these last few school years have been,” said Academic Magnet Principal Jake Perlmutter. “Staying focused, staying committed, and excelling through adversity is a remarkable accomplishment and these scholars and their families should be very proud of this recognition.”

These CCSD high school seniors are now competing for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth close to combined \$28 million that will be awarded in the spring. “We are so proud of our gifted semifinalists and their academic accomplishments,” explained Dr. Shannon Cook, principal of Charleston County School of the Arts. “This level of success results from their hard work, the rigorous instruction provided by their teachers and the support they receive from their families. We applaud our young artists and look forward to their future contributions and success.”

High school juniors entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school

seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

“Nelson Mandela famously said ‘education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,’” added Wando Interim Principal Kim Wilson. “The seven Wando students who qualified for 2023 National Merit semifinalist status personify what Mr. Mandela was talking about in this quote. Through hard work and determination, they have obtained the goal of being one of the top academically talented high school seniors in the nation. The Wando family is proud of these students and look forward to seeing how they will change the world.”

To become a finalist, the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application that includes the student’s academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.

2023 National Merit Scholarship finalists will be contacted by NMSC in February and winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 368,000 other distinguished young people who have the title of Merit Scholar.



FUN-Raiser at Belle Hall Elementary

Belle Hall Elementary School students and staff donated or raised money, wore gold and yellow, and even sported banana costumes for the school’s annual FUN-Raiser!

Belle Hall raised \$709.87, all of which will be donated to MUSC Children's Health Cancer Care in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.



ANNUAL CCSD GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES MORE THAN \$30,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



On Monday, October 3, 2022, 126 golfers played in the 20th Annual Mark Cobb Memorial/Ron McWhirt Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Charleston Municipal Golf Course. Charleston County School District appreciates the generosity and participation of businesses and individuals, which led to \$31,600 in scholarship money for several seniors in CCSD high schools.

The tournament has now raised almost \$253,000 since it started two decades ago.



Charleston County Public Library Summer Reading Program participants rewarded

Congratulations to Mrs. West and student Kellen Gratzmiller who read the most minutes from James B. Edwards Elementary School for the Charleston County Public Library Summer Reading Program. Combined, Mrs. West and Gratzmiller read a total of 236 hours this summer. Mrs. West and Gratzmiller each earned a \$50 gift card from Barnes and Noble.



CCSD students significantly improve on End-of-Course examinations

CCSD out-performs the state in all four EOC tests

Charleston County School District’s (CCSD) high school students recorded major gains and outpaced the state average in the Algebra 1, Biology 1, and US History & Constitution content area exams on the 2021-2022 End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP), according to data released by the South Carolina Department of Education today. CCSD students also achieved higher than the state average in English 2.

Students enrolled in the aforementioned courses take an EOCEP assessment at the end of the course term. While the results are important for federal accountability requirements and the South Carolina school report card, CCSD believes student success indicates the system’s ability to ensure that students are ready for life after high school.

“These results are more proof of the excellent work happening in our classrooms,” explained Superintendent of Schools Don Kennedy. “We aren’t where we want to be as a system, but we recognize our teachers are committed to both excellence and setting high expectations, and our students are responding.”

ALGEBRA 1

Nearly 57 percent (56.93) of CCSD students scored a “C” or better on the Algebra 1 test, almost 15 points higher (14.59) than the state average, and more than 10 percentage points (10.2) better than last year’s score. In addition, each major demographic group of CCSD students improved when it comes to students scoring “C” or above from the previous year.

- Black - 14.6 to 28.3 (highest in five years of data); 13.7 percent increase
- Hispanic - 31.4 to 44.5; 13.1 percent increase
- White - 68.2 to 76.9; 8.7 percent increase
- Other - 63.7 to 74.0; 10.3 percent increase

“Notably, subgroups of CCSD students whose scores (C or higher) were lowest in 2021 on Algebra 1 EOCEP demonstrated the greatest gains in 2022,” according to Interim Deputy Superintendent Anita Huggins. “This demonstrates thoughtful planning and standards-aligned instruction by teachers and strategic support as well as goal-setting by leaders. While we still have work to do, the gains are a significant feat for CCSD’s schools.”

Huggins, who worked as an Executive Director in the Secondary Learning Community alongside Associate Superintendent Dr. Joe Williams during the 2021-2022 school year, also pointed out eight high schools improved 12 percentage points or more in the number of students scoring a “C” or better.

ENGLISH 2

CCSD exceeded the state in students scoring a “C” or better; the district’s average was 71.32 percent, compared to the 67.36 state average (+4.48). The 2021-22 school year was the first year of the state’s complete transition from English 1 to English 2 EOCEP; both the district and state averages slightly declined from the previous year.

The following results are CCSD averages for the major subgroups (compared to last year’s results):

- Black - 48.5 to 47.0; 1.5 percent decrease
- Hispanic - 54.9 to 53.6; 1.3 percent decrease
- White - 91.9 to 90.0; 1.9 percent decrease
- Other - 84.9 to 84.7; 0.2 percent decrease

BIOLOGY 1

CCSD made gains (48.99 to 50.15) in students scoring a “C” or above from the 2020-21 school year and outperformed the state average by 7.6 percentage points. All four of the district’s major subgroups improved on the Biology 1 EOCEP as well.

- Black - 15.7 to 19.8; 4.1 percent increase
- Hispanic - 29.5 to 34.0; 4.5 percent increase
- White - 72.5 to 75.2; 2.7 percent increase
- Other - 60.8 to 68.8; 8.0 percent increase

“These increases are promising,” noted Interim Chief of Schools Dr. Anthony Dixon, “However, we still have much work to do in order to close the achievement gap between students of color and white students. We are dedicated to focusing on strategies to serve all students during the coming year.”

U.S. HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION (USHC)

CCSD improved by nearly five percentage points (4.93) overall from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 in the USHC exam when it comes to students earning a “C” or better. The district’s average of 48.86 percent is almost nine percent (8.92) better than the state average as well. Most of the CCSD subgroups demonstrated gains in USHC EOCEP scores.

- Black - 12.4 to 20.6; 8.2 percent increase
- Hispanic - 27.8 to 31.9; 4.1 percent increase
- White - 63.4 to 69.1; 5.7 percent increase
- Other - 63.6 to 58.3; 5.3 percent decrease

“We want to be honest in our analysis of these results - we need to improve,” added CCSD’s Interim Chief of Schools Michelle Simmons. “At the same, considering the large numbers of students taking these exams, there is an opportunity to celebrate the efforts of our teachers and students.”

CCSD students participated in more than 14,000 EOCEP tests during the 2021-2022 school year.

It is important to note that new U.S. History standards were tested in 2021-22, so results will not be used in Report Card accountability for the 2021-22 school year.



Angel Oak Spirit Day

Angel Oak Elementary School had a great “Future islanders” Spirit Day in partnership with St. John’s High School. Student athletes joined Angel Oak students for a day of fun. According to the students at Angle Oak, they loved seeing the “famous players”, “pretty cheerleaders” and “big kids” who told them to “make sure they do good in school”!

Bank of America student leaders participate in local summer internships

Bank of America selected two Charleston-area high schoolers as Student Leaders® (#BoFAStudentLeaders), to participate in an eight-week summer internship providing students with first-hand experience in serving their communities. These students are participating in a paid internship experience of workforce skills, leadership, and civic engagement with local nonprofits, including Charleston Promise Neighborhood and Tri-county Cradle to Career Collaborative. As part of the program, they earn \$17 per hour and receive a Chromebook.

Without access to career skills-building opportunities like the Student Leaders program, many young people may be left behind from a fast-changing job market, leading to higher rates of youth unemployment. Along with the Student Leaders program, Bank of America is partnering with other nonprofit organizations to fund paid jobs and internships across the Lowcountry region as part of the bank’s overall commitment to youth employment and workforce development as a pathway to economic mobility.

“Bank of America remains committed to supporting young adults by connecting them to jobs, community engagement opportunities, and leadership development,” said Mark Munn, president, Bank of America Charleston/Hilton Head. “We recognize young adults are the future of the Lowcountry, which is why programs like Student Leaders are one way we can provide paid opportunities for students to gain job experience while developing a diverse pipeline of talent as they enter the local workforce.”

The Class of 2022 Charleston Bank of America Student Leaders were selected for their leadership, background, passion, and commitment to the community.

- Michell Cordova-Huerta (Early College High School, 12th grader) – is an honors student inspired by other women to pursue leadership opportunities. Michell has a passion for volunteerism, serving children at the Ronald McDonald House and elder adults.
- William Jenkins (Burke High School, 12th grader) – is a leader in academic and extracurricular programs, like Student Government and JROTC. William aims to improve local communities by promoting racial equality and preparing the next generation to lead.

Started in 2004, the Student Leaders program recognizes 300 community-focused juniors and seniors from across the U.S. annually. The Charleston Student Leaders are participating in programming that includes collaborative, mentor-focused projects with Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative (Cordova-Huerta) and Charleston Promise Neighborhood (Jenkins).

Michell’s internship with Tri-County Cradle to Career is composed of rotations with team leaders to flesh out the nonprofit’s fund development and impact work across the continuum of programs. Diversity, equity, and inclusion work is also a focus of the internship, such as partnering on events like computer giveaways to support the Eastside Community within the school feeder pattern.

“Michell has an innovative, vibrant perspective and brings a broad set of competencies to the work,” said Tri-County Cradle to Career CEO, Phyllis Martin. “Our staff has been amazed and inspired by Michell’s view of the world and desire to learn about the programs impacting underserved communities in the Charleston area.”

Charleston Promise Neighborhood is providing William an opportunity to shadow leaders focused on three program pillars and wrap-around services – health & wellness, community & family engagement, and education. William is also spending valuable time in the field and getting an introduction to things happening in the community that Charleston Promise Neighborhood serves, such as educational programs to prevent learning loss and public community meetings.

“William has a unique seat at the table, having attended a Promise Neighborhood elementary school and participating in the programs firsthand,” said Charleston Promise Neighborhood Director of Marketing and Philanthropy, Djuanna Brockington. “That lived experience allows William to participate in a new way that benefits the students and families we serve.”

Bank of America Student Leaders also participated in a virtual Leadership Summit, delivered in partnership with the Close Up Foundation. The Summit included opportunities to engage with congressional leaders, hear from leaders in civil and human rights and participate in the Stanford University Young Democracy at Home program which encourages conversation about current issues facing young people today.



Michell Cordova-Huerta



William Jenkins

Burke students gain access to more dual credit courses

Multiple colleges offering unique educational opportunities through National Equity Education Lab Project

This year, Burke High School students are taking courses offered at Arizona State University, Harvard University, Princeton University, and Spelman College, thanks to the efforts of Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Acceleration Schools Learning Community and the district's participation in The National Education Equity Lab.

The classes are designed to challenge students in a high school setting and prepare them for the rigors of a college course. Each course is taught (virtually) by a professor from the corresponding college or university, with support in the classroom from a certified CCSD teacher. Burke is the first school in South Carolina to offer this opportunity to students.

Burke students can take the following classes through this initiative:

Fall 2022

- **Poetry in America:** The City from Whitman to Hip Hop - a course offered by Arizona State University and Harvard University
- **Cloud Computing** - provided by Arizona State University in partnership with Amazon Web Services

Spring 2023

- **Western Way of War** from Princeton University
- **Education of a Black Girl** from Spelman College

Each course offers college credits that are transferrable to colleges around the country, allowing students to start college a step ahead.

“Our goal is clear - we empower all scholars for success,” explained Executive Principal Cheryl Swinton. “At Burke High School, success means college and/or career readiness upon high school graduation. With this priority in mind, we are thrilled to be the only high school in South Carolina to offer four college credit-bearing courses through the National Education Equity Lab.”

With 36 students enrolled in dual credit courses this semester, Burke staff members are excited about more students signing up for classes for the spring semester. The school plans to offer more classes in the 2023-2024 school year, covering topics that interest all upperclassmen, including personal finance, and big data.

“This program exposes students to the reality of thriving in college and instills confidence in their educational pursuits,” said Jacqueline Haynes, Associate Superintendent for



CCSD's Acceleration Schools. “With offerings from some of the country’s most renowned colleges and universities, these classes help ease the pressure of taking a college course from the comfort and familiarity of their high school classroom. We want every student to participate in dual enrollment classes and are excited to continue to expand the program to include more classes across disciplines.”

National Education Equity Lab offers Title I high schools courses from Howard, Princeton, Stanford, Wharton, University of Pennsylvania, Wesleyan, Cornell, Georgetown, Arizona State University, Barnard, and Harvard. Students gain valuable experience and expand their horizons beyond the high school classroom at no cost to them. Students have increased confidence in their abilities from completing rigorous coursework required of a college class. With this confidence, they have an increased dedication to perform well in high school and pursue higher education.

“Burke's scholars are gaining valuable skills and accessing resources they likely would not have had access or exposure to outside of this experience,” added Swinton. “This amazing opportunity levels the playing field for most of our scholars. I look forward to watching them grow and the many benefits they will enjoy as a result of their participation.”



Chris Singleton inspires A.C. Corcoran Elementary

On October 3, 2022, motivational speaker and Lowcountry baseball standout Chris Singleton spent some time with students and staff at A.C. Corcoran Elementary School. Singleton, whose mother was killed in the Mother Emanuel A.M.E massacre, spoke to an energetic crowd about handling adversity, forgiveness, and bridging gaps between different communities. He also read a copy of his children's book, *Different: A Story About Loving Your Neighbor*.

The Bulldog family thanks Chris Singleton for his commitment to serving and being a role model for children in Lowcountry schools.



CCSD's Brandi Blake honored by Charleston Business Magazine

Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Executive Director for Intercultural Development Brandi Blake was recently honored by Charleston Business Magazine as a Best & Brightest Under 35! selection for 2022. This recognition celebrates business and community leaders who make an impact in South Carolina.

Blake joined CCSD at the start of the 2021-2022 school year to lead the district's effort to provide culturally competent professional development and training for staff. In her role, she works to provide an equitable lens for district leadership and develop strategies to address systemic issues.

“A long-term goal of mine is having CCSD serve as an aspirant school district for student sense of belonging and well-being, in addition to its goals around academic excellence,” said Blake. “Over the past year, Charleston County's students and families have made a lasting impact on me. Giving back to this radiant community of students who are overflowing with creativity and compassion for their peers has become a cornerstone of my life's work. I will continue to serve and make a difference where I can.”

Blake and the rest of the year's Best & Brightest Under 35! attended a ceremony late last month hosted by the Charleston Business Magazine.



Brandi Blake



A Day for Rememberin'

Oakland Elementary fourth graders and Executive Associate Superintendent of Literacy and Certified Staff Development, Terri Nichols participated in the MOJA Arts Festival read-out featuring *A Day for Rememberin'* the selected title for the 2022 MOJA Arts Festival.



New breakfast cart at Baptist Hill Middle High

The Nutrition Services team at Baptist Hill Middle High School rolled out their new breakfast cart this month. A gamechanger for both students and manager Susan Harrison-Smith and her staff.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Charleston Community,

On Monday, Oct. 3, the CCSD Board of Trustees reviewed student data and public input and identified 5 year goals - the next steps to pursue toward achieving a vision of success for all students - and guardrails - the non-negotiable values to be protected along the way. (A link to the meeting video may be found here:

CCSD Board of Trustees Special-Called Board Work Session | October 3, 2022; complete documentation of the goals, guardrails, and community feedback can be found here: <https://www.ccsdschools.com/sofg>

The draft goals (the community’s vision of what students should learn and be able to do) are as follows (percentages for baseline and targets will be updated at the Oct 10th COW):

- The percent of Black/African American and Hispanic 5th grade students reading on grade level will increase from X% in [Month] 2022 to Y% in [Month] 2027 as measured by SC READY ELA.
- The percent of 7th grade students who are Algebra I ready will increase from X% in January 2022 to Y% in January 2027 as measured by “District’s Algebra Readiness Indicator”.
- The percent of students achieving C or higher in Algebra I by the end of 8th grade will increase from X% in [Month] 2022 to Y% in [Month] 2027.
- The percent of students in the 4-year cohort who are college and/or career ready will increase from 67.7% in [Month] 2022 to 86.2% in [Month] 2027 as measured by SC College and Career Readiness Indicators.

The draft guardrails (non-negotiable values of the community) are as follows:

- The Superintendent shall not allow students to graduate without the soft skills needed for post secondary success.
- The Superintendent shall not allow students to go without Social Emotional Learning.
-

The Superintendent shall not present major initiatives to the Board without engaging schools (parents, guardians, students, staff), district, and community stakeholders who are most impacted by the initiative/decision.

- The Superintendent shall not allow disparate treatment and expectations of students.
- The Superintendent shall not allow a negative or unsupportive staff culture.

The CCSD Board of Trustees is committed to changing the course for our students who underperform compared to their peers here and around the country and ensuring that our system creates opportunities for the success of our entire community of learners as they grow and prepare for life after graduation.

Next steps in the process toward adoption include:

- Oct 10, 2022 Committee of the Whole: Board will receive Interim Goals and Interim Guardrails from the Superintendent, and will refine the Goals and Guardrails. If necessary, the Board will revise the Goals and Guardrails to provide more clarity and direct the Superintendent to revise the Interim Goals and Guardrails accordingly.
- Oct 24, 2022 Regular Board Meeting: Board will vote on the Goals and Guardrails, including the Interim Goals and Interim Guardrails.

Please stay tuned to our webpage for more information regarding the goals, guardrails, the governance structure, and this process. We also have developed this FAQ document for further explanation of Goals and Guardrails development.

On behalf of the CCSD Board of Trustees, Superintendent Kennedy, and the entire CCSD family, thank you for your continued support of our students.

Sincerely,
Ms. Herterich, Dr. French, Ms. Waters
BOT Ad Hoc Committee on Governance

BOEING BLACK EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION TO PARTNER WITH NORTH CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL'S FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CENTER

On September 28, 2022, Boeing Black Employee Association came to tour the facilities of North Charleston High School's Family and Community Center. Boeing Black Employee Association announced a partnership with the Family and Community Center to develop a career cohort to help parents and students enter the workforce.

The purpose will increase STEM outreach, workforce readiness, and college preparation within the Liberty Hill community in North Charleston, SC (specifically at North Charleston High School and Morningside Middle School).

One of the purposes of the Family and Community Center is to partner with their feeder schools and provide opportunities to their families and surrounding communities.

Ieshia Fludd parent at NCHS who filled out the first application for the career cohort. She is utilizing the I-pads provided by the Project Prevent Grant. Project Prevent Program Officer, Tasha Joyner has supplied over 30 I-pads to parents to help complete resumes and job applications.



Boeing Black Employee Association (BBEA) representatives, BBEA President Karriema Colhoun, Henry Darby (NCHS Principal), Abria Pryor (Family Advocate), Whitely Richardson (Family Advocate), and Brittney Smalls (Charleston County School District Social Worker)

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