

## 2023-2024 SIC Report to the Parents

### **Pine Street Elementary School**

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The purpose of the SIC Report to Parents is to highlight Pine Street Elementary School's progress in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in our Five-Year School Improvement Plan and our SIC's annual goals. By working together, our school and community have continued to thrive. This letter details the success and important work happening in our school this year.

- **Principal** – Dennis Regnier
- **Assistant Principal** – Erin Davis
- **Assistant Principal** – Lynnell Lawson/Reena Watson
- **SIC Chair** – Jessica Virgadamo

Pine Street Elementary School, one of the oldest schools in Spartanburg County, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Our doors opened for the first time in the fall of 1929. **The 2023-2024 school year marks our 94<sup>th</sup> year of excellence at Pine Street Elementary School.** We continue to grow stronger as evidenced by our school report card ratings and school achievement data. These accomplishments reflect the challenging work and dedication of our entire school community. We will continue to focus on the educational experiences for our students and provide a safe, nurturing, and caring environment.

Pine Street Elementary School's goal will always be to continue our rich tradition of excellence and foster strong steady growth for all stakeholders. Our entire faculty and staff are equipped for the many challenges we face in meeting students' needs. The rewards of hard work have highlighted new opportunities for making quality education a reality for every student in our community. **By focusing on Arts Infusion and expanding the use of technology systemically, we have created a healthy, productive atmosphere of collegiality and collaborative learning.** Together, as a team, we have embraced our responsibility to inspire and equip our students with the college and career-ready skills they need to ensure their success in the future. The success of our school is a result of the strong partnerships created between our parents, students, teachers, and the entire community.

As part of Spartanburg District 7, we believe the use of technology can support learning and instruction in our classrooms. **In conjunction with our outstanding teachers, our 1:1 initiative (one device for every child), aims to create a truly student-centered, 21st century learning environment.** This initiative embraces our capacity to fully equip classrooms with digital platforms and resources. All District Seven students in grades 2-12 receive a 13" MacBook Air laptop and K-1 classrooms are equipped with iPads. Each piece of technology allows students and staff to access learning anytime and anyplace. Each classroom is also

equipped with a Promethean interactive board. The purpose of technology in the classroom is to empower our students by providing opportunities to garner the skills to compete successfully today and beyond. We are confident the vision of student-centered learning, supported by an array of technology resources, will ignite an educational spark, and produce future-ready graduates.

Establishing the necessary conditions and strategies that lead to excellent teaching and learning is crucial for cultivating high-quality educational environments. The creation and implementation of the **Spartanburg District Instructional Framework** has helped to equip and sharpen our teachers' skills as well as bring focus and additional clarity to our students' understanding of the lessons being taught. With an emphasis on high quality questions, frequent checks for understanding and better direct instruction, our students have more opportunities than ever to engage with the material at a new level. We are working to foster positive relationships with a focus on reflection and feedback to better guide our instructional decisions.

In addition to a devoted faculty and staff, the parents of Pine Street students have a proud reputation for diving into the life of the school with tremendous love and dedication. In fact, this led to the development of **The Pine Street School Foundation**. Thanks to annual donations from families, friends, and local businesses, the Foundation has invested more than \$300,000 in grants to teachers. This allows teachers to feel the support outside of the school building for their time and talent. The newly dedicated **STEAM Lab** allows for a collaborative space where teachers and students work together on a variety of projects and activities. The incorporation of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math in a central location allows for maximum engagement for all students.

## **ARTS INFUSION**

Pine Street Elementary School is accredited with one of the most notable fine arts programs in the state of South Carolina. **Our school's rigorous academic curriculum is enhanced by instruction in drawing, painting, graphic design, creative movement, dramatic interpretation, puppetry, and creative writing.** Pine Street School was named an ABC (Arts in the Basic Curriculum) site by the South Carolina Arts Commission in 1989 and is a model site for schools across the state and the nation.

**Arts Infusion (also called Arts Integration) is an approach to teaching and learning that integrates skills and content from an art form with another subject area.** We have found that Arts Infusion engages and motivates students by emphasizing active learning rather than passive learning. By having an understanding that students have different learning styles and multiple intelligence levels, the arts generate numerous ways for students to construct and demonstrate their understanding of subject matter through student choice and creativity. This approach to instruction gives greater context to students' learning and makes their educational experiences more meaningful. Instead of seeing each subject in isolation, students discover natural connections among disciplines, while increasing their depth of understanding while synthesizing information. Mrs. Lori Patterson has taken on the additional role and responsibilities of working as an Arts Infusion Coach. This new role will allow her to help teachers when they have questions, and she will work with them to better infuse the arts into the

general curriculum. Her work will impact 100% of our students as they meet the challenges of engaging in a creative process with connects an art form to another subject area and meeting evolving objectives in both.

### **Our Motto:**

- Excellence is Expected and is Our Standard.

### **Our Mission:**

- Pine Street School, in partnership with home and community, is committed to excellence by providing a learning environment that will establish a foundation to prepare students to live and work in a rapidly changing world.

### **Our Beliefs:**

- All students should be provided with educational opportunities that maximize their learning potential.
- Family and community involvement strengthens student performance.
- A safe and supportive school environment promotes learning.
- Student learning is extended through the school's commitment to innovative techniques, technology, enhancement, and the continuous growth and improvement of faculty, staff, and students.
- Quality, relevant, and ongoing staff development enhance teacher performance and student progress.
- A well-rounded curriculum emphasizes the prerequisite knowledge and skills needed for student success at each grade level and across subject areas.

## **RECENT RECOGNITION/AWARDS**

- Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- One of 2 schools in the Upstate to maintain an Absolute Rating of Excellent on the state report card since the inception of this metric in 2001.
- Over 40% of Pine Street students in grades 3-5 are enrolled in Odyssey, the District's gifted and talented program.
- Palmetto Gold Winner
- Healthy School Award
- The Red-Carpet School Award Winner
- South Carolina Exemplary Writing School
- Named a Champion of the Environment by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Honored as a Kennedy Center School of Distinction since 2013
- Recipient of the SC Distinguished Arts Program Arts Curricular Innovation Grant

- Home of sensational school-wide musicals including Annie, Wizard of Oz, Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and The Beast, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid – just to name a few.
- Recipient of the South Carolina Palmetto Gold Award annually
- Palmetto’s Finest Award
- Healthy School Award
- School of Promise
- Kennedy Center School of Distinction
- National Register of Historic Places

## **PINE STREET SCHOOL TODAY**

- The 2023-2024 enrollment is 631
- Our average daily attendance for the 2022-2023 school year was 94.5%.
- Pine Street is accredited by Cognia.
- Our 2023 School Report Card - Absolute Rating - EXCELLENT – Improvement Rating - EXCELLENT
- Number of Certified Teachers: 53
- Number of teachers with advanced degrees: 72.8%
- National Board-Certified teachers: 2

## **SPECIAL DAYS FOR STUDENTS**

- Kindergarten - Fall for Spartanburg
- First Grade - Dr. Seuss Day
- Second Grade - Habitat Day
- Third Grade – I Survived Interactive Day
- Fourth Grade - Yankee Doodle Day
- Fifth Grade - Immigration Day, Hover Craft Project, Grandparents Day