

# OAKDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Annual Report to Parents

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### School of Choice

At the start of the 2012 school year, Oakdale Elementary became a *School of Choice* with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). To prepare our staff for the implementation of STEM, teachers and administrators attended an overnight professional development at the Milliken Center in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Included in this professional development was a focus on team building and thinking as a scientist. By working in collaborate teams, it allowed grade levels to begin the process of planning for the upcoming school year. In February, one person from each grade level, special area team, and administration attended the Children's Engineering Conference in Richmond, Virginia. Information and project design qualities are being shared with other members of the staff. Prior to this first year of implementation, the administration, staff, parents, and district office personnel visited other schools already established in a STEM program. These site visits were located in North Carolina and South Carolina. During this first year of implementation, the master schedule reflected an increase of classroom instruction to one hour per day for science/engineering. At each grade level, a science lab was created for this increased instruction. ***Engineering is Elementary***, a national curriculum, was purchased from the Museum of Science in Boston as a foundational piece to begin the program. Mr. David Norton, Science Coordinator for the district, assisted each grade level with implementation of the engineering kits. Electronic Science E-Tech books were purchased through Discovery Education to be used in third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms with iPads or other electronic devices for the next six years.

**Title I funding** for this past year, was \$327,750.00. The majority of this money was used to fund two Reading Recovery teachers, a math coach, and a part-time math tutor. The remaining funds were used for instructional supplies. The director of federal programs at the district office provided additional funding for professional development and parenting activities which occurred throughout the school year.

The **School Improvement Plan**, written in the fall of 2012, was implemented this past year. Components of the plan included:

- Quality Work and Design in ELA and Math - to increase student achievement
- Shared Vision and Beliefs – integration of technology and engineering into STEM instruction
- Nurturing Environment – to increase emotional safety in the school

### SIC Members:

Andy Bell, (Chair) Parent

Noreen Ruff, Parent

Lynn Hayes, Faculty

Neil McVann, Principal

Christi Cox, Parent

Charles Hedrick, Parent

Leigh Grier, Asst. Principal

Kenya Morris, Parent

Missy Young, Faculty

Carrie Graham, Community Member