

BUILDING THE FUTURE, ONE SCHOLAR AT A TIME

Inside our most impactful year yet, and how we're raising the bar for education across South Carolina.



LSC Family,

It's hard to believe we are turning the page on another fantastic school year at the Eagle's Nest! As we continue this journey of educational excellence, we are reminded of the timeless wisdom encapsulated in Benjamin Franklin's profound words: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." In a world driven by constant change and innovation, education stands as the bedrock upon which individuals, communities, and societies thrive.

At LSC, we firmly believe that investing in knowledge and learning yields invaluable returns, shaping not only the lives of individuals but also the trajectory of our collective future. Throughout this school year, we have witnessed the power of education to inspire, transform, and create boundless opportunities. Our unwavering commitment to providing quality education has enabled us to empower countless scholars, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Through collaborative efforts, we have fostered an environment where curiosity, critical thinking, & lifelong learning flourish. From innovative programming and initiatives to remarkable stories, this school year is nothing short of a testament to education's profound influence on individuals and communities alike. Let's reflect on the following achievements and major milestones in our fourth year of operation:

- We added 4th Grade with a waitlist of 1,489 scholars, expanding total scholar enrollment to five counties
- LSC was readmitted to the Charter School Growth Fund for a 2nd time to scale our K-12 Growth Plan with a \$2 Million Investment
- We were named a 2024 Yass Prize Awardee
- · A total of 36 Community Partners participated in our Annual STEAM Workforce Development Initiative
- We earned the Project Lead the Way Distinguished District Certification
- · We were named Best Elementary School of Sumter for the 4th consecutive year
- We raised \$1.7 million from private donors & established 11 new community partnerships
- LSC was named the 2025 Building Hope Career Education Champion
- We held 177 Saturday Enrichments that saw 75% of LSC's total scholar population participating in at least one class
- LSC's 2024 Teacher of the Year, Dr. Michelle McDonald, was named the SCPCSD District Teacher of the Year
- 3 LSC Teachers Earned National Board Teacher Certification
- · LSC's Scholar Intervention Specialist Named 2025 SC School Psychologist of the Year
- LSC's Primary Academy Director Named 2025 Best of Sumter School Administrator
- Received the 2024 Innovative Community Partnership Award from the Public Charter Alliance of South Carolina
- LSC was admitted to the SC Children's Fund Portfolio with an initial investment of \$65,000
- LSC becomes 1st School in SC to Formalize Collective Leadership in its Fiscal Budget with a Teacherpreneur Hybrid Teacher Leadership Position

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your leader. Thank you for helping to make #TheLibertyDifference!

Thank you for joining us on this remarkable journey. We are Liberty for All.

In it together,



Dr. Trevor Ivey, NBCT Executive Director



Stakeholders.

Each year, we reflect not only on our accomplishments but on the vision that fuels them. At Liberty, our purpose has always been bigger than a school building. It's about building the future: one scholar, one family, one opportunity at a time.

This year, that purpose came to life in powerful ways. From national recognitions like the Yass Prize and Building Hope Career Education Champion to welcoming over 700 scholars from across five counties, we have seen firsthand what happens when bold goals meet a passionate team. Together, we have expanded access, deepened impact, and proven what is possible when innovation, equity, and community come together in public education.

However, success at Liberty is not measured only by awards or enrollment. It is in the confidence of a first grader coding their first project, the pride of a parent watching their child read one million words, and the determination of a team that shows up every day to create joyful, rigorous, real-world learning experiences.

Liberty is raising the bar for what education can look like in South Carolina and beyond. And that is because of you. Our scholars, families, educators, staff, and supporters have made this our most impactful year yet. You have shown what it means to believe in potential and invest in progress.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue to grow, lead, and inspire. The future is bright, and we are just getting started.

Sincerely,



Greg A. ThompsonBoard Chairman & School Founder





Established in 2020, Liberty STEAM Charter School is the first public charter school in Sumter County, We serve scholars through an innovative, project-based, and personalized learning model that is STEAM-focused and unlike any other school in South Carolina. We are growing to accommodate over 2,000 scholars amongst four distinguished academies serving kindergarten through 12th grade.

Our model prepares scholars with the academic foundation to pursue college studies or the career track and live a choice-filled life. Furthermore, we ensure they will leave high school with real-world skills and habits to succeed in industry careers that offer meaningful salaries, aiming to produce upstanding, productive citizens for Sumter County and the great state of South Carolina.

VISION

In partnership with our families and the community, our vision is to provide real-world interdisciplinary, personalized, and project-based learning experiences through a STEAM-based academic program where graduates become the next generation of leaders, employers, and employees who contribute to the economic well-being of their communities and families.

MISSION

Liberty STEAM Charter School works to provide all students with equal access to a world-class K-12 education in an academically rigorous and student-centered learning environment, creating graduates who will be thoughtful and engaged citizens prepared to take on the leadership challenges of the 21st century.

CORE VALUES

Scholar Values



We have the ability to shape our future by acting with purpose, doing the right thing even when it's hard, and owning our work.



POWER OF THE TEAM

Achieving our mission requires the Power of the Team and a mindset of we, not me. Great things happen when we work together and put the team first.

Staff Values



At the heart of our culture is a passion for growth - the growth of our scholars and staff. We relentlessly pursue excellence every day.



We serve fearlessly, with infectious passion and unwavering commitment, making the impossible possible daily. Our dedication ensures we rise to every challenge, empowering others and pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved.



We are results-driven and committed to doing whatever it takes to succeed. Sweating even the small stuff ensures no detail is overlooked, driving us toward outstanding outcomes and exceptional quality in all our endeavors.



We vivaciously celebrate successes, hug and love our scholars, and make it a point to know everyone by name. We foster a joyful and inclusive environment by ensuring everyone feels valued and cherished.

Parent Values



PARTNER

Extend grace to others, understanding that we are all learning and growing together. Listen with care and openness, especially in moments of challenge or change. When advocating for your scholar and others, do so with empathy and a spirit of collaboration.



INTEGRITY

Demonstrate accountability by

following through on commitments and being honest in communication. Show consistency in how values are lived at home and in school.



BE THE CHANGE

Support and encourage a love of learning, both in and out of the classroom. Approach setbacks with resilience by modeling perseverance for your scholar. Embrace and promote the mission of the school by being an active, positive force in the school community.

OUR SCHOLARS, OUR FUTURE

Our scholars are the foundation of everything we do. They carry the hopes, dreams, and vision of a stronger future not only for themselves but for the entire Sumter community. Each one brings unique strengths, stories, and perspectives that enrich our classrooms and inspire our mission.

At Liberty, we are building the future by equipping our scholars to become the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers. Through a high-quality, STEAM-focused education, we nurture curiosity, build character, and instill real-world skills that prepare them to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

This investment goes beyond academics. When we pour into our scholars, we invest in the future of our neighborhoods, our workforce, and our shared community. Their growth reflects our values, and their success lights the way forward for others to follow.

One scholar at a time, we are shaping a brighter and more empowered tomorrow.





































Scholars



731

Zip Codes



13

Counties



5

Academies



2

WHO WE SERVE

of Scholars were Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

of Scholars were in Special Education

of Scholars were
Multi-Language Learners

of Scholars were
Minority Scholars

of Scholars were Children of Military Personnel

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In today's rapidly evolving job market, employers seek candidates who possess not only academic knowledge but also diverse skills that extend beyond the classroom. We understand the importance of preparing our scholars for the competitive world of work. That's why our Beyond the Classroom experiences play a crucial role in equipping our scholars with the skills essential for job recruitment. Our scholars gain valuable experiences beyond traditional academics, fostering creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, communication, adaptability, cultural awareness, and critical thinking skills—attributes that are highly sought after by employers.



STEAM Project Lead the Way



Physical Education



Sign Language



Drum Line



Chess



Digital Literacy



Cooking



Dance



Color Guard



Robotics



Coding



Ninja Warriors



Visual Art



Step Team



Gymnastics



Financial Literacy



Line Dancing



Gardening



Yoga



Glitter & Sparkle and United Male Eagles







CREATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Liberty STEAM Charter School graduates are academically prepared and equipped with the skills and mindset to impact our community profoundly. Here is a look at what a scholar will have accomplished upon high school graduation.

- Beginning in Kindergarten, through Liberty's curriculum, scholars will be introduced to Sumter's
 four greatest economic needs: business technology, health sciences, industrial technology,
 and engineering technology. Upon reaching 6th grade, they will have had the opportunity to
 specialize in one of the four economic needs, instilling them with the skills and confidence
 necessary for secure employment after graduation.
- They'll have **read over 12 million words** through our annual Million Word Challenge.
- Their family will have **completed 120 volunteer service hours** by giving the required 10 hours annually.
- They'll have completed and presented **4 STEAM capstone projects** to a panel of experts, ensuring they are prepared for real-world challenges.
- They'll have a **basic understanding of foreign languages** such as French, Spanish, and American Sign Language (ASL).
- A study by the SC Department of Education, in collaboration with Sumter's three higher education institutions, found that 60% of scholars expect to graduate with their associate's degree while gaining their high school diploma.
- They'll have **earned a workforce certification** upon graduation.
- They'll have received daily social-emotional learning lessons.
- They'll have participated in **24 weeks of Culture Camp**, two dedicated weeks of school a year that emphasize our core values.
- Through Liberty's "whole child approach," they'll have been **exposed to various enrichment activities beyond the traditional school experience,** including cooking, mixed martial arts, financial literacy, sign language, chess, life skills, gardening, and daily physical education classes.

5 STEAM PATHWAYS TO DISTINCTION

As scholars progress through LSC, the main focus of classroom instructional practices moves from teachercentered direct instruction towards more scholar-centered instruction and learning to successfully prepare scholars for independent work in postsecondary and life careers.











Industrial Technology

Engineering Technology

Business Technology Health Sciences

Early College

CALLING ALL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEADERS!

At Liberty STEAM Charter School, we empower scholars alongside families, educators, industry leaders, and our local community to build a future that starts now.

Formerly known as STEAM Day, our newly reimagined PATH Week (Prepare, Aspire, Train, & Harness) is a powerful, four-day experience designed to intentionally expose scholars to future-ready careers right here in Sumter. Through hands-on projects, real-world applications, and direct mentorship, scholars are guided along their unique PATH, preparing them to thrive in tomorrow's workforce.

As a PATH partner, you'll help spark curiosity, fuel creativity, and empower the next generation of innovators and leaders. Join us for PATH Week and help shape the future, one scholar at a time.

Day 1: Visit Our Campus

- Meet the inspiring scholars and teachers you'll collaborate with.
- Spark curiosity with a story time session.
- Co-create a captivating Project-Based Learning activity.
- Craft a dynamic company intro (think PowerPoint, demo, or video).
- Plan your impactful PATH Week schedule and tour the campus.

Day 2: STEAM Day

- Reunite with your classroom and begin your PBL activity #1.
- Share and connect with scholars at the lunch table.
- Lead your PBL activity #2.
- · Conclude your fun day together and debrief.

Day 3: Capstone Pitch Presentation Day

- Listen to scholars showcase the careers, products, and individualized STEAM projects that their class participated in.
- Meet with the leadership team to discuss future work-together opportunities such as CCC (Community Culture Celebration), Career Highlights, Volunteering, Mentorships, MWC (Million Word Challenge) Reading, etc.

Day 4: Field Learning Experience

- Each grade level participated in a field learning experience to visit the actual site of one of the career cluster community partners to see workforce development in action.
- Kindergarten scholars visited Central Carolina Technical College's Health Sciences
 Center, and the second-graders visited the Sumter Aquatic Center, Water Plant, and
 Fire Department. First-grade scholars visited EMS Chemie of North America, thirdgraders visited their Mechatronics Lab, and and fourth-grade scholars visited Florence
 Concrete Company and Nephron Pharmaceuticals.



OPPORTUNITIES OUR DONORS HELP PROVIDE

Receiving roughly 70% of scholar funding from state and federal departments, none of which comes from our local property tax, our deficit amounts to \$3500 per scholar. The need is urgent; thus, the time to act is now. In creating a charter school where rigor, joy, and community are the essential keys to success, we are on a mission to change the narrative about what is possible for the children of Sumter County so that every child is equally positioned to succeed emotionally, academically, and socially. Because of you, Liberty can provide various programs, services, and opportunities to our scholars and teachers. Your support makes a difference not only in our school but also in our community.





Your gift to Liberty STEAM Charter School is 100% tax-deductible as LSC is a 501(c)(3).

HOW DO I GIVE?

Scan this QR code from your phone camera, visit our website at www.LibertySTEAMCharter.org/Support, or contact Gifford Shaw, Director of Finance & Development, at 803-934-6214 or gshaw@libertysteamcharter.org.

YOUR RESOURCES AND FUNDS SUPPORT



GET INVOLVED

Through the help of our corporate partners, Liberty STEAM can continue to serve scholars and their families and, thus, build a thriving local community. An engaged business community knows that such investment pays dividends for generations.

MILLION WORD CHALLENGE

A Liberty STEAM signature endeavor, the Million Word Challenge is a promise to parents that their scholars will read one million words throughout the school year. Scholars' reading logs are tracked by word count through books read at and away from school throughout the year, and once again, 100% of our scholars joined the Millionaires Club in the Million Word Reading Challenge.

OPPORTUNITY:

- The Million Word Challenge presented by YOUR BRAND
- Inclusion on signage on school grounds and promotional collateral and mentions
- Opportunity for quarterly reading days/interactions with scholars
- Video/photo content generation for use on brand and LSC channels, including community and parent newsletters, website, social media, and PR

Sponsorship Starting at \$20,000 // Minimum 5-Year Commitment

COMMUNITY CLASSMATES

As we prepare scholars for the community, we aim to bring the community - and its varied people, values, and opportunities - to the classroom. Whether educating tomorrow's leaders on your company values or communicating to your employees your investment in their hometown, this is an opportunity to make a difference on a personal level.

OPPORTUNITY:

- · Classroom sponsorship with brand recognition via customized signage, e.g., "Our friends at YOUR BRAND believe in YOUR VALUES."
- Customized activations quarterly, e.g., brand representative reading day, teacher/executive joint lesson, "Muffins with the Boss", etc
- Opportunity to engage with LSC Culture Camp, first seven school days in which LSC underscores key values and character principles
- Promotion across LSC channels, including website, newsletters, social media

Sponsorship Starting at \$2,500-5,000/Year // Minimum 10-Year Commitment

The Liberty STEAM Capstone Project is a year-long projectbased learning challenge to put innovation and Liberty values to work. For 2022-2023, scholars embarked on "Solving Sumter's Litter Problem," strategizing and implementing ideas to clean up our town. Scholars worked in teams to apply their understanding of the Engineering Design Process and coding skills to create an animated story to "pitch" their solution to the litter problem. At the end of the year, they were judged by a panel that included the City of Sumter Chief Litter Officer, coding experts, and engineers, with the winners recognized before the City Council.

OPPORTUNITY:

- The Liberty STEAM Capstone Project in partnership with YOUR BRAND
- Inclusion on promotional collateral and mentions
- Opportunity for brand representatives to mentor/ participate alongside scholars and/or judging
- Video/photo content generation for use on brand and LSC channels, including community and parent newsletters, website, social media, and PR

Sponsorship Starting at \$10,000 // Minimum 3-Year Commitment

ENRICHING THE WHOLE CHILD

We know education is more than reading, writing, and arithmetic - it's developing children holistically by providing equitable access to activities that enrich the mind and body. Ten (10) yearlong enrichments, from yoga to gardening to martial arts, ensure our scholars can tap into various passions.

OPPORTUNITY:

- Sponsorship of one (1) enrichment activity offered throughout the school year
- Brand recognition on signage, equipment, and/or promotion
- Promotion across LSC channels, including website, newsletters, social media

Sponsorship Starting at \$2,500/Year per Enrichment



With gratitude and pride, we stand united in serving and empowering our scholars, knowing that their achievements reflect the community we hold dear. Thank you for investing in their dreams and nurturing a future where the brilliance of our scholars illuminates the path to a better world for us all.

2024-2025 COMMUNITY PARTNERS & DONORS

Porter & Patricia Thompkins Dollar General Charter School Growth Fund Building Hope Builders FirstSource Yass Prize Greg & Danielle Thompson Tansales, Inc. Dabo's All In Foundation Ben E. Griffith Cammy Chandler John Calhoun Land & Kimberly Land Ghanshyam & Shital Patel Dr. Rodney Thompson Brian Stancil William & Pamela Rawson Curtis White, Jr. Williams Brice Edwards Charitable Trust Lisa & Giff Daughtridge

Lester Bell
Dr. Trevor Ivey
Drake McCormick
Central Carolina Community Foundation
Stier Supply Company
Gifford & Marian Shaw
Re/Max Summit
Kyle Wagaman

Quixote Foundation

Greg and Lewis Thompson started Quixote Club with a vision to give back to the community by supporting children and their families. The end goal is to attract more families to plant their roots within their hometown of Sumter, South Carolina.

With this vision in mind, Quixote Club was created to connect, inspire, and change lives through golf. With the support of its philanthropic-minded members, proceeds from Quixote Club are reinvested back into the community through the Quixote Foundation, which directly supports Liberty STEAM Charter School. Through membership and corporate sponsors, Quixote Club is a catalyst to elevate the community by providing a world-class education to our youth and enriching the history of Sumter through philanthropy.

*Community Partners and Donors are recognized for financial contributions of \$1,000 or more. Donors are listed in alphabetical order.

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Greg A. Thompson, Chairman



Cammy Chandler, Vice-Chairwoman



LaShea Davis, Secretary



Dr. Rodney Thompson, Treasurer



Heather Bass



Elayne Brunson*



Shafara Douglas



Jenny Knopf

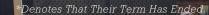


Rev. Dr. Marion Newton



Kimberly Rauschenbach





2024-2025 ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL RESULTS

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS			
	GOALS	RESULT	
K-4 Scholars End the Year Meeting Enrichment Standards	85%	84%	
K-4 Scholars End the Year On/Above Grade Level in Reading Math	85% 85%	53% 68%	
K-4 Scholars Meet Yearlong Growth Targets in Reading Math	85% 85%	65% 68%	
K-4 Scholars in CSI Meet Growth Target in Reading Math	50% 50%	68% 61%	
K-4 Scholars Meet Mastery on Mastery Checks Reading Math	85% 85%	76% 85%	
Scholars Who Read One Million Words Meet SEL Competencies	85% 85%	98% 88%	
LSC Receives Top Quality District Rating & State Rating	Good MET	MET TBD	

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE			
	GOALS	RESULTS	
Scholar Daily Meal Participation: Breakfast Lunch	75% 75%	71% 83%	
Average Daily Attendance Scholar Persistence	95% 90%	95% 96%	

MISSION ALIGNMENT			
	GOALS	RESULTS	
Scholars With Low Socioeconomic Status	79%	72%	
Scholar Enrollment	731	731	
Stakeholders Engaged (Satisfaction & Volunteer Hours)	85%	99% 94%	

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE			
	GOALS	RESULTS	
Composite Score on Great Place to Work % Staff Daily Attendance	85% 95%	100% 95%	
Teacher Retention Employee Retention	85% 85%	88% 96%	

FINANCIAL STRENGTH		
	GOALS	RESULTS
Funds Raised	\$1M	\$1.7M
Financial Goals Met	100%	100%

ORGANIZATIONAL RALLY CRY

2 CAMPUSES, 1 BRAND: ADAPTABILITY, COMMUNITY, EMPOWERMENT

Thematic Goal: Delivering Excellence in Public Education Across Sumter 2.0

Time Table: August - May 2025

OUR PURPOSE

To be a proof point in public education, focusing on changing the narrative about what is possible by serving families in rural and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods with the goal of uplifting the entire community through better educational opportunities for children.

ONE GOAL

Achieve a Good or Excellent Report Card Rating from the SC Department of Education on LSC's First Report Card

OUR STRATEGIC

- 1. Provides a Unique Scholar Culture
- 2. Is a Beacon of Inspiration
- 3. Letting Data Drive Decisions

ONE TEAM

115 hungry, humble, and smart people working cohesively together, guided by one mission as an enterprise demanding excellence in education for all children served, as measured by college and career readiness, operational excellence, mission alignment, financial strength, and a winning culture.

ONE PLAN

Network Pillars

- 1. PA Rally Cry
- 2. EA Rally Cry
- 3. Junior Academy Readiness
- 4. Implement Enrollment Roadmap
- 5. Grow Financial Strength
- 6. Implement Reading Curriculum, Part 2
- 7. Prepare for SC READY
- 8. Leverage Operational Efficiency

Primary Academy Pillars

- 1. Expand Mastery Checks
- 2. Close the Achievement Gap in Special Populations
- 3. Strengthen Adult Culture of Excellence
- 4. Grow Social Emotional Learning
- 5. Increase Amira/Fact Fluency

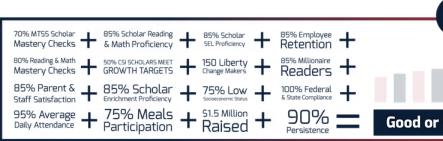


Elementary Academy Pillars

- 1. Expand Mastery Checks
- 2. Close the Achievement Gap in Special Populations
- 3. Increase Power Standard Integration into Enrichment Classes
- 4. Grow Social Emotional Learning
- 5. Talent Recruitment & Selection

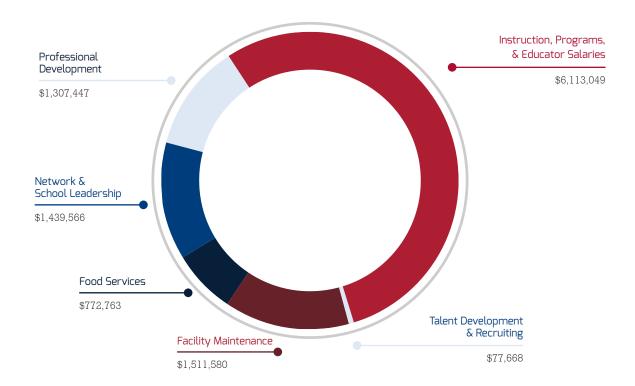




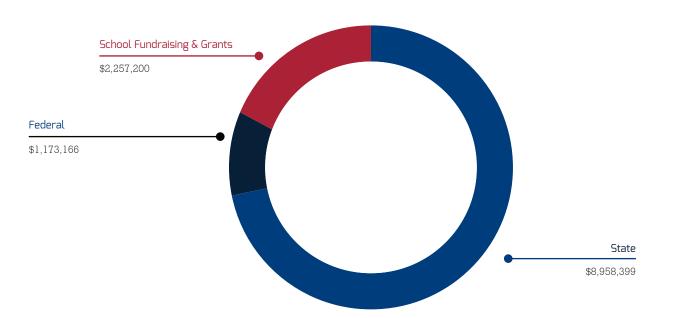




TOTAL EXPENSES \$11,222,073



TOTAL REVENUE **\$12,388,765**



DISCLOSURE

We are committed to the responsible, efficient, and transparent use of all funds received. As a public school that will be accountable to families, its charter sponsor, and taxpayers, LSC believes deeply in accountability and has a planning committee committed to ensuring LSC's academic, financial, and operational success. To view these reports and documents, please visit www.LibertySTEAMCharter.org/Financials-Reports-Policies.



MEET OUR FAMILIES



Megan and Rob Lybrand

Parents of Crandall Lybrand, 1st Grade & Rawlins Lybrand, Incoming Kinder

CAN YOU RECALL A SPECIFIC MOMENT OR EXPERIENCE AT LSC THAT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED YOU AS A PARENT?

Our very first visit to Liberty our daughter, Crandall, was immediately recognized and called by name. We immediately knew there was something special about Liberty. As time has progressed with Liberty, this has continued and we as a family are recognized and called by name. In addition, the many other personal touches have made a difference. The little things have made a huge impact on both our scholars and family.

IN WHAT WAYS HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOUR SCHOLAR'S ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

Liberty has brought our scholar out of her shell. LSC has allowed her personality to blossom into a positive, supportive, and helpful child. Not only has our scholar become very outgoing, but she also always has a strong will to learn and gives her best effort in everything.

HOW HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOU AS A PARENT?

As parents, we knew we wanted to be part of children's education experiences, and Liberty has given us every opportunity to do so, not only in the classroom but also in extracurricular and community activities. LSC has given us the opportunity to be involved in many different aspects.

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY POSITIVE CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENTS IN YOUR CHILD SINCE ATTENDING LSC?

Our scholar stays excited about school and learning on a regular basis. In addition, our scholar has been very helpful and efficient not in school but at home and in other activities she is involved in. She has become a leader and is always ready to stand up and help out.

HOW HAS LSC COMMUNICATED AND COLLABORATED WITH YOU AS A PARENT REGARDING YOUR SCHOLAR'S PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING?

Liberty goes above and beyond to communicate and collaborate with parents more than ever expected. From inperson conferences to interim reports or just in passing with staff, information regarding scholars is always shared. In addition, we have found that any questions or concerns we may have are always addressed efficiently.

HOW HAS LSC ADDRESSED ANY CONCERNS OR CHALLENGES YOU MAY HAVE HAD AS A PARENT?

We have found that the lines of communication are always open, and all we have to do is reach out. Our concerns have always been quickly addressed or resolved.

OVERALL, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF LSC ON YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR CHILD'S OVERALL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE?

We could not ask for a better experience. We believe our scholar has learned very much in the last two years and has quickly matured in her schoolwork abilities. In our household, the concept of school is exciting and not dreaded by our children. Our youngest, who starts at Liberty in the fall, has been talking about going to Liberty all school year, and that has been exciting to hear.

IF YOU COULD SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO WAS CONSIDERING INVESTING THEIR RESOURCES INTO LSC, HOW WOULD YOU SAY THEIR INVESTMENT WOULD IMPACT OTHER PARENTS LIKE YOU?

An investment in Liberty provides an option outside of standard public education without the cost of private institutions. It allows parents to provide the best education possible without a cost factor while not having to worry about the quality of their child's education.

MEET OUR SCHOLARS



Crandall Lybrand

Grade: 1st Age: 6 Graduation Year: 2036

Favorite Book: Oh, the Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT?

My favorite subject was PE-Enrichment.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THIS YEAR?

My favorite memory was all the pictures that were taken throughout the year.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR TEACHERS?

I love that my teachers made reading and math extremely fun.

WHAT ACHIEVEMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF THIS YEAR?

I'm most proud to have perfect attendance this year.



Rawlins Lybrand

Grade: Kinder Age: 5 Graduation Year: 2038

Favorite Book: Christmas Heros (Paw Patrol) by Random House

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR KINDERGARTEN?

Excited for school lunch, especially the pizza.



MEET OUR FAMILIES



Howard and Jasmine Riley

Parents of Jolie Riley, 1st Grade, & Jax Riley, incoming Kinder

SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A PARENT AT LSC?

I love the culture at LSC. The staff is always so passionate and energetic.

CAN YOU RECALL A SPECIFIC MOMENT OR EXPERIENCE AT LSC THAT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED YOU AS A PARENT?

On the 1st day of kindergarten, my daughter cried because she didn't want to leave school.

HOW HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOU AS A PARENT?

As parents, we knew we wanted to be part of children's education experiences, and Liberty has given us every opportunity to do so, not only in the classroom but also in extracurricular and community activities. LSC has given us the opportunity to be involved in many different aspects.

HOW HAS LSC FOSTERED A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT AMONG PARENTS?

The volunteer opportunities and the transparency really foster an environment of trust.

IN WHAT WAYS HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOUR SCHOLAR'S ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT?

My daughter loves math and problem-solving. She is very curious about the world around her.

HOW HAS LSC COMMUNICATED AND COLLABORATED WITH YOU AS A PARENT REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING?

The school does a phenomenal job of celebrating all of her accomplishments. I have also had staff teach me as a parent how to better help at home.

CAN YOU SHARE ANY EXAMPLES OF HOW LSC HAS ENCOURAGED YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES?

They are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Our feedback doesn't go unheard. I've seen my suggestions actually implemented.

HOW HAS LSC ADDRESSED ANY CONCERNS OR CHALLENGES YOU HAVE HAD AS A PARENT?

Through educational opportunities that are provided for parents. One of my biggest concerns was how to foster an educational environment at home, and LSC shows us how.

OVERALL, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF LSC ON YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR CHILD'S OVERALL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE?

LSC has renewed our hope for a quality education and given my daughter a love for learning.

IF YOU COULD SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO WAS CONSIDERING INVESTING THEIR RESOURCES INTO LSC, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ENCOURAGE THEM?

LSC is giving Sumter families access to the type of educational experience that families pay heavily for in other cities. These types of opportunities don't often come to the citizens of Sumter.

HOW HAS LSC INVESTED IN YOU AS A PARENT?

It has given us an opportunity to provide our children with the kind of education that seemed out of reach for this community.

MEET OUR SCHOLARS



Jolie Riley

Grade: 1st Age: 6 Graduation Year: 2036

WHAT'S SOMETHING FUN YOU CAN SHARE ABOUT YOURSELF?

I'm the middle child in my family. I like playing sports, picking out outfits, and doing math.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT COMING TO LSC EVERY DAY?

I like coming to school because it makes me happy. I get to learn new things and spend time with my friends.

HOW HAS BEING AT LSC MADE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE?

I feel proud to be a student here. I've gotten to do things I might not have done anywhere else.



Jax Riley

Grade: Kinder Age: 5 Graduation Year: 2038

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR KINDERGARTEN?

I am most excited for centers.





MEET OUR TEAM



Annette F. Denny

Lead Kindergarten Teacher 2024-25 Lead Teacher of the Year for the Primary Academy

COULD YOU PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND INTERESTS AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR ROLE?

With over 17 years of classroom experience teaching students from Pre-K through Second Grade, I bring a deep passion for early childhood education and a steadfast commitment to student growth. I hold a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and will complete my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction in July. I consider it a privilege to work with our youngest scholars each day, and I am fully dedicated to continuously improving my practice. I thrive on learning new, research-based strategies and am committed to being the best educator I can be for my students, their families, and for all of the LSC family.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE AT LSC?

I am incredibly grateful to be part of a school community that truly values collaboration, excellence, and a shared commitment to nurturing young learners. At the Primary Academy, educators are not only empowered to grow but also deeply valued, respected, and appreciated. It's an inspiring environment where both students and teachers thrive.

COULD YOU SHARE A SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE OR MOMENT THAT HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON YOU AS A TEACHER?

One of my most profound memories as a teacher isn't tied to academic achievement or a standout lesson; it's a much more somber moment that has stayed with me. It was a wet fall morning, around 9:00 a.m., when I was approached by the administration with heartbreaking news: one of my sweet, fun-loving, and kind students had just lost her father in a tragic accident. I was asked to carry on with the day, and I did. Not because it was easy but because I knew her world had just changed forever, and I wanted her time in our classroom to remain a safe and steady place, even if just for a few more hours. That moment reminded me that teaching is about so much more than academics. It's about being a constant, a source of comfort, and a safe space for children when they need it most.

HOW HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

At LSC, there is a strong culture of growth and continuous improvement. Every member of the team is encouraged to refine their craft and strive to be a better version of themselves each and every day. Under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Ivey, I have felt especially supported in my professional journey. He has encouraged me to pursue National Board Certification, a rigorous but highly respected accomplishment in our field. His belief in my potential has been incredibly motivating, and I'm excited to take on this next challenge in my career.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU FEEL VALUED AND APPRECIATED BY LSC?

I feel truly valued and appreciated at LSC because I am consistently heard, respected, and included. What makes this community so special is that this sense of belonging extends across every level, from board members to the Operations Team, to our leadership, and to my fellow colleagues. There is a genuine culture of respect and collaboration that makes coming to work each day a joy and a privilege.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE UNIQUE ASPECT OR STRENGTH OF LSC THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH?

Liberty has provided a safe, supportive environment where I feel empowered to challenge myself and take meaningful risks in my professional growth. The leadership team has an incredible ability to recognize and nurture the untapped potential in each individual. Their belief in me has pushed me to grow in ways I never imagined and has made a lasting impact on both my confidence and my practice.

IF YOU COULD SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO WAS CONSIDERING INVESTING THEIR RESOURCES INTO LSC, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ENCOURAGE THEM?

Investing in Liberty, whether through talent, time, or financial support, is truly an investment in a better tomorrow. Liberty is transforming the educational landscape of Sumter and the surrounding communities. Every goal achieved in every meaningful encounter creates a ripple effect that reaches far beyond the classroom, touching lives in powerful and lasting ways. There is no greater investment than one that shapes a brighter future.



Adria Vaughn

2nd Grade Lead Teacher 2024-25 Network Teacher of the Year 2025-26 SCPCSD Teacher of the Year Nominee + Finalist 2025 National Board Certified Teacher

COULD YOU PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND INTERESTS AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR ROLE?

I'm a 2nd-grade teacher with a passion for supporting diverse learners in math and literacy. At Liberty, I also mentor teaching fellows, helping new educators grow into confident lead teachers. This year, I'm honored to serve as LSC's 2025–26 Network Teacher of the Year, recognizing my commitment to educational excellence. I previously taught 3rd grade for five years in Clarendon and Sumter School Districts, building a strong foundation in differentiated instruction. Beyond the classroom, I've coached our Girls on the Run team and served as a Relay for Life team captain, supporting community health and empowerment initiatives.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE AT LSC?

The work environment at Liberty STEAM Charter is mission-driven, with a strong emphasis on team and family. Each morning, teachers, school leaders, and staff members come together to welcome scholars with hugs, high-fives, and upbeat music, setting a joyful and affirming tone for the day ahead. This culture of care and consistency reinforces the belief that every scholar matters and every adult in the building plays a vital role in their success. We operate as one team with one mission, supporting each other professionally while building strong, positive relationships with students and families. It's a place where dedication is celebrated, collaboration is the norm, and love and high expectations go hand in hand.

COULD YOU SHARE A SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE OR MOMENT THAT HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON YOU AS A TEACHER?

One of the most profound moments in my teaching journey came during my time coaching our Girls on the Run team at Liberty STEAM Charter. I was working with a group of young girls, some of whom had never seen themselves as leaders or even confident individuals. Throughout the season, I watched them transform. I saw scholars find their voice, hesitant runners push through their first mile, and scholars become motivators for their peers. That moment reminded me that teaching goes far beyond academics. It's about helping students believe in themselves, embrace challenges, and discover who they are becoming. It reminded me that the work we do, whether in the classroom or out in the community, has the power to shape confidence, character, and lifelong belief in one's own potential.

HOW HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

Liberty STEAM Charter has played a significant role in my professional growth by offering meaningful development and leadership opportunities. As a mentor teacher, I've received targeted training that's strengthened both my instruction and leadership skills. I've been encouraged to innovate, lead through our collective leadership initiative, and support diverse learners. Being named the 2025–26 Network Teacher of the Year was a powerful acknowledgment of my dedication. Coaching Girls on the Run and leading Relay for Life teams also reflect the trust LSC places in me. I feel genuinely valued through both recognition and ongoing support.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE UNIQUE ASPECT OR STRENGTH OF LSC THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH?

The unique aspect or strength of LSC is its intentional culture of high expectations paired with excellence, transparency, and support. I've felt part of LSC's mission-driven team that is deeply committed to both student achievement and adult development. The network doesn't just expect excellence, it actively equips and empowers educators to reach it.

HOW HAS LSC INVESTED IN YOU?

LSC has invested in me by offering professional learning opportunities, leadership training, and collaborative planning and reflection. These experiences have allowed me to grow as a teacher leader. Through targeted coaching and data-driven planning sessions, as well as the chance to lead and mentor others, I have gained both confidence and skill. These opportunities have enabled me to apply my expertise beyond the classroom, helping me evolve into a well-rounded leader.

HOW DOES THEIR INVESTMENT IMPACT OTHER TEACHERS/STAFF LIKE YOU?

Liberty STEAM Charter's investment in its educators creates a ripple effect that transforms not only individual practice but the overall culture of excellence and collaboration. Teachers and staff members are given the tools that they need, such as professional learning opportunities, to help them meet and or exceed those high expectations. Whether it's through professional development, leadership pathways, or structured mentorship opportunities, teachers feel seen, supported, and equipped to grow. Teachers/Staff members who once felt unsure about leading initiatives are now facilitating sessions, mentoring, and driving academic success because our network believes in growing leaders from within.



Robbie Derk

4th Grade Academic Interventionist 2024-25 Support Staff Member of the Year

COULD YOU PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND INTERESTS AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR ROLE?

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Education from Eastern New Mexico University and a graduate degree in Technology in Education from Lesley University. I am endorsed in both Gifted and Talented Education and as a Read to Succeed Literacy Teacher. My professional interests center on the foundations of reading. As someone who developed a strong love for reading early on, I am passionate about helping students who struggle with reading experience that same sense of enjoyment and confidence.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE AT LSC?

The work environment and culture at LSC are truly exceptional. There is a strong emphasis on building meaningful relationships, with collaboration and teamwork actively encouraged. Additionally, there is a clear commitment to fostering joy in the workplace; from the music that welcomes us each morning to the warm greetings from scholars and colleagues, the atmosphere is both positive and energizing.

COULD YOU SHARE A SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE OR MOMENT THAT HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON YOU AS A TEACHER?

My first Liberty Coat Day was a truly impactful experience. It was inspiring to see students recognized, not for popularity or athletic ability, but for their effort, kindness, and commitment to personal growth. Witnessing their expressions as Mr. Vaughn called their names was heartwarming, and the enthusiastic support from their classmates moved me deeply. Seeing families present to celebrate and speak about their scholars was especially meaningful. Family involvement is such a critical component of student success, and this recognition was a shared victory. It was an incredible moment.

HOW HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

One aspect I truly appreciate about Liberty is its personalized approach to professional development. Rather than a one-size-fits-all model, professional learning is tailored to meet the unique needs and goals of each educator. As a veteran teacher, I had the opportunity last year to earn a micro-credential, a short, focused program designed to develop a specific, high-impact skill. My focus was on disaggregating student data to better inform instruction. This year, I completed an online course aligned with my role as an academic interventionist, and next year, I will begin the second year of LETRS training, further supporting my work in literacy intervention. LSC is highly intentional in fostering professional growth in ways that are both relevant and meaningful to each educator's role.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU FEEL VALUED AND APPRECIATED BY LSC?

At LSC, I genuinely feel valued and appreciated. There is a strong culture of gratitude, where expressions of thanks and appreciation are shared openly among colleagues. Whether it's a simple "thank you" or a thoughtful acknowledgment, staff members often recognize one another's efforts. Additionally, the support from our school community is exceptional; parents frequently express their appreciation for the work we do with their scholars, reinforcing the positive and respectful environment that defines LSC.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS THE UNIQUE ASPECT OR STRENGTH OF LSC THAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH?

One of Liberty's greatest strengths is its commitment to innovation and its willingness to embrace change. Dr. Ivey and our dreamers recognized a need for educational transformation within our community and had the vision and courage to turn that need into action. Four years later, Liberty remains dynamic, continually evolving to better support our scholars and families. While I have traditionally been hesitant about change, unsure of what the "new" might bring, I chose to step outside my comfort zone and join LSC. It was one of the best decisions I've made. I am proud to be part of a school that is leading meaningful, positive change in our community, and I am deeply grateful to be contributing to that mission.

IF YOU COULD SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO WAS CONSIDERING INVESTING THEIR RESOURCES INTO LSC, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ENCOURAGE THEM?

Please consider supporting Liberty. As a public charter school, we don't receive full public funding but remain committed to offering programs like academic support, the arts, and enrichment. Your gift helps keep these opportunities available. Even small donations can fund field trips or STEAM supplies. We also welcome community involvement, whether sharing a skill, mentoring a student, or participating in events like STEAM Day. Our scholars are the future of this community. With your support, they can continue to grow and thrive.



Ivie Pea

Lead Teacher 2024-25 Teaching Fellow of the Year for the Elementary Academy

COULD YOU PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND INTERESTS AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR ROLE?

I'm excited to share a bit about my journey in education. Two years ago, I began my adventure with Liberty Steam Charter School as a teaching fellow. During that time, I was fortunate enough to be paired with Ms. Vaughn, whose guidance and mentorship have been invaluable. As a teaching fellow at Liberty, I've had the opportunity to teach the math portion of our class, which I found incredibly rewarding. Additionally, I facilitate small groups and lead SEL lessons each morning, focusing on building a supportive and engaging environment for our students.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE AT LSC?

The work environment at Liberty Steam Charter School is collaborative and supportive, with a strong emphasis on professional growth and student-centered learning. Teachers are encouraged to innovate and work together to create engaging and effective learning experiences for all students.

HOW HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

Liberty has supported my professional growth by providing mentorship from experienced educators, offering continuous professional development workshops, and encouraging collaborative projects with colleagues. These opportunities have helped me refine my teaching skills and deepen my understanding of effective instructional strategies.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU FEEL VALUED AND APPRECIATED BY LSC?

I feel valued at Liberty through the recognition of my contributions to student success, the opportunities to lead and collaborate on school-wide initiatives, and the supportive relationships I've built with colleagues and administrators. The emphasis on teamwork and mutual respect makes me feel like an integral part of the Liberty family.

HOW HAS LSC SUPPORTED YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

Since working at Liberty, I've seen a significant improvement in my teaching, particularly in classroom management and differentiated instruction. The supportive environment and focus on continuous improvement have empowered me to take risks, experiment with new strategies, and refine my practice based on student outcomes and feedback.

HOW HAS LSC INVESTED IN YOU?

Liberty has invested in me by providing professional development tailored to my role, offering mentorship to support my growth, and creating a collaborative environment where my contributions are valued and recognized. This investment demonstrates a commitment to my success and the overall success of the school community.

IF YOU COULD SPEAK TO SOMEONE WHO WAS CONSIDERING INVESTING THEIR RESOURCES INTO LSC. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ENCOURAGE THEM?

Investing in Liberty is investing in a community that values growth, collaboration, and student success. Your resources would support innovative programs, enhance learning environments, and empower both educators and students to reach their full potential. It's an investment that yields a lasting positive impact.





JUL

Nest Fest was the ultimate back-to-school extravaganza that brought together all Liberty families across both campuses for one unforgettable event. United under one brand, families met faculty and staff, sampled food from the Eagle Café, received free haircuts and uniform polo shirts, joined the PTO, enjoyed Kona Ice, and more. Nest Fest kicked off the year with energy, unity, and excitement.

AUG

We kicked off the Million Word Challenge, sponsored by Builders First Source. Each school year, we encouraged all scholars to read one million words.



We held the groundbreaking for our Junior Academy expansion, welcoming local and state elected leaders, our Board of Directors, original charter planning committee members, and other guests to the Sumter Mall campus. The first phase of the addition included 5th-grade classes, which were expected to be ready for the next school year. Our future looked bright with a permanent home through 8th grade.

SEPT

We were proud to be recognized as one of the nation's top 25 best-inclass education providers with the 2024 Yass Prize.



Our Liberty team and families showed up loud and proud, marching in the parade to officially kick off the 5th annual eSTEAM Festival in downtown Sumter. Over 70 LSC scholars from both academies participated with their parents

Dads on Duty was a group of fathers who took morning duty posts to bring joy and help lead classroom morning meetings. They continued to meet throughout the year, assisted with custodial needs, and even published a book titled "Life at Liberty," which was distributed to all new and current scholars.



We hosted our first Title I & PTO Fall Sunset Movie Night, attended by 350 scholars, VIPs, and staff in the Sumter Mall parking lot. More than 100 non-perishable food items were collected for the United Ministries of Sumter's food closet.

NOV

We launched the PEACE Academy, which stands for Parent Empowerment and Collective Engagement. It was the first of eight sessions designed to provide a safe space for reflection and growth, strengthening the connection between home and school.





DEC

During the 5th Annual Lottery, we were honored to welcome three alumni from the original Liberty Street Elementary School: Rose Ford and Lydia Johnson from the Class of 1949 and Tommy Bultman, a student in the 1960s, as our official lottery clickers.



Colorado-based Charter School Growth Fund added Liberty STEAM to its portfolio in December. The award will help complete the Junior Academy at Sumter Mall and prepare for the opening of the Senior Academy in 2029.

JAN



We launched our New Enrollment Road Map: Hopes & Dreams conferences. After completing enrollment paperwork, new scholars and their VIPs met with an enrollment ambassador to share their aspirations and formally commit to our journey together. Each scholar received an official acceptance letter and pennant, marking the start of something special.

We celebrated a major milestone as Liberty's three National Board Certified Teachers were formally pinned by SC House Speaker Murrell Smith.

FEB

Our Title I Chapters & Chili Night at both academies brought families together for a night of literacy-focused fun and friendly competition, featuring our first-ever dad-led chili cook-off.

MAR

We proudly serve nearly 80 militaryconnected families. Our Dandelion Scholars traveled to Columbia to meet #TeamSumter at the State House and were recognized by

Governor Henry McMaster during the proclamation of April as the Month of the Military Child. They also received balcony recognition in both chambers of the General Assembly.



We hosted our first Invention Convention & Science Fair, spotlighting scholars' creativity and innovation.



We also welcomed Senator Lindsey Graham to both campuses, where he learned more about Liberty's mission and unique educational model.



Our 5th Annual Welcome to Liberty event offered new families a deeper look into the heart of our mission, story, and school community.

MAY

Liberty was honored to be named a 2025 Building Hope Impact Award Winner as the Career Education Champion, one of only 14 schools nationally to receive this recognition.





At the Amazing Shake, scholars led by Mrs. Jones competed in real-world skill challenges, from professional emails to impromptu speeches. Abe Fuller advanced to the district-level competition.

JUNE

We were proud to present our story at the Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina's HR & Operations Leadership Summit, where we shared Liberty's mission and model with school leaders across the state.







LibertySTEAMCharter.org