



For Immediate Release

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Contact:

LaCarma Brown-McMillan 843-767-8383

Media Release

Riding for Focus: St. James-Santee Awarded Mountain Bikes

**St. James-Santee Elementary
Middle School**

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Cynthia Ambrose
Deputy Superintendent of Learning
Services

Joseph Williams, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Middle School
Learning Community

LaCarma Brown-McMillan
Principal

McClellanville, SC – St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School will soon receive a fleet of 26 mountain bikes from The Specialized Foundation’s Riding for Focus cycling program. The school was chosen as a recipient of the foundation’s grant for Fall 2019.

St. James-Santee is one of 41 new middle school grant recipients for the 2019-2020 Riding for Focus school program. With the addition of these new schools, the program integrates cycling into the physical education curriculum as a means to help students achieve academic, health, and social success.

“We are excited about the bikes, but more importantly we are more excited about the potential benefits to learning,” said Ricardo Robinson, Assistant Principal. “This year we have put a heavy focus on seeking funding to increase programs and options that focus on encouraging healthy lifestyles and physical activity.”

In the months ahead, the awarded recipients will gain access to the Riding for Focus program curriculum, a fleet of bikes, a starter maintenance kit, and helmets to start the program this fall. Additionally, school staff will be attending an in-person training session hosted by The Specialized Foundation staff to ensure success as new schools integrate the program into their classrooms this Fall.

The foundation’s team members said they were inspired by the school’s stories, motivations, diversity and drive to integrate cycling into the school day.

The school will receive the fleet of mountain bikes and helmets, a starter maintenance kit, a program curriculum, a community partnership that will include a local specialized retailer to help build bikes, and the opportunity for one to participate in mandatory program training and support at Specialized Headquarters in Morgan Hill, CA from July 16-18, 2019.

The number of bikes awarded to each school were decided upon by various factors. There will be the opportunity to purchase additional bikes at a

discounted price should the school need to supplement their fleet or if the program grows in size.

"We want to sincerely thank all schools that applied this year and we are very fortunate to welcome 41 new schools and their respective communities into The Specialized Foundation family," said Ted Theocheung CEO, The Specialized Foundation. "The continued support from our partner schools and donors are what keep this program alive. With your support, students can ride and thrive."

For more information about the grant, contact Ricardo Robinson at ricardo_robinson@charleston.k12.sc.us.

Interested schools, donors, and volunteers can also sign-up for the blog, and follow The Specialized Foundation on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to join the conversation. #RidingForFocus

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.