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**AHA Students Connect with Israel on Renewable Energy Initiative**

**Charleston, South Carolina,** – Russ Keller, Senior Director for alternative energy programs at South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) will be working with Addlestone Hebrew Academy students in grades 5-8 on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Keller will visit the students at the Academy's Celia and Sol Cohen Media Center to inspire them in the field of science including research of renewable sources energy.

Mr. Keller and the SCRA are collaborating with Israeli-based Eilat Eilat Renewable Energy Initiative. The Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Initiative is an effort by public and private organizations in the Negev region of Israel to create a center of excellence for renewable energy and energy conservation. The organizations formed an agreement which Mr. Keller called "an effort to advance state-of-the-art renewable energy and sustainability technologies and systems."

AHA students have the opportunity to work with Mr. Keller and have been preparing for the seminar by researching the geography of southern Israel and its ideal conditions for solar power and the necessity for resilient crops. Inclusive in this area of study are desert studies and the disciplines of irrigation and water remediation. They will take a closer look at *kibbutzim* (Israeli community settlements, usually agricultural, organized under collectivist principles) including how they are organized and how people make a living.

The students will research a public works project recently introduced in Mt. Pleasant which they will reconfigure to provide similar benefits in southern Israel. This project may actually go forward as a tri-party project between the US, Israel and Jordan. Mr. Keller encouraged AHA students to study the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan for its historical connection.

According to Alli Debrow, Media Center Specialist, "the students are highly interested in this enrichment activity which brings science into focus on real-life issues. Renewable energy is not just a hot topic; it impacts the way our children live today and career choices they will make in the future."

Addlestone Hebrew Academy is Charleston's community Jewish day school. It serves children 18 months through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Addlestone's mission is to provide an exceptional education in secular and Judaic studies. Addlestone students achieve standards of academic excellence in a dynamic environment that embodies the richness of Jewish life.

For information on this program, please contact Rabbi Achiya Delouya or Alli Debrow at Addlestone Hebrew Academy at 843-571-1105 between the hours of 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday.

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