

RCES School Improvement Council Annual Report to Parents

April 2022



School Improvement Council

South Carolina Statute (Act 135 of 1993) requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute an annual Report to the Parents highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the school's strategic plan. The report is developed by the School Improvement Council to share the challenges and successes of the school, students, parents and teachers for the current school year.

SIC Members:

- Dr. Chastity Evans, Principal
- Jordan Smith, Assistant Principal
- Jennifer Bunch, Parent
- Awena Hurst, Parent
- Lesley Kinsey, Parent
- Davia Smith, Parent
- Laura Buss, Community Member
- Kevin Dalton, Community Member
- Talmadge Wiggins, Community Member
- Cynthia Kilgus, Teacher
- Connie Porth, Teacher
- Mary Templeton, Teacher
- Jan McCormack, Teacher

Bamberg County School District

Empowering Every Child,
Every Day

Vision

Our vision is that every student is prepared to compete in a global society.

Mission

The mission of Bamberg County School District is to educate and empower every student to reach their greatest potential by creating safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.



Richard Carroll Elementary School
Bamberg One School District

1980 Main Highway
Bamberg, SC 29003
803-245-3043

Progress on School Improvement Council Goals

Our School Improvement Council has made a lot of progress throughout the 2021-2022 school year. We are very grateful for the improvements we have made this year in moving forward after COVID. The council is very proud of our teachers, students and families for demonstrating resilience, creativity, and collaboration throughout this school year.

This year, our School Improvement Council has focused on re-establishing effective goals. We are in the process of reviewing school level data and determining updated goals for the School Renewal Plan that will be written during the 2023 school year.

The council is currently working on ways to improve parent involvement at Richard Carroll Elementary School. Because of COVID, parents and community members have been unable to participate in school activities. However, that is rapidly changing. In an effort to facilitate volunteers returning to RCES, the SIC has developed a needs assessment to determine what teachers need from volunteers in the community.

Project Beyond students in grades 3-6 (27 students) visited the S.C. State Museum on January 26, 2022. Students learned about our state's history through the many exhibits, they visited and shopped in the museum gift shop, and loved completing a student Scavenger Hunt throughout the museum. The 6th graders were even selected to visit the Relic Room at no extra charge to listen to an amazing historian share his knowledge of the Civil War and each student received a beautiful state house souvenir pin.

We continue to see many benefits as we enter our 6th year in partnership with The Original Six Foundation in fully funding our Afterschool Homework Center for select students in grades 3-6 four days per week taught by RCES teachers. This year, the O6 Foundation provided transportation to our students who are registered to attend the after school program, incentives for academic achievement, and ten books for every kindergarten student.

RCES is also proud of the partnership with Southeastern Housing and Community Development. Numerous raised bed gardens have been built around the school that allow for hands-on learning in the planting, caring for, and harvesting of these plants.

In November, 2021, EboniRamm, jazz vocalist/poet and Educational Outreach Coordinator with the ColaJazz Foundation, introduced our students to the history of jazz. As they learned about jazz, they also learned about American history as well as geography, not to mention music, art and culture...Americana in a fun and dynamic way. Our students loved the call and response aspect as well as the improvisation that is inherent in jazz. Our students' minds were opened to jazz and the possibilities of improved appreciation of this American art form as a cognitive learning tool.

This year, we have established a new partnership with Voorhees College. GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year or seven years grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. Voorhees GEAR UP!, a comprehensive, research-based project designed to fill gaps in school programs, meet the needs of low-income students and families, raise achievement, improve graduation rates, increase postsecondary enrollment and prepare youth for successful careers and their future roles as productive, adult members of society.

Our School Improvement Council is always looking for ways to improve our school climate and culture. We thank you for your support and welcome any suggestions you might have as we continue to empower every student, every day!