The program has sparked excitement among our librarians because it has also created a relationship with the public librarians so that we can work together to extend student learning into the summer," said Christy James, CCSD's Library Media Services Specialist. "The amount of access being provided is incredible. We’ve been able to provide free events and prizes provided by community sponsors."

“This joint initiative is part of CCPL’s annual Summer Reading program. This partnership opens up so many opportunities for students to participate, kids from different geographic areas can now participate. It’s introduced these kids to a whole new world.”

"The incentives from our sponsors give kids something to look forward to, and we’re so grateful to that. Because we’ve expanded the programs, kids from different geographic areas can now participate. It’s introduced these kids to a whole new world.”

Natalie Hauff – Director of Programs/Outreach and Communications, Charleston County Public Library

This summer, to date, we are up 18 percent for lunch and 16 percent for breakfast (compared to the same 15 days last year),” said Jeremy Tunnell, CCSD Nutrition Services Officer. "The Seamless Summer Feeding Program is a massive operation with a vast amount of people who play a part of the program.”

Open sites are locations like churches, apartment complexes, parks, and community center that any child can go to for a free summer meal. Food insecurity among kids and teens is widespread in Charleston County. The Seamless Summer Feeding Program (SSFP) allows school districts to provide free summer meals in low-income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods. It is an extension of the National School Lunch Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

There are 11 CCSD kitchens being used to prepare the meals. These sites are centrally located to the feeding sites. Food service employees from across the dome, to include kitchen managers and operators come together to prep, cook and package each meal.

CCSD provides everything a feeding site needs including trucks, plates, napkins, and fresh vegetables. Any child 18 or younger can walk into one of these sites for a free breakfast and/or lunch. The list includes addresses, phone numbers and meal service times. Fresh fruits and vegetables are served daily, in addition to low-fat cheese and white milk. A full menu can be found here. The 2019 CCSD Summer Nutrition Program concludes Friday, August 9, 2019. We’re committed to serving every child from McClellanville to Edisto and all of those in between,” Tunnell. "No other district does a summer feeding program on this level. CCSD is the largest in the state as far as serving the most meals.”

Charleston County School District’s (CCSD) Office of Nutrition Services has offered free breakfasts and lunches to students for several years in an effort to ensure all students have access to healthy meals. Last year alone over 300,000 meals were served over the entire school year.

Seventy four “open” sites are serving meals this summer as part of the Seamless Summer Feeding Program with food service employees preparing “preparing pre-packaged meals at home to stock inventory and shares, all of our days, churches, businesses, fresh fruit, and vegetables. What started as a simple summer lunch program turned into a fun-

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Focus ON CCSD

DISHING OUT SUMMER MEALS

CCSD’s Nutrition Services serves over 100,000 Meals in first 15 days of Seamless Summer Feeding Program

COUNTY LIBRARY PARTNERS WITH DISTRICT FOR SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Stiles Point Elementary School Principal Michael Masters reads to children at the local library

Camp Road Middle School Principal Deidre Parker poses for a picture in the James Island Library

Jackson Meers E.B. Ellington Students West Ashley Valedictorian Honoree New Summer Camp Retirees Honored at Banquet Garrett Academy Students Earn Certifications Academic Magnus Win Competition

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ON CCSD

This year’s participans are part of the 2018 Summer Reading campaign. As of July 1, there are just over 5,208 participants who have earned more than 1.6 million points. Points are earned based on the number of books a participant has read and much the participant chooses to do with the various sponsors. According to Natalie Hauff, Director of Programs/Outreach and Communications with CCPL, the collaboration with the school district has resulted in students of all ages entering two-round reading.

“The incentives from our sponsors give kids something to look forward to, and we’re so grateful to that. Because we’ve expanded the program, kids from different geographic areas can now participate. It’s introduced these kids to a whole new world.”

Area principals recently visited James Island Library to read to students participating in the Summer Reading Program. This summer, 2019-2020 Edition 7

In continuation of the National School Lunch Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Focus ON CCSD

Jackson National Life Insurance Company [Jackson] based in Trenton, N.J., has announced that it will award a $10,000 scholarship to one high school senior for a strong and promising project. The company gave away one $10,000 scholarship to the student who submitted the best project related to the company’s core values of financial literacy and retirement planning.

Jackson’s $10,000 Scholarship is available to high school seniors who meet the following criteria: must be enrolled in an accredited high school or home school program; must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; must have a minimum GPA of 3.0; must submit a plan that details their project and its impact on financial literacy and retirement planning; and must submit an essay of up to 1,000 words explaining their plan and its impact.

Applications are due by April 1, 2023. For more information, visit www.jackson.com/scholarship or contact Jennifer Brown at 609-558-2000.

Jackson and E.B. Ellington Students April 2019

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New Summer Camp Works with Non-native English Speaking Families

Christina Vesa, a Charleston County School District (CCSD) Bilingual Parent Advocate, supports the district’s non-native English speaking families each school year. Under the leadership of Uni Hagg (ESOL Curriculum Specialist), she has extended the schools by purposefully serving bilingual families four decades.

Like most education, she knows the importance of avoiding the summer slide by providing learning opportunities throughout the summer.

With support from the local community, she and CCSD’s Coordinator of Adult Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Armored Hagg launched a Newcomers Summer camp for children, offering a range of summer camp opportunities.

This summer, Newcomers Camp is expected to house 40 students, and each student will have a minimum of 30 hours of camp.”

The ESOL Newcomers Summer Program is a partnership between CCSD ESOL programs, CCSD Adult Ed ESOL programs, and numerous CCSD community partners in North Charleston.

The three-week camp, which ended June 27, was packed full of educational opportunities for students, teachers, and parents.

Students received instruction classes and learned about their community, their family, and their environment, and doing it all in English.

In addition to classes, the student experience offered a tour of the city, dancing and ice cream socials.

As a volunteer, this is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer with children.

New Comers Camps provide a safe environment for students to learn about their environment and practice their English. Teachers and parents are aware of the importance of academic success.

Arts Integration at CCSD’s Newcomers Camp

SOA Student Volunteer

Cindy, Diana and Alexa Volunteers to Help Teach

CSU Med Students Helping at Dream Center Family Night

Lowcountry Orphan Relief Bookbag and Clothing Give Away

DISTRICT HONORS RETIREES WITH ANNUAL BANQUET

This year marked the end of a year and the beginning of another for employees retiring from Charleston County School District (CCSD).

During the annual Retiree Banquet, held June 11, 2019, CCSD honored 38 retirees who dedicated a combined total of 582 years of service to CCSD.

In their roles as teachers, academic coaches, counselors, administrative support, food service operators, instructional unit leaders, athletic coaches, counselors, media specialists and administrators, they supported students and staff in their various roles.

With our expertise, these groups of retirees helped students and staff grow by placing seeds of knowledge and wanting them to build a career, creativity, and confidence.

As a team, these are also the employees — whether in the classrooms, prohibitive office, cafeteria or on the athletic field — everyone
Academic Magnet Robotics Team Wins First Place in Engineering Design at SeaPerch International Competition

Academic Magnet High School’s (AMHS) Robotics Team won first place in the Open Class Engineering Process and Design category in the 2019 SeaPerch Challenge held at the University of Maryland on June 1-2, 2019.

Team members included Gage Guaitella, Stephen Hilton, Daniel Killough, Angela Li, John Paradise, Gage Gailbreath, Sully Witte, Erica Taylor, Gerrita Postlewait, and Bohan Wang.

“An amazing team, we have standard, curricula and present programs that we follow, but it is those kinds of real-world projects that evolve students into scholars,” said physics teacher and AMHS robotics team sponsor/coach, Maria Desbrow. “My kids are seriously smart.”

Organized by RoboNation, the international SeaPerch competition presents an opportunity for high school students to learn about STEM-related fields by creating an underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

The competition challenged students to have an ROV that excels in rescue operation.

Using SeaPerch kits, a Nanoline controller, Arduino boards and sensors, AMHS Robotic Team members created an autonomous system of underwater rovers complete with infrared and GPS technology. The system allows the small vehicles to detect and avoid debris while simultaneously identifying and separating possible human presence and location within bodies of water.

The team built two rovers: a smaller scouting bot, which was half the size of a normal SeaPerch kit that was outfitted with sensors to record information; and a Search and Rescue bot, the normal size for a SeaPerch kit, that has a malleable hook to pick up and move objects within the rescue and recovery course.

Our 2,000 small-scale and high top teams competed over the past year throughout the United States. Three hundred of these groups advanced to face international teams from four countries to compete in these categories of size and age, rescue, recovery, and engineering process and design. AMHS competed in this regional competition held in Charleston against 50 teams in March of this year, then advanced unto the international challenge.

Although the AMHS robot performed superiorily in the obstacle and creative exams, the judges were most impressed with the engineering process and design the students created.

While the team’s automation system appears to be very sophisticated technologically, the rover itself was physically built using recycled pool noodles, a coat hanger, and a pencil on top of the basic SeaPerch kit.

The rover looked so simple that, during the question and answer portion of the competition, one of the judges remarked, “on one side, we have NASA, and on the other is what you can find on the floor.”

At the typical SeaPerch robot is made using no more than $50 from the original SeaPerch kit, the team decided to follow that gained top-badges model with added technology.

The team’s automation is concurrent on students’ soft skills and prepares them for employability basics, communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, planning, and productivity.

“At Academic Magnet, we were disappointed with our 2018 State School Report Card,” said Principal Dale Menges. “We saw a 95 (Below Average) only 2 from being Average. The area we had the most room for growth was College and Career Readiness, where we saw an Unsatisfactory rating with only 42 percent of our graduates being considered College and Career Ready.”

Menges challenged the faculty to improve this metric through a focused effort in these specific areas:

- Rededicate to preparing students for the WCVB Career Readiness assessment
- Work with Chief Val Vlug (SD) Work-based Learning (Partnerships Coordinator) to find opportunities for students to participate in Qualifying Work-Based Learning and Internships.
- Work within our CTE Department to ensure as many of our students as possible could become CTE completers with an industry-recognized certification.

“Through these efforts, we were able to increase our rate of 64 percent of our 2019 graduates as College and/or Career Ready,” said Menges. “With a little luck, we will move our state report card rating to Average by 2019.”

Menges said it was truly an amazing experience to teach these students.

“They proved that everybody can succeed,” said Hsopot. “Earning hard work and soft skills certifications will help these students to stand out from the crowd and demonstrate the ability to continue technical skills with employability skills.”

“My students’ hard work paid off,” said Hilton. “When I started teaching students, I didn’t think they would go this far. Failure was not an option. Students encouraged each other to push harder and not to give up. When someone passed the certification exam, the whole room cheered, and everybody could hear the joy.”

**Sully Witte – Education and Technology (CTE) Instructor**

**Earl Bostic. (Not pictured but also certified: Luis Morales-Montiel, Senior Students pictured with certifications from top left: Gage Guaitella, Stephen Hilton, Daniel Killough, Angela Li, John Paradise, Gage Gailbreath, Sully Witte, Erica Taylor, Gerrita Postlewait, and Bohan Wang.**

*Senior Students pictured with certifications from top left: Sully Witte, Erica Taylor, Gerrita Postlewait, and Bohan Wang.*

*Bobha Wang, Stephen Hilton, AMHS Physics teacher and Robotics team Sponsor/ Coach, Sully Witte and Erica Taylor, AMHS STEM Program Director (Director, Robotics).*

*“We found that the more complex we made the rover from stock in terms of our design, the more problems we had with it,” said Killough.*

*“We decided to devote more time to making the automation run more efficiently than making the rover look nice. Simple is best, and that was proven through this competition,” added Hilton.*

“The students not only learned about the pressure and challenges of creating an ROV but how their work can go in solving real-world issues.”

*“The 2019 SeaPerch Challenge mission was inspired by the real-life events of the 2019 cave rescue in Thailand,” said Academic Magnet High School Principal Catherine Spencer. “AMHS students have been following the threat and dangers of mine war and worked together to create a rover capable of navigating not just a cave, but possible a Lowcountry waterway or flooded street to assist with search and rescue efforts. We are proud of their achievement as well as their desire to create a device to improve their community and world.”

**Erica Taylor – Career and Technology (CTE) Instructor**

*Erica Taylor – Career and Technology (CTE) Instructor.*

**Gage Guaitella, Stephen Hilton, Daniel Killough, Angela Li, John Paradise, Gage Gailbreath, Sully Witte, Erica Taylor, Gerrita Postlewait, and Bohan Wang.**

*Bohan Wang, Stephen Hilton, AMHS Physics teacher and Robotics team Sponsor/ Coach, Sully Witte and Erica Taylor, AMHS STEM Program Director (Director, Robotics).*

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