



April 2019

Hello, Duncan Families,

I hope each of you had a wonderful Spring Break! Duncan Wildcats are already back at work and enjoying each other's company along the way. We have a very busy rest of the year planned, so I encourage you to carefully read the information/newsletter from your child's teacher, as well as this newsletter.

This has been an incredible first year as a School of the Arts! We are so appreciative of our school board's support of the Arts and the additional four Fine Arts' positions allocated to our school for Dance, Digital Art, Theatre, and Percussion Instruction. Our students have done a tremendous job with the wide variety of arts' performances throughout school year. Our goal was to have every child be a part of some performance or arts' display—and we have just about met that goal! There have been formal performances held in our cafetorium and the Fine Arts' Center, as well as informal performance held for other grade levels. We have learned so much this year and have already begun to plan for next school year. Each child has gifts and talents that we desire to spotlight.

Continuing to build a strong partnership with our families is always one of our goals. Remember, there is no membership fee for taking part in your child's education here at school; all you have to do is say "yes"!

Our School Improvement Council (SIC)/Title I Committee will meet on May 1st to review our school's progress as mapped out in our school's Title I program and plan for next school year. In preparation for this process, our annual Title I Surveys have been distributed to parents. This survey is used to provide feedback on the current school year, and it helps us to plan for the coming year. Your input is greatly appreciated. Our desire is for continuous improvement to better meet the needs of our students.

Remember, as we begin to plan for next school year, that while we do not take specific requests for teachers, **parents are strongly encouraged to write a letter describing your child's learning needs academically, socially, and emotionally and send it to me.** We will use this information, in addition to many other important pieces of information to make the very best placement "fit" for your child. Your child's best interest is our top priority.

We continue to have many wonderful events planned for our students and families. Information will continue to be sent home on a regular basis with important dates and we'll post on social media. **Please see the snapshot of important dates below that you'll want to place on your family calendar. Look for more details in your child's newsletter. If additional changes become necessary with these events, we will notify you as soon as possible.**

Yours in Education,

**Susan B. Hill
Principal**

April

- 22 6:30 School Board Meeting hosted in DESA Cafetorium
- 23 4:45 Superintendent Candidate, Dr. Gregg Slate, Meet and Greet Forum in DESA Cafetorium-
Open to the Public
- 24 4th grade to visit intermediate schools
4:45 Superintendent Candidate, Dr. Randall Gary, Meet and Greet Forum in DESA Cafetorium-
Open to the Public
- 25 2nd grade Field Trip to Riverbanks Zoo
4:45 Superintendent Candidate, Dr. Corey Murphy, Meet and Greet Forum in DESA Cafetorium-
Open to the Public
- 26 Progress Reports (2nd-4th grade)
Career Dress-up Day
- 27 Greer International Festival—PANgaea, Choral Cats, & Select Dancers perform in City Hall
- 29 1st grade Field Trip to Strawberry Hill

May

- 1 8:15 Terrific Kid Program
12:00 SIC/Title I Meeting at DESA
- 2 Chick Fil A Biscuit Sale in Morning Car Line
- 3 4th grade Field Trip to Charleston
- 5 3-5:00 Reading All Stars Game at Fluor Field
- 6-10 Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
- 7 SC Ready-ELA Day 1 Testing for Grades 3 & 4
- 8 SC Ready-ELA Day 2 Testing for Grades 3 & 4
- 9 SC Ready-Math Testing for Grades 3 & 4
- 10 SC PASS Science Testing for Grade 4 only
- 11 1:30 PANgaea to perform at Mayfest at Stoneledge Park/Shipwreck Cove
- 13 K4 Beach Day
- 15 8:00 K5 and 1st Grade Field Day
- 16 8:00 2nd-4th Grade Field Day
- 17 8:15 K4 Program/Celebration (Last Day of K4)
- 20 K4 Screenings for 2019-2020
2:30 Relay Car Line Snack Sale (afternoon car line)
6:30 School Board Meeting hosted at DESA
- 21 K4 Screenings for 2019-2020
- 22 9:00 Byrnes Senior Grad Walk at DESA (former DES students)
2:45-3:30 Spring Dance for 3rd & 4th grade students
- 23 Student Device Check-in (3rd & 4th grade students)
- 27 Memorial Day Holiday-No School
- 28 8:10 K5 Awards Day
9:45 1st Grade Awards Day
11:15 2nd Grade Awards Day
- 29 8:00 K5 Beach Day
8:10 3rd Grade Awards Day
9:45 4th Grade Awards Day
11:15 4th Grade Grad Walk
- 30 SPARK Celebration
- 31 11:25 Half Day Dismissal for Students

June

- 3 11:25 Last Day of School for Students Half Day Dismissal for Students (Snow Make-up Day)
Report Cards Sent Home



Duncan Elementary
School of the Arts
@DuncanElementaryWildcats

Please like us on FaceBook—Duncan Elementary School Wildcats.

Follow us on Instagram—Duncan Elementary School—look for our paw print!

Included is Our Annual Report to the People for the 2017-2018 School Year.
Thank you for taking time to read through the accomplishments of our students and school family.
Please contact me (Susan.Hill@spart5.net or 949-2373) if you have questions.



Duncan Elementary School - a Title I Schoolwide Project Annual Report to the Community for the Previous (2017-2018) School Year

The mission of Duncan Elementary School is to provide every student's quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment, enabling each individual to succeed in life and function as a productive citizen.

“Wildcat Wows”

- Chase Maldonado, Fourth Grade, was recognized as the Terrific Kid of the Year for Duncan Elementary School.
- Magdaline Nunez, Fourth Grade, was recognized as our Superintendent’s Citizenship Award Winner.
- Duncan Elementary School provided the following special area and extracurricular programs: German (1st-4th grade), Creations (Artistically Gifted Program), Wildcat Chorus/Drama, Student Council, and Wildcat Patrol.
- Duncan Elementary has 10 teachers who have earned National Board Certification.
- Sarah Horan, Fourth Grade Teacher, was named Duncan Elementary School Teacher of the Year.
- Charles Thomas, our School’s Lead Custodian, was named Duncan Elementary School Support Employee of the Year.

Our Duncan Wildcats Care

- Student Council sponsored several annual community service efforts—Operation Christmas Child and our MTCC Food Drive



- Duncan Wildcats’ “Relay for Life” Team raised \$ 3,077.64 for the American Cancer Society.
- United Way contributions by our school staff exceeded the prior year by \$200—grand total of \$2,925.00. Third year in a row, Duncan had the highest percentage of giving per employee for the D5 United Way campaign.
- Our school family contributed \$520.00 for March of Dimes.

School Climate (as assessed by Spring 2018 State Report Card Surveys)

	Teachers	Students	Parents
Percent satisfied with Learning Environment	97.1%	94.0%	87.8%
Percent satisfied with Social and Physical Environment	97.1%	93.0%	87.5%
Percent satisfied with school and home relationships	82.9%	83.8%	79.6%

We acknowledge there are areas to improve and will continue to strive toward continuous improvement.

State Report Card Update

In July 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The waiver allowed South Carolina to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place to determine if a school has met the target or made progress toward the target.

Duncan Elementary School has been recognized for efforts to Close the Achievement Gap and for Overall Student Achievement through the Palmetto Silver and Gold Awards Program. Duncan Elementary has been recognized as a Title I Reward School for Performance—among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.

Student Achievement Update

In the Spring of 2016, SC Ready was administered to our students. The test was administered online. In the Spring of 2018, only Math was administered online.

Percentage of Students Meeting Standard

*The numbers highlighted in the diagonal indicate growth from one year to another for the “same group” of students.

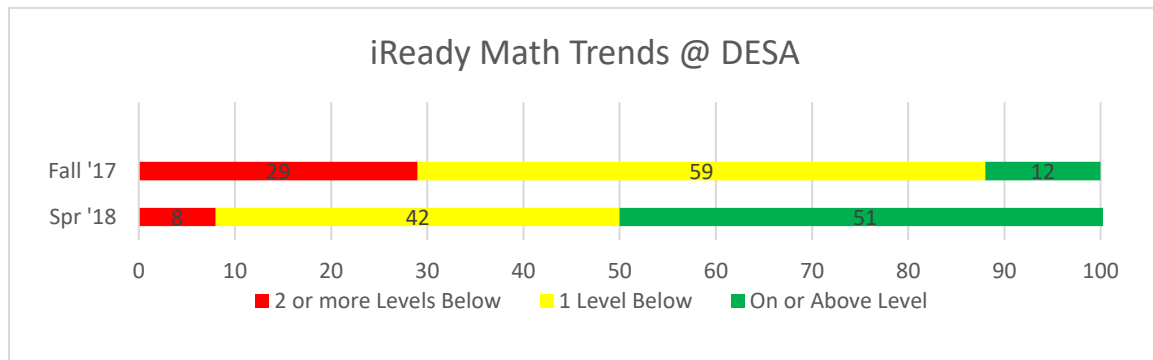
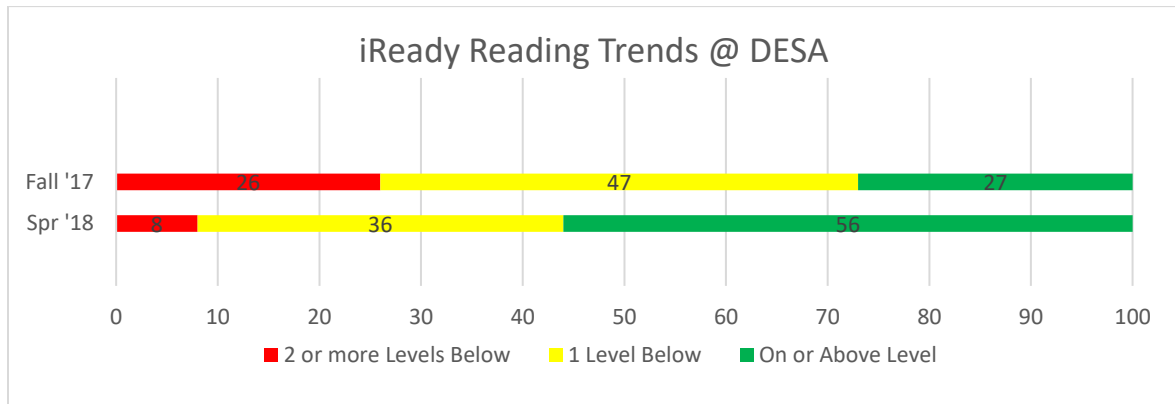
	ELA			Math		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Grade 3						
School	38.4	29.8	45.8	35.7	44.7	55.1
District	44.9	41.9	50.0	59.1	59.5	64.7
State	43.7	42.1	45.2	53.6	52.5	55.7
Grade 4						
School	33.7	31.1	34.4	41.8	34.8	35.2
District	42.0	44.5	50.0	51.7	49.2	49.9
State	43.4	40.9	43.9	46.7	46.4	48.1

iReady Assessment-Reading and Math

Duncan Elementary School has implemented iReady, an engaging online assessment and instruction program for students in K-4th grades. iReady’s adaptive test identifies students’ strengths and weaknesses in reading and math. Once students finish the Diagnostic, the results are used to provide customized and differentiated instruction. iReady will support your child whether he is above grade level, on level, or below grade level. (i-Readycentral.com)

Below is the Fall 2017 to Spring 2018 iReady Data for Reading and Math.

We are very pleased with the progress of our students—reducing the percentage of students in the red level and increasing the green level.



Our students are assessed through iReady three times a year. Your child’s individual iReady report is shared with you by their teacher. Please let us know if you have questions about this very useful assessment tool.