

# INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY

REPORT TO PARENTS 2013-2014

## Our Mission Statement

Independence Elementary believes that nothing is more important than children. We are continually committed to the social, emotional, and academic development of every child. Our school is a safe, challenging, caring, and supportive environment where teachers, parents, students, and community members work together to ensure all Independence students have a solid foundation for life. We strive to make the learning experiences at Independence fun and engaging while holding everyone accountable for reaching his or her highest potential.

## IROCK: LEARNING ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

In conjunction with the RHSD #3 IRock Initiative, all 4th and 5th grade students have been using I pads on a daily basis this year. Students have gained great knowledge through accessing the science tech book through Discovery Education. If you haven't seen this tech book, ask your child to show it to you! It is amazing to watch each child discover and maneuver their way through this invaluable resource.



**TECH SQUAD:** These students were selected for the first Independence Tech Squad! The students help other students and teachers with any problems involving technology.



## Reward School for Performance!

This year, IDES was one of 4 elementary schools to receive the recognition as a "Reward School for Performance". This indicates that IDES is one of the highest performing Title I schools for the school year! Great job students, teachers and parents. Independence students continue to "Rock the Tests"!

The 2013 State of SC Report Card gave IDES an Absolute Rating of "Good" and a Growth Rating of "Average". This indicates that we met or exceeded the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision. **Go Patriots!**



**BATTLE OF THE BOOKS:** Our Battle of the Books team brought home the winning trophy for the 2013-2014 Battle! Way to go team!



**COTTON HILLS FARM:** Kindergarten took a trip to the farm to learn about growing plants for food. They also saw honeybees up close and personal!

# Patriots In Action



**Step Team performance**

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The goals of the School Improvement Council for 2013-2014 focused on student behavior, school vision and quality instruction.

### Student Behavior:

Our goal has been to increase parent, teacher and student perception of student behavior. This has been addressed through implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) Plan. The plan includes communicating expectations, recognizing positive behaviors, consistent discipline, incorporating extra support and professional book studies for teachers & staff.

### School Vision:

The District and school goal has been to develop a shared vision to ensure that students will learn, grow, connect and thrive. This goal has been revised through additional

professional inservice that helped to create a new mission and vision statement for IDES. A new staff and student handbook was also created and distributed.

### Quality Instruction:

This goal has been to continue to improve the quality of basic instruction. To meet this goal, teachers utilize Tiered Instruction through RtI groups, monthly RtI grade-level meeting, as well as participating in a professional book study. These practices aid in providing challenging, intentional learning as well as interventions for all students. Observations, monitoring and consultation meetings have provided feedback that indicate that these practices are being implemented effectively.

### TITLE I

Independence is categorized as a Title 1 School again for 2013-2014. Because of this, our school receives significant extra funding from the State of SC for programs that benefit every child. This year, our Title 1 monies have been used for a full day 4 year old Kindergarten, 3 Literacy Coaches, 2 Instructional Assistants, Parent/Student Math & Literacy Nights, and other various resources.

## School Clubs

- Battle of the Books
- Dance Team
- Girls on the Run
- Lady Patriots
- Recycling Club
- Safety Patrol
- Science Bowl Team
- Step Team
- Patriot Council
- Tech Squad
- WatchDog Dads

## SAMARITAN'S FEET

Each child at Independence received a *new pair of shoes* through Samaritan's Feet in the Fall of this 2013. Thank you to Samaritan's Feet for covering ours!



### PTO 2013-2014

This year our PTO held the 1st ever Patriot Fun Run that focused on health and fitness for all children. The event raised over \$3,000 which helped the continued funding of various educational programs, aviary maintenance, special events, safety patrol, teacher appreciation, and much more. PTO is always looking for new members and meetings are held monthly.

### ADMINISTRATION

Jill Pappas, Principal  
Pene Turner, Assistant Principal

### INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY

132 West Springdale Road  
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### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

2013-2014

If you are interested in being part of the School Improvement Council, please contact Jill Pappas at [jpappas@rthmail.org](mailto:jpappas@rthmail.org) or Amanda Haskin at [amandahaskin@hotmail.com](mailto:amandahaskin@hotmail.com).