



Masons, Merchants, and Mathematicians: Cross-Curricular Charleston Scavenger Hunt



Journey into Charleston's past to find historic places and use its architecture to solve geometry problems

Merchants & Mathematicians is an educational field trip program hosted by Historic Charleston Foundation at the Nathaniel Russell House Museum located within Charleston, SC.

Designed for
South Carolina Public Schools
4th Grade

Have questions? Call (843) 724-8491 or visit www.historiccharleston.org

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Program Overview

Dear Educators,

Merchants & Mathematicians is a South Carolina 4th Grade program designed by educators affiliated with the following museum property:

Historic Charleston Foundation’s Nathaniel Russell House Museum, c. 1808

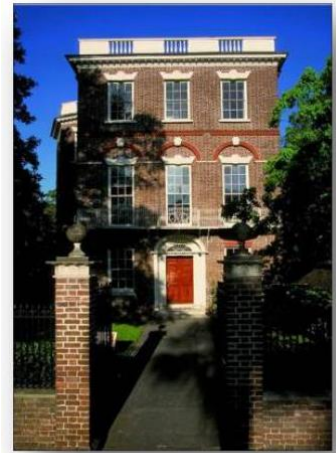
The purpose of this program is to immerse students in early American history by visiting an authentic historic property and solving real-world math problems using Charleston’s architecture. Program content includes the political, economic, technological, and social transformations that occurred in early America between the 18th and 19th centuries. Students will gain historic perspectives by walking in the footsteps of those who lived through the state’s Colonial, Revolutionary, and Antebellum periods. Immersed in Charleston's urban environment, students will solve geometry and measurement problems using the historic buildings and ironwork that they see throughout the city.

Museum & Program Standards

Explore early America and the mathematics behind art and architecture from the perspective of The Nathaniel Russell House. An immersive tour, led by museum educators, will be strategically joined by an interactive math scavenger hunt through the Charleston historic district. Educator led tours of the museum and scavenger hunt questions will focus on the program on the standards and topics discussed on page 4.

Nathaniel Russell House

Nathaniel Russell was one of South Carolina's wealthiest pre- and post-Revolutionary merchants and slave traders who exported staple crops of the state's economy such as Carolina Gold rice, indigo, and cotton and imported thousands of enslaved people. The Russell family moved into this house in 1808 along with 16 enslaved Africans. This historic property provides an example of life in Antebellum South Carolina for several different types of people and social classes.



Optional Field Trip In-Class Activity

Before or after your visit, there is an option to bring one of our educators to your classroom to conduct an in-class activity which will help students prepare for or reflect on their experience. Students will construct and design a model of the Nathaniel Russell House using measurements, shapes, angles, and lines. They will then complete a worksheet and reflection activity that asks them to take various measurements of their house, name the shapes they used, and write a diary entry of a person that lived in the historic house.

Merchants & Mathematicians complements the following fourth grade standards:

Grade 4

Math Standards

- 4.G.1 Draw and identify points, rays, lines, and angles
- 4.G.2 Classify quadrilaterals based on the presence or absence of parallel or perpendicular lines
- 4.G.3 Recognize right triangles as a category and identify triangles
- 4.G.4 Recognize a line of symmetry for a two dimensional figure and draw lines of symmetry
- 4.MDA.6 Measure and draw angles in whole number degrees using a protractor

Social Studies Standards

- 4.1.CE The impact of triangular trade and enslaved and free Africans on the economy
- 4.1.CX How South Carolina developed as a result of the relationship among various ethnic, political, and religious groups
- 4.2.CE Major political and economic factors leading to the American Revolution
- 4.2.CX South Carolina's role in the American Revolution
- 4.3.CX South Carolina's role in the development of sectionalism during the Antebellum period and debate surrounding expansion of enslaved labor
- 4.4.CX Experiences of South Carolina women, African Americans, and planter class during the Civil War

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Scheduling, Rates, and Logistics

Scheduling

School or group representatives are encouraged to visit historiccharleston.org/education to book a date for this program. If you have any questions, contact Historic Charleston Foundation (843-724-8491 or education@historiccharleston.org). *Merchants & Mathematicians* can be scheduled for any week day. Please submit your reservation request well in advance to lock down your desired date.

Rates

Merchants & Mathematicians can host up to 100 students per program day. Your institution will be invoiced at **\$8.00 per student**. Teachers are complimentary, and **1 parent** will be admitted free for **every 10 students**. Due to fire codes, we can only guarantee 1 parent per 10 students. A final count of participants (students, teachers, & parents) will be due **10 days prior** to the program. The optional pre-visit in class activity costs \$50/class plus mileage.

We kindly request participating adults be informed *Merchants & Mathematicians* is an educational experience that requires teacher/parent support to keep students focused. We ask that adults please refrain from cell phone usage and personal conversations during program instruction. Adults are welcome to take pictures but please no recording.

Logistics

Suggested Schedule

9:30AM – Arrive at Washington Square Park (78 Broad Street, Charleston, SC 29401)

- Divide into smaller groups (50 students, 5 parents, 1-2 teachers recommended)

9:45AM – Visit the museum and begin the scavenger hunt

11:45AM – All students return to Washington Square Park – Final Questions / Review

12:00PM – Option to have lunch at Washington Square Park. Restrooms located at City Hall

12:30PM – Buses pull in loading zones for departure

Please refer to the map on page 7 for loading zones and parking options.

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Arrival

Merchants & Mathematicians begins and ends at **Washington Square Park (90 Meeting Street)** and explores the Nathaniel Russell House Museum. The program lasts approximately **2.5 hours**. Museum staff will meet your classes at Washington Square Park to start the program. Students will be given a scavenger hunt map and questions along with a pencil and protractor to complete math problems. The scavenger hunt portion of the field trip is **self-guided around the historic district**. Teachers will be given a clear map with directions and the answer key to questions. In the case of a late arrival, museum staff will accommodate timing. However, groups arriving very late may require an abbreviated program to adjust to scheduling and logistical requirements.

Rain and cold weather will not cancel *Merchants & Mathematicians*

Please watch the forecast and consider carrying coats/ponchos as needed

Snack & Lunch Options

Teachers may consider having their students bring a small snack (e.g. granola bar), which can be eaten while walking between museums. Please make appropriate arrangements with teachers, bus drivers, and parents for lunches to be transferred to Washington Square Park by your desired lunch time.

Lunches cannot be stored at the museum house.

What Students Need

All instructional materials will be provided. Please ask students to wear comfortable shoes and keep their hands free for activities. Purses and lunchboxes should remain on the bus.

Bus and Parking

Buses should approach Washington Square Park by driving west on Broad Street and turning right onto Meeting Street. A loading zone is about one-half block up on the right shoulder as you turn onto Meeting Street. After unloading students, buses should proceed to Concord Street for parking (see map - page 7). If there is a cruise ship at the Concord St. terminal, local police may redirect bus drivers to the Aquarium parking location. Regardless, arrival/departure at Washington Square Park will not change.

Teachers are encouraged to share the map on page 7 with their team, bus drivers, and parents.

Area Map



Red dotted-line shows the best approach so that buses are on the correct side of the street when arriving / departing Washington Square Park.

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