



**EMPOWERING
MINDS,
ENRICHING
COMMUNITIES**

Investing in Our Future



LSC Family,

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 the past 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 tools and skills needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world. Through our collaborative efforts, we have fostered an environment where curiosity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning flourish.

As we delve into the pages of this annual report, we invite you to embark on a journey that showcases the transformative power of education. From innovative programs and initiatives to remarkable stories, each section is a testament to the profound influence that education has on individuals and communities alike.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, committed partners, and visionary supporters who have played an integral role in making this year possible. Your unwavering support has paved the way for a brighter future, igniting a passion for learning and driving us closer to our collective goals.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, we are confident that our shared commitment to education will pave the way for a prosperous and inclusive future.

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

Sincerely,



Dr. Trevor Ivey, NBCT

Executive Director, Chief Reminder Officer
& Lead Learner



LSC Stakeholders,

With our second academic year at LSC in the books, we reflect on another year of exceptional learning, next-generation innovation, and the opportunities in the decades ahead to continue our mission of transforming lives through education. We started LSC with the goal of being the top public school in South Carolina – and in just year two, 341 scholars, their families, and our second-to-none teachers and staff rose to the challenge and proved that our goals are indeed achievable.

A few highlights from the 2022-2023 academic year include:

- School-Wide Million Word Reading Challenge: 100% Completion
- Year-End Family Engagement Satisfaction: 96%
- Private Funds Raised: \$757,000
- Funds Secured through Grants: 9 Grants for a Total of \$44,000
- Achievement Gap Decreased by 10%
- Great Place to Work Staff Satisfaction: 96%

These achievements after just two operational years underscore our commitment to our scholars, their families, and our community: We will produce the best-educated, most prepared graduates in the state – tuition-free. And with a second Academy opening this fall, we're excited to expand our reach.

So, as we celebrate and learn from year two and look ahead to year three, we hope you'll join our mission of transforming our community by producing thoughtful, engaged, and prepared citizens. Our vision is clear, our commitment is unwavering, and our drive is steadfast. We've only just begun. Thank you for your support.

Liberty for All.

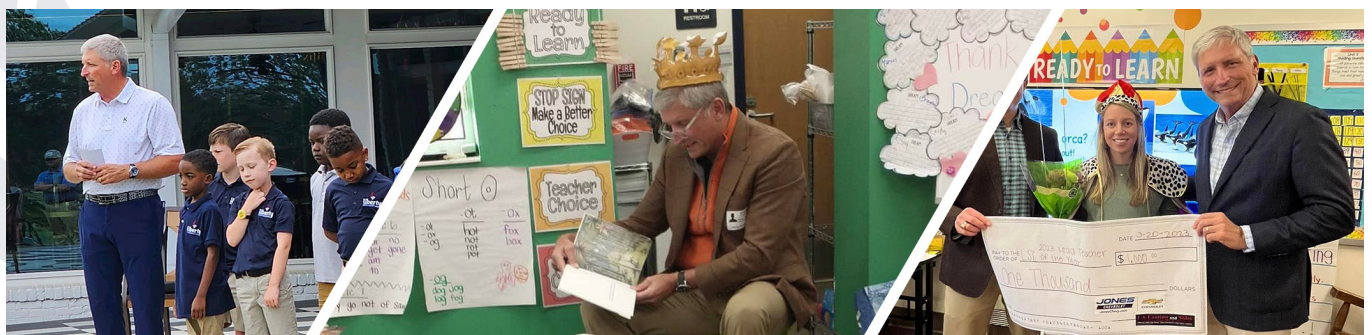
Sincerely,



Greg A. Thompson

Board Chairman, School Founder
& Founding Board Chairman

Private Funds Raised: \$800,000





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

Our vision for LSC is grounded in having partnerships with our local community that push the educational experience that our scholars have. Throughout our academic program, we want to ensure that we have game-changing opportunities inside and outside the classroom for every scholar.

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 that they will leave high school with real-world skills and habits to succeed in industry careers that offer competitive salaries, aiming to produce upstanding, productive citizens for Sumter County.

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.



STAND UP AND OWN IT

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.



PASSION FOR GROWTH

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

CORE VALUES

OUR SCHOLARS, OUR FUTURE

Our scholars embody the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of our community. They represent the diversity, richness, and boundless potential that make us who we are. Each scholar brings a unique perspective, talent, and voice that enriches our educational landscape and strengthens the tapestry of our shared experiences.

By providing a high-quality education and empowering our scholars, we are cultivating tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and changemakers. We understand that nurturing their intellectual curiosity, fostering their character development, and equipping them with essential skills are fundamental in preparing them for success in an ever-evolving world.

Investing in our scholars goes beyond the classroom; it is an investment in the future we collectively envision. Through their achievements and contributions, our scholars become ambassadors of our community, embodying the values, aspirations, and spirit that define us. They inspire and uplift others, leaving an indelible mark on the world around them.



Best Elementary School

WHO WE SERVE

Scholars	Counties
 587	 3
Zip Codes	Academies
 11	 2

70%
of Scholars were Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

66%
of Scholars were Minority Scholars

11%
of Scholars were in Special Education

12%
of Scholars were Children of Military Personnel

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In today's rapidly evolving job market, employers are seeking candidates who possess not only academic knowledge but also a diverse set of skills that extend beyond the classroom. At LSC, 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 that go beyond traditional academics, fostering creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, communication, adaptability, cultural awareness, and critical thinking skills—attributes that are highly sought after by employers. And, thanks to our longer school days and longer school year, we are able to provide these extended opportunities to our scholars without sacrificing time needed for traditional coursework or shortening breaks during the day for meals and recess.



Bucket Drumming



Ukulele



Gardening



Project Lead the Way



P.E.



Mixed Martial Arts



Yoga



Dance



Financial Literacy



Spanish & French



Art

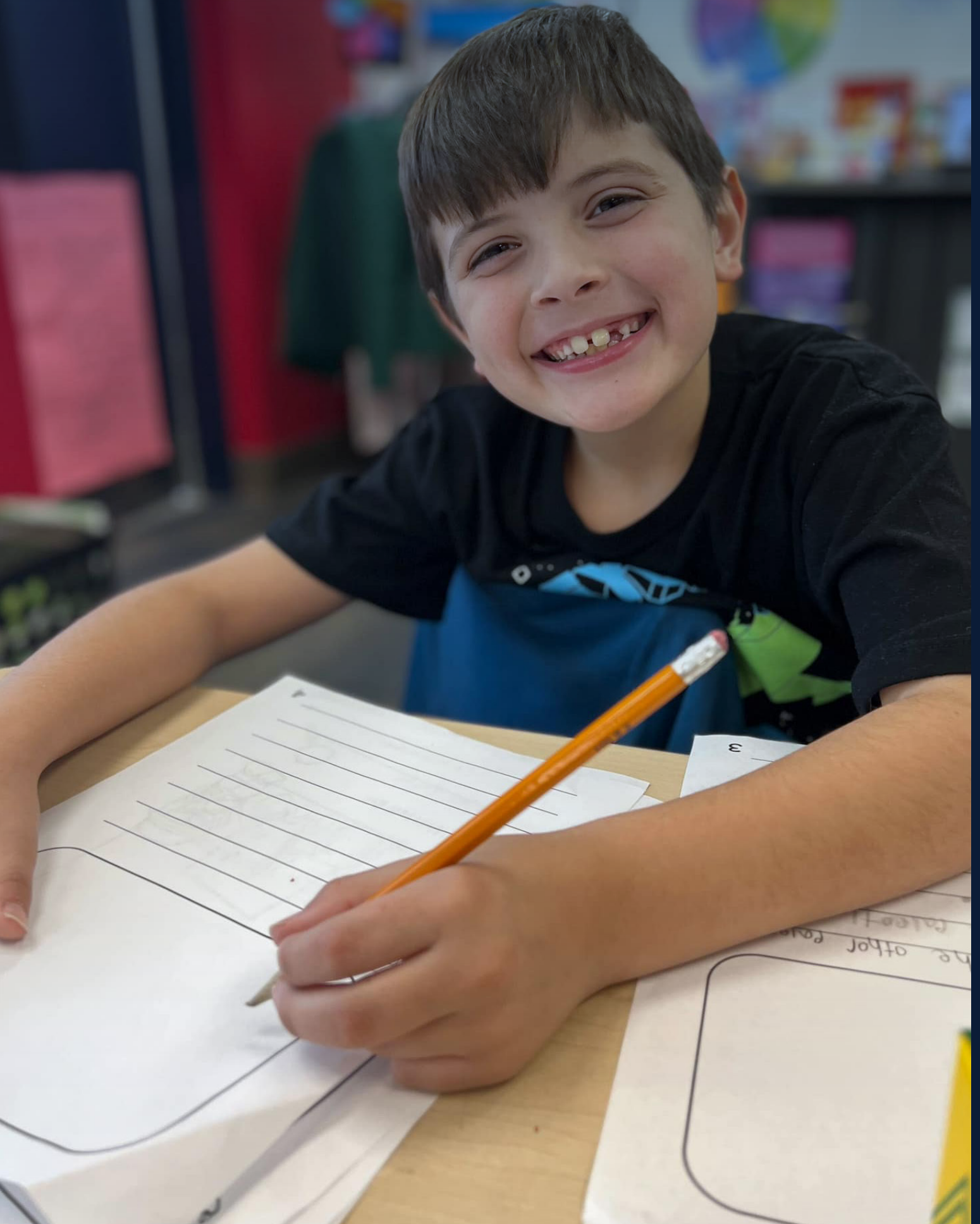


Digital Literacy & Social Emotional Learning



Saturday School Enrichment Experiences

This year, we've offered nearly 20 weekend enrichment opportunities, including cooking, robotics, step team, archery, environmental science, cheer, biomedical sciences, construction, painting, and more. These opportunities provide a platform for our scholars to explore new subjects, engage in hands-on activities, and deepen their understanding of various disciplines.





CREATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY

Graduates of LSC are academically prepared and equipped with the skills and mindset to profoundly impact our community. Here is a look at what a scholar will have accomplished upon high school graduation.

- Beginning in Kindergarten, through LSC's curriculum, they will be introduced to the three greatest economic needs in Sumter - health sciences, industrial & engineering technology, and computer technology. And upon reaching 6th grade, will have had the opportunity to **specialize in one of the three economic needs**, instilling them with the skills and confidence necessary for secure employment after graduation.
- They will 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 will have completed and presented **4 STEAM capstone projects** to a panel of experts upon graduation from each Academy, ensuring they are prepared for real-world challenges.
- They will have a **basic understanding of foreign languages** such as French and Spanish as well as American Sign Language.
- From a study with the SC Department of Education in collaboration with Sumter's three higher education institutions, there is a **60% expectation that they will graduate with their associate's degree** while gaining their high school diploma.
- They will have **earned a workforce certification** upon graduation.
- They will have **received daily social-emotional learning lessons**.
- They will have participated in a total of **24 weeks of Culture Camp**, via two dedicated weeks of school a year that emphasize our core values.
- Through LSC's "whole child approach," they will have been **exposed to various enrichment activities** beyond the traditional school experience, including cooking, mixed martial arts, financial literacy, bucket drumming, gardening, and daily physical education classes.

4 STEAM PATHWAYS TO DISTINCTION

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



Industrial and
Engineering Technology



Computer
Technology



Health
Sciences



Early
College

OPPORTUNITIES OUR DONORS HELP PROVIDE

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, LSC 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.



HOW DO I GIVE?

Scan this QR code from your phone camera or visit our website at

LibertySTEAMCharter.org/Support

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

YOUR RESOURCES AND FUNDS SUPPORT



Chromebooks



Uniforms



Enrichment Experiences



Yearbooks



Book Fairs



Transportation



Classroom Libraries



3D Printers



Smart Boards



Gyms & Outdoor Spaces



With gratitude and pride, we stand united in serving and empowering our scholars, knowing that their achievements are a reflection of 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.

2022-2023 COMMUNITY PARTNERS & DONORS

Anthony Barwick
Becton Dickinson & Co
Edward Bynum
Champions of the Environment
Charter School Growth Fund
Elizabeth & Charles Commander
Leroy & Margaret Creech
Dabo's All In Team Foundation
Daughtridge Family Charitable Fund
Dexter Davis
Diverse Charter Schools Coalition
Dollar General
EMS Chemie of North America
Barry Falin
Billy & Beth Ford
Ben Griffith

Jones Chevrolet, Jones Buick,
& LA Leasing & Sales
Junior Welfare League
O. Mack Kolb
Michael & Phyllis Lee
Dr. & Mrs. Clay Lowder
Lori M
Joseph McElveen, III
Neal Family
Jack Nicklaus
Owen Real Estate
Whitney & Cameron Prescott
Gifford Shaw
Shoot For The Moon Academy
Synovus Bank of Sumter
Tallo
Greg & Danielle Thompson
Lewis Thompson
Thompson Construction Group, Inc.
Harold Turner
UBI Marketing Firm United, LLC
Versacare Grant
David Whaley Jr.
Frank Williamson
Jess Williams

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 classified by financial contribution is \$1,000 or greater. Donors are listed in alphabetical order.*

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Greg A. Thompson,
Chairman



Dexter Davis,
Vice-Chairman



Michael Curtis



Kimberly
Rauschenbach



Cammy Chandler



Jenny Knopf



Elayne Brunson



Rev. Dr. Marion
Newton



Dr. Rodney Thompson



Ken Lee*

**Denotes That Their Term Has Ended.*

2022-2023 ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL RESULTS

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

	GOALS	RESULTS
% Of K-2 Scholars End The Year On/Above Grade Level In Reading Math	85% 85%	62% 73%
% Of K-2 Scholars In CSI Meet Growth Target	50%	50%
STEAM Scholar Profile	85%	88%
% Of Scholars Who Read 1 Million Words	85%	100%
% Of Scholars Who Meet Enrichment Grade Level Standards	85%	91%

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

	GOALS	RESULTS
% Teacher Retention % Employee Retention	85% 90%	85% 91%
% Composite Score On Great Place To Work	88%	96%
% Average Daily Attendance	97%	94%
% Scholar Persistence	90%	92%
% Of Financial Goals Met Standard	100%	100%

MISSION ALIGNMENT

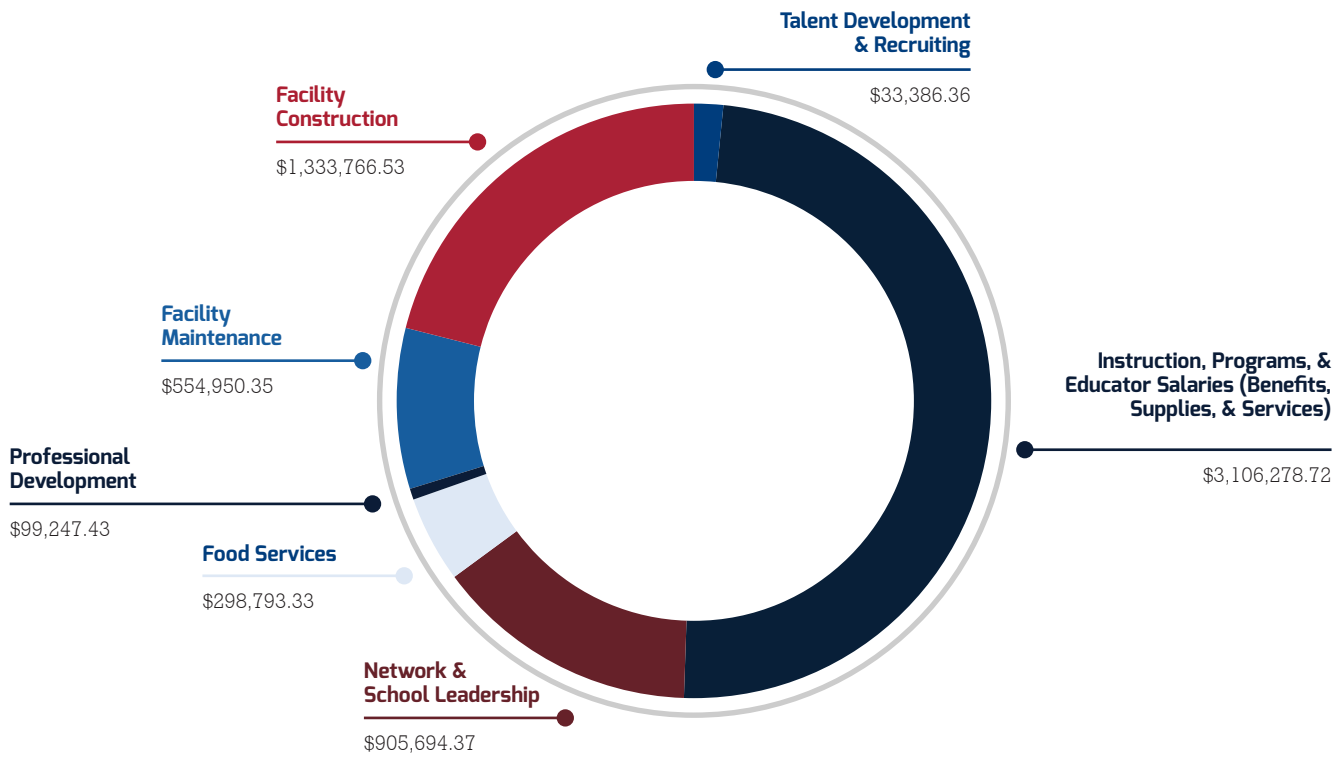
	GOALS	RESULTS
% Of Scholars With Low Socioeconomic Status	65%	65%
First Day of School Enrollment	330	341
Academies In Operation	2	2
Funds Raised	\$1,250,000	\$737,291.28
% Of Stakeholders Engaged (Scholars/Parents)	85%	96%

2023-24 RALLY CRY: ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

2 Campuses, 1 Brand - Delivering Excellence in Public Education for Sumter

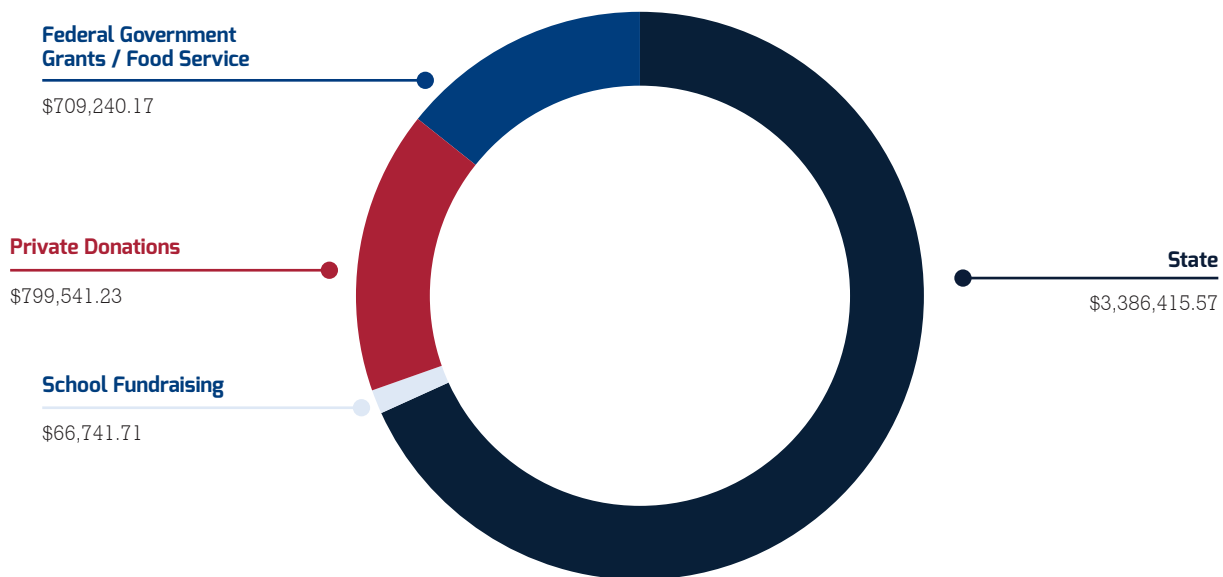
The image shows five vertical pillars of varying heights and colors (blue and red) representing organizational priorities. Each pillar has an icon at the top and text in the center. From left to right: 1. Blue pillar with a gear and person icon, text: "SCALE UP MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT". 2. Red pillar with a person and board icon, text: "IMPLEMENT COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP". 3. Blue pillar with a person and book icon, text: "IMPLEMENT PROGRESS MONITORING IN READING & MATH". 4. Red pillar with a gear and hand icon, text: "LEVERAGE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY". 5. Blue pillar with a hand and dollar sign icon, text: "GROW FINANCIAL STRENGTH".

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$6,332,117.09**



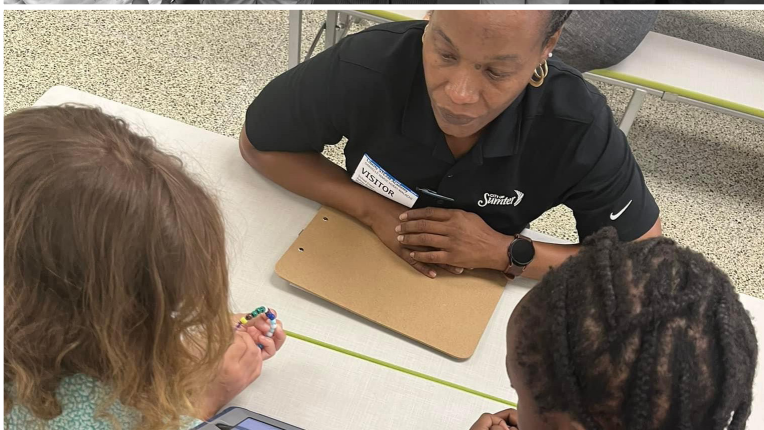
TOTAL REVENUE **\$4,961,938.68**

Amount Expended per Scholar: \$14,445
 Difference Made up From Donations: \$3,030



DISCLOSURE

We are committed to the responsible, efficient, and transparent use of all funds we receive. 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 that is committed to ensuring the academic, financial, and operational success of LSC. To view these reports and documents, please visit www.LibertySTEAMCharter.org/financials-reports-policies.





MEET OUR SCHOLARS

Our commitment to equipping our scholars with the tools they need to succeed goes beyond the classroom, as we recognize the transformative power of a well-rounded education. From academic achievements to personal growth, three of our scholars will share firsthand their experiences which exemplify the significant role that resources play in shaping the lives of our scholars and fostering their journey toward success.



Meet Ian

Kindergarten Class of 2035

Favorite Hobbies: Watching TV, Playing Nintendo, & Jumping on the Trampoline

Ian's journey as a scholar at LSC embodies the spirit of enthusiasm, curiosity, and a thirst for knowledge. His unwavering passion for learning serves as an inspiration to his classmates and educators. With each passing day, he continues to make strides toward his academic and personal goals, nurturing a lifelong love for education that will undoubtedly shape his future.

Ian says that one of the most impactful lessons he has learned at LSC is the power of sign language. This valuable skill enables him to communicate with individuals with difficulty speaking. By learning sign language, Ian has developed a deeper appreciation for diversity and the importance of inclusivity, broadening his understanding of the world and his ability to connect with others.

When asked about his favorite learning experience, Ian finds it challenging to choose just one. Every day at LSC brings him new opportunities for discovery and growth. In mathematics, he tackles equations and problem-solving, expanding his logical and analytical thinking. In reading, he explores the beauty of language through devices like similes and onomatopoeia. Through writing, he has honed his ability to form letters and construct complete sentences, building the foundation for effective communication.

Ian's story reflects the transformative impact a supportive and well-resourced educational experience can have on a young scholar's life. Through their contributions, donors play a pivotal role in shaping the future of scholars like Ian, enabling them to thrive and become well-rounded individuals prepared to make their mark on the world.



DID YOU KNOW??

Every scholar participates in a two-week culture camp during the first two weeks of school to emphasize our core values of Stand Up and Own It, Power of Team, and Growth Mindset.



Meet Chase

1st Grade Class of 2034

Favorite Hobbies: Playing Basketball & Playing with my Little Brother

From the moment he stepped foot onto the LSC campus, Chase knew he had found a special place where he could grow, learn, and thrive. One of the things that Chase cherishes most about LSC is his impressive achievement as a “millionaire.” Yes, you read that right! Chase proudly shares that he has read one million words this year, and he’s not stopping there. The culture of reading at LSC has ignited a passion within Chase, allowing him to dive into captivating stories and explore new worlds through the pages of books. As he immerses himself in the literary realm, Chase’s imagination soars and his love for learning grows exponentially.

Reflecting upon his memories made throughout the school year, one experience stands out in Chase’s mind—the Robotics Club on Saturdays. Eagerly donning his creative hat, Chase became a part of this exciting club, where he delved into the fascinating world of building and programming robots. It wasn’t always easy, but with the guidance of a supportive partner, Chase discovered the thrill of problem-solving, unlocking his potential, and witnessing his creations come to life with incredible moves and functionalities. The Robotics Club became a space where Chase’s determination and teamwork skills flourished, leaving an indelible mark on his journey at LSC.

When it comes to his favorite learning experience, Chase beams with pride as he shares that even though he’s in first grade, he tackles math on a second-grade level. LSC’s commitment to academic excellence has enabled Chase to dive into more advanced mathematical concepts, challenging him to expand his understanding and sharpen his problem-solving skills. Through engaging lessons and hands-on activities, Chase has developed a strong foundation in math and cultivated a sense of confidence and excitement for learning.

Chase’s gratitude overflows for the donors who have made LSC possible, shaping his journey and enabling him to thrive academically, socially, and personally. The impact of their support reaches far beyond the classroom walls, transforming lives and opening doors to a brighter future.



DID YOU KNOW??

All of our scholars are millionaires! 100% of LSC Scholars completed their Million Word Reading Challenge this year with the help of our team, parents, and community partners.



Meet Kennedy

2nd Grade Class of 2033

Favorite Hobbies: Soccer, Coloring, & Singing

Through the guidance of her nurturing teachers and the availability of enriching resources, Kennedy has flourished into a remarkable individual. Her time at LSC has not only provided her with an exceptional education, but has also promoted values of compassion, teamwork, and resilience—essential attributes that will serve her well in her future endeavors.

Throughout her time at LSC, Kennedy has discovered a valuable lesson that has fostered personal growth: the importance of patience and embracing the learning process. She has come to understand that it is perfectly acceptable to make mistakes and that perseverance is key to overcoming challenges. By embracing this mindset, Kennedy has developed resilience and a willingness to continue striving for excellence, even in the face of adversity.

When reflecting on her favorite learning experience, Kennedy beams with pride as she recalls her capstone project. Collaborating with a partner, they embarked on a mission to address the litter problem in their community. Through their creative genius, they crafted an animated story using Scratch Jr., effectively conveying the facts about littering, its detrimental effects on the community, and their innovative solution—a water and land-based robotic tool designed to collect trash upon command. This immersive and hands-on learning experience ignited Kennedy's passion for positively impacting her surroundings.

Kennedy's passion for learning extends well beyond the confines of her classroom, as she immerses herself in the diverse range of enrichment classes available. Among her favorites are P.E., STEAM, and music. P.E. classes, which she attends daily, invigorate her physical well-being and enhance her strength, preparing her to absorb knowledge in the classroom. In STEAM, Kennedy discovers the thrill of problem-solving, collaborating with her peers to devise innovative solutions to real-world challenges. Music class allows her to explore her creative side as she learns to play the ukulele, speak French, engage in bucket drumming, and even practice yoga moves like the graceful "cat-cow."

As Kennedy reflects on her journey at LSC, she realizes that her educational experience has been nothing short of extraordinary. The dedicated donors and supportive community have come together to create an environment that fosters growth, curiosity, and a love for learning. With every interaction, Kennedy feels a sense of belonging and appreciation, empowering her with the confidence to pursue her dreams and aspirations.



DID YOU KNOW??

In order for a scholar to "graduate" from each Academy and move to the next one, they must complete a STEAM capstone project and pitch their idea to an authentic group of experts.

MEET OUR TEAM

At LSC, we believe that our educators and staff are the driving force behind our success, and their unwavering commitment to our scholars is truly transformative. Let's delve into their inspiring stories and experiences, showcasing the profound impact that LSC has had in shaping their futures.



Meet Emeral Franklin

Teaching Fellow

Emeral Franklin, a Teaching Fellow, is profoundly impacting the lives of scholars through her unwavering commitment to education. With over 11 years of experience working with children, Emeral's journey has led her to pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher while continuing her education.

As a Teaching Fellow at LSC, Emeral's role is multifaceted and dynamic. Her primary focus is engaging, encouraging, and supporting scholars in their academic journey while bringing joy and enthusiasm to the classroom. Inspired by her lead teacher, Emeral has also infused her own personal style into her role, creating a unique and vibrant learning environment.

Through her work at LSC, Emeral has witnessed positive changes and improvements in her teaching performance. By modeling her co-teacher's approach while incorporating her own teaching style, she has become more effective in delivering the curriculum and engaging scholars in the learning process.

Feeling valued and appreciated is essential for any educator, and Emeral acknowledges the recognition, compensation, opportunities, and support she receives from LSC. By encouraging her to pursue her degree and providing tuition reimbursement, LSC reinforces her sense of belonging and encourages her to thrive.

LSC has been instrumental in supporting Emeral's professional growth and development. Through programs like Excellence 101, she has gained valuable strategies and techniques to effectively engage scholars and bridge achievement gaps. LSC's commitment to ongoing training and resources has empowered Emeral to continuously improve her teaching practice.

Emeral appreciates those who invest their valuable resources to provide opportunities for collaboration, learning, and developing new and innovative teaching methods. By investing in teachers and staff, the entire educational community benefits from their expertise, mentorship, and the positive impact they have on scholars in their formative years.



Meet Deputy Donnavan “Deputy D” Pinckney

School Resource Officer

Deputy Donnavan Pinckney, also known as Deputy D or Donnie, is a dedicated Law Enforcement Officer residing in Sumter County, SC. With a strong desire to positively impact the world from a young age, he chose a career in law enforcement at the age of seven. Throughout his life, he has actively pursued positions and certifications that enhance his skills in law enforcement. His broad range of knowledge and abilities allows him to assist individuals of all ages, from school-age children to the elderly community. He holds licenses and certifications as a Phlebotomy Technician, Telecommunications Operator (dispatcher), BLS/AED provider, and Sworn Police Officer.

At LSC, Donnie plays a vital role in ensuring the safety of scholars and staff. Before most staff members and scholars arrive each day, Donnie conducts thorough checks to identify and mitigate any potential threats or immediate risks. Throughout the school day, he interacts closely with staff and scholars, both indoors and outdoors, ensuring they can reach their maximum potential in a safe environment. Donnie diligently monitors entry and exit doors, checks in with visitors and vendors, and maintains a strict perimeter guard to prevent any external dangers from entering the campus.

The environment at LSC is incredibly diverse and surpasses any atmosphere Donnie has encountered. The entire staff at LSC prioritizes showing love and care to each scholar, creating a truly remarkable inclusive, affectionate culture.

Since joining LSC as a School Resource Officer, Donnie has become a trusted confidant for many scholars. He believes that even the most seemingly confident and outgoing scholars benefit from someone to talk to. Whether the conversation revolves around breakfast or a spelling test, Donnie reassures every scholar that he is there for them. Witnessing numerous scholars improve their reading skills, enhance their handwriting, or warmly embrace him in the hallways to share their achievements has been incredibly rewarding.

One of the most rewarding aspects of Donnie’s role is engaging with scholars and guiding them through challenging moments in their lives. One particularly touching experience involved a scholar with separation anxiety. Donnie built a strong connection with the scholar and his family, learned about his preferences and ways of expressing love, and discovered strategies to help him navigate his days at LSC with confidence.

To those considering becoming part of the LSC community, Donnie personally invites them to visit and witness the magic unfolding within the school. LSC is still growing and he encourages others to consider to become part of its promising future.



Meet Deneshia Dinkins

Food Service Manager

Deneshia Dinkins is the Food Service Manager at LSC, bringing over 13 years of experience in food services, including eight years in a managerial role. Deneshia plays a crucial role in ensuring that all scholars receive healthy and high-quality meals to support their daily learning journey and that all DHEC and State Department regulations are being followed and completed in a timely manner.

Deneshia finds the work environment and culture at LSC to be a fun and supportive atmosphere where she is encouraged to step out of her comfort zone. She credits LSC, where seeking help is welcomed and feedback is encouraged, for playing a vital role in her professional growth and development. The school has provided her with numerous opportunities to expand her knowledge and skills and supporting her as she takes on new challenges.

One experience that profoundly impacted Deneshia was her endeavor to ensure that all scholars would have the opportunity to eat for free in the coming school year. With meticulous record-keeping and reporting, she completed a special report for the State Department of Education, resulting in LSC's qualification for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Achieving this goal, which Deneshia had set upon joining LSC, will have far-reaching effects for our scholars and their families in the upcoming year, not the least of which are reduced food insecurity, improved health, and less stress for scholars' families.

Deneshia has had numerous opportunities for collaboration and mentorship throughout her tenure at LSC. Working alongside Ms. Taylor stands out as a remarkable experience, as Deneshia has learned extensively from her guidance and collaboration. She looks forward to continuing this mentorship and collaboration, as it has contributed significantly to her growth and presented new avenues for development.

For potential donors considering contributing their resources to LSC, Deneshia encourages them to view it as an investment into our future. By investing in LSC, they are investing in future leaders who will shape our community. It is an opportunity to meet critical needs and provide scholars with unique opportunities they might not otherwise encounter.

The impact of their investment also extends to the LSC team. By empowering team members and providing opportunities for growth and professional development, investors create an environment where team members can guide and inspire scholars to reach their full potential.

MEET OUR FAMILIES

We recognize that education is a collaborative effort between our dedicated educators and the families who support and nurture our scholars at home. In this section, we'll explore the meaningful partnerships that have been forged, the positive changes experienced by our families, and the lasting impact of a world-class education on both scholars and their loved ones.



Meet the Fuller Family

Misty Fuller, the proud parent of Abraham Fuller, a second-grade scholar, reflects on their family's experience at LSC with deep appreciation and gratitude. Misty and her husband Brandon recognize the exceptional education their child is receiving and wholeheartedly recommend LSC to any parent seeking an outstanding educational experience for their child.

Their journey with LSC began when Misty's best friend and neighbor, a teacher in the Sumter School district, recommended the school for Abraham. Recognizing his unique thinking and problem-solving abilities, she believed that LSC's hands-on learning approach would provide the ideal environment for his growth and development. Trusting her judgment, Misty and Brandon decided to explore LSC as an educational option.

The motivation to apply to LSC stemmed from observing Abraham's eagerness to learn and the need for a more challenging and engaging educational setting. At his previous school, he often finished assignments quickly, resulting in spending time waiting for his classmates. LSC's reputation for providing an excellent education, along with its focus on hands-on learning, made Misty and Brandon confident that it would be the perfect fit for Abraham's educational journey.

Reflecting on their time at LSC, Misty recalls a specific moment that had a significant impact on her as a parent—the Million Word Reading Challenge. This challenge ignited Abraham's love for reading, transforming him into a passionate reader who carries books everywhere. LSC's emphasis on reading as a core value has been instrumental in nurturing Abraham's love for literature and marks a major milestone for Misty and Brandon as parents.

LSC has consistently supported Abraham's academic and personal development in various ways. One notable highlight was his recognition during the Community Culture Celebrations, where scholars from each grade level are acknowledged for embodying LSC's core values. Abraham's dedication and growth were celebrated, boosting his confidence and providing a sense of pride. The dedication of his teachers, like Ms. Vaughn, who played a significant role in his development, has been exceptional. Ms. Vaughn's humility and focus on character-building have positively impacted Abraham's attitude and overall growth.

The impact of LSC on Misty's family and Abraham's overall educational experience has been phenomenal. They are continually amazed by the level of education Abraham receives and grateful that such a remarkable education is accessible without a cost attached. LSC has created a nurturing and empowering environment that enriches Abraham's growth and development, providing him with limitless possibilities.



Meet the Sikora Family

Rei Sikora, devoted mom to Luke Sikora, a first-grade scholar, shares their experience as part of the LSC community. Rei and Chris Sikora, Luke's parents, have found LSC to be a remarkable educational institution that has positively impacted their child's educational journey.

Rei's involvement with LSC began when they were researching schools for Luke. LSC's commitment to providing a STEAM-focused education emphasizing both academic excellence and character development immediately caught their attention. Motivated by LSC's tuition-free education, with a vision that exceeded that of a traditional public school, Rei and Chris felt that LSC's academic rigor and flexible learning approach set it apart from other educational institutions.

Luke's academic and personal development has been greatly supported by LSC. Luke has been able to explore and develop his interests in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics through this personalized approach. LSC fosters a supportive learning environment that encourages critical thinking, collaboration, and hands-on projects. These experiences have not only enhanced Luke's academic abilities but also nurtured his problem-solving skills, creativity, and teamwork. Beyond academics, LSC offers a range of extracurricular activities, clubs, and community service opportunities, allowing scholars like Luke to pursue their passions and develop essential life skills.

Rei, as a parent, has received continuous support from LSC. The school prioritizes open communication, regularly providing updates on Luke's progress and educational journey. They offer opportunities for parent involvement, such as video tutorials for homework, allowing parents to actively participate in their child's education. This support and collaboration make Rei feel like a valued and empowered member of the LSC community.

LSC actively encourages parent involvement in their scholar's education and school activities. Recognition of parent volunteers at the end of the year and positive thank-you notes on platforms like Dojo exemplify LSC's efforts to engage parents in their child's education.

The impact of LSC on Rei's family and Luke's overall educational experience has been highly positive. The nurturing and inclusive environment created by LSC has supported both academic and personal growth. Tailored programs, dedicated teachers, and a collaborative approach have allowed Luke to thrive academically and develop essential life skills. LSC's emphasis on communication, parental involvement, and community engagement has strengthened the family's connection with the school and enhanced their overall educational journey.



JUL We received approval to participate in the National School Lunch Program for the school year.

We conducted our annual summer leader retreat, which was grounded in three objectives: assessing the state of our school, learning the identified strategic priorities, and team building.

SCDOE grant was awarded for this year's fruit and vegetable program which allowed us to provide a healthy snack daily to all scholars.

Began a monthly read-aloud with our Shaw AFB liaison, Mrs. Jones, in which over 40 military scholars participated. They shared their experiences of being brave while their parent are "at work far away."



OCT



Our annual third-party financial audit yielded a favorable outcome, affirming our organization's adherence to sound financial practices and reporting.

Scholars participated in our 2nd annual book character parade led by Mayor David Merchant. Scholars dressed as their favorite book character and carried their books as they marched.



We held our first annual literacy pumpkin decorating contest, where scholars in each class decorated their class pumpkins. Over 2,500 likes and shares were made on Facebook to share in the pumpkin pride!

We revealed the site of our future Elementary Academy, the Sumter Mall. The facility will include 31,050 sq ft, substantially updated and improved, and a 28,280 sq ft playground area, for a collective 59,330 sq ft!

NOV

On November 10th, the SC Public Charter School District approved our new facility for Site 2 in 2023 and Pre-K in 2024.



Our board's Vice-Chairman, Dexter Davis, represented LSC at the Dabo's All In Grant Awards Luncheon at Clemson University. LSC received this year's grant award that recognizes the importance of literacy and supports our Million Word Reading Challenge.

Dr. Ivey, our interim executive director, was awarded one of SCPCSD's five core value awards, the Excellence Award, at their Bi-Annual Leaders' Summit.

DEC



With our community's help, we sponsored 858 wreaths for our service learning project, Wreaths Across America, raising \$12,870. Seventy-two participated in laying wreaths on the graves of local veterans.

Together, our team and family collected over 800 items for the local Crosswell Children's Home, giving back to those in need right here in our very own community.

JAN

Sumter County EMS provided a BLS Certification class to our Operations and Medical Emergency Response Team.

Our board unanimously approved our new pay scale for the 2023-24 school year.

Demolition for the Elementary Academy campus officially began.

FEB

Our Second Grade Class presented their Black History wax museum exhibit.

Our amazing families made many special memories at the first-ever Liberty Family Valentine's Dance.

We signed our official partnership agreement with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office in welcoming Deputy Donovan Pinckney as our Primary Academy School Resource Officer.

MAR

Cammy Chandler and Elayne Brunson were re-elected during our Board of Directors election. Michael Curtis was unanimously approved for a two-year appointed seat and Dr. Rodney Thompson was reappointed to a new two-year term.

Two Liberty Street School alumni joined us during Black History Month for a tour and were interviewed by our 2nd Grade Scholars.

Over 40 scholars participated in new Saturday enrichment areas, including the Robotics Squad and Step Team.

Our 2023 Staff of the Year winners were, Teaching Fellow Ms. Stephanie Edwards, Support Staff Nurse Katy Ardis, and Lead Teacher Mrs. Alexis Jones.

Several parents earned their volunteer service hours by helping to get our brand-new book vending machine stocked and ready. Four lucky scholars who met the 750,000 wordmark on the Million Word Reading Challenge were randomly selected from the golden ticket drum to get the first lucky tokens to spend.

APR

LSC awarded The Item's Best of Sumter "Best Elementary School" for the second year in a row, and Dr. Trevor Ivey was awarded "Best School Administrator."

Liberty selected as one of 12 schools in SC to join cohort six of the Collective Leadership Institute (CLI) sponsored by the SCDOE. The goal of the yearlong CLI process is to empower teachers to lead from the classroom to solve school problems.

Scholars had a blast with River the llama as we celebrated surpassing our fundraising goal for the American Heart Association, collecting \$4,400. Nurse Katy read "Llama Llama Red Pajama" to support the school-wide Million Word Reading Challenge, and several staff members kissed the llama!

We held our third annual "Welcome to Liberty" and welcomed all 270 of our new families to the Eagle's Nest!

MAY

Scholars participated in bucket drumming, learned how to play the ukulele, took part in mixed martial arts as part of their regular enrichment rotations, and were treated to a visit from the bookmobile.

A total of 24 LSC families partnered with Manning Avenue Free Studio for an exciting Service-Learning Project as part of its series of Saturday Enrichment Experiences. Scholars created original paintings on mini-canvases and worked to build benches for the Art Park.

JUN

Graduating Primary Academy scholars presented their STEAM capstone projects using basic principles of coding to create an animated story that illustrates a creative solution to solving the litter problem in our community.

Saturday enrichment experiences continued as part of reaching Vision 2024 to offer scholars exposure to more opportunities outside of the traditional school day. They participated in mini chef camp, mini medics clinic, archery, nature camp, and MMA camp.

Our PTO hosted a much-needed Parents' Night Out event that was well attended!



LibertySTEAMCharter.org