

The 2013-2014 school year at Hickory Grove /Sharon Elementary was a year full of new ideas implemented, academic growth, and individual successes. Student achievement continued to be a priority as our school has become a school where data greatly influences instructional decisions. Our students were continually challenged to display good character and good work ethics as well.

Common Core State Standards have been fully implemented here at Hickory Grove/Sharon. Our teachers have worked hard, along with teachers across the district to develop a pacing guide for math and language arts. They have worked diligently in reading and understanding our new standards and responded by developing activities, lesson plans and assessments to go along with the new standards. Along with that our school has taken on a new standards based report card for grades K-4 that keeps parents more informed on exactly what standard their child is excelling in or what standard is a challenge to their child. We held meetings to keep parents abreast of the changes taking place in our district.

We kicked the year off with our great PTO welcoming everyone to Meet the Teacher night in August. Our PTO is a hardworking group that actively volunteers at our school. Recent fundraisers by the PTO have resulted in HG/S purchasing new technology such as ActivExpressions for our classrooms. Also they made a donation toward the purchase of new picnic tables for our courtyard, something that has been needed for a while. They also provided teacher meals and covered lunch duties for our teachers, not to mention a whole week's worth of surprises during Teacher Appreciation Week.

We are strengthening our culture here at HG/S by introducing the Olweus Bullying program to become a "no bullying" school as well as have begun work on becoming a PBIS school, one which promotes a positive behavior reward system school wide. This year our Triple A incentive program was implemented in which students were rewarded for excelling in academics, attitude, and attendance. We are excited about these initiatives!

Literacy remains at the forefront at HG/S. We pride ourselves in getting books into the hands of York District One students as our staff donated over \$400 to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, held our annual book fair, and held our annual Fall for Reading Carnival in the fall with games, prizes and books galore.

We continued and increased our character education-led Jam in the Gym monthly assemblies where we learn good character and recognize student and staff achievements. We also added Jumpstart, where students got their day started with positive encouragement from our guidance counselor over the P.A. system.

We continued to focus on our mission, vision, and beliefs for our school and district; however our district goals remain in the forefront of our student's academic endeavors.

We are very proud and very pleased with the 2013-2014 school year at Hickory Grove/Sharon Elementary School!

H. Dietrich Long, Principal
Lacie Patterson, School Improvement Council Chairperson