



Flat Rock Elementary School is helping all students develop the World Class Skills of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by being “Committed to Excellence.” Our school community serves a student population of approximately 375 students in grades pre-kindergarten (K4) through fifth grade. Our faculty and staff work together to ensure our students are educated in a safe, friendly, caring, and academically challenging environment in order to fulfill this commitment.

Students at our school are encouraged to think critically, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and be creative in their learning. Instruction is driven by South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards and is delivered in large group, small group, and individualized instruction by a highly qualified and trained faculty and staff using a variety of instructional strategies.

Learning is integrated with the inclusion of literacy being taught across the curriculum. A Balanced Literacy model is used in English language arts classrooms to develop reading and writing skills, and those skills are incorporated into math, science, and social studies. Inquiry skills are used to develop critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills in all subject areas. Guided Reading, Guided Math, LLI, and individualized instruction is used to address the needs of each student in order to meet their needs in a more effective manner. In addition to these strategies, we have a full time reading interventionist who uses a pull out program to work with struggling readers in grades K5 - 5 in order to increase their reading fluency and skills. We celebrate literacy with a Fall Family Literacy Night to help our families learn how to help our students with their reading.

We also use a STEAM approach to learning. Students use science, technology, engineering, arts, and math skills to solve problems and create original work. We have a STEM coach who does direct instruction with our students in inclusion and co-teaching models in order to incorporate those skills across all areas of the curriculum. She also assists classroom teachers with lesson planning and professional development in this area. Students in grades K5 – 5 have access to 1:1 technology through the use of Chromebooks and iPads with keyboards and regularly use them to facilitate their own learning through research and inquiry, and they also use them as a means of communication, collaboration, and presentation of their work. Outside of the regular classroom, our students have several opportunities to extend their STEM skills through participation in class gardens, Battle of the Books, the LEGO robotics team, rocket challenge, and the JetToy competition. Our fourth and fifth grade students participate in our Battle of the Books competition. Students worked in teams of three to read ten (10) of the South Carolina Book Award nominees and compete in a bracket style tournament which also included a bracket for our teachers. We hold a school-wide STEAM night showcasing our musicians and artists and providing time for students to participate in classroom STEM activities with their families.

Our school community also partners with several different local agencies to enhance our school environment. Reading Buddies is a partnership we have with Flat Rock Baptist Church. Several members of their church and surrounding churches visit our school weekly to read with selected students. The group provided a book to every student for Christmas as well as a gift card to a local bookstore for each faculty and staff member. We also have a partnership with Michelin and have been ranked the #1 partner school in North America with them for the past four consecutive years. Michelin provides mentors, tutors, STEM coaches, and reading partners to our school. In addition to the relationships they have built with our students and school community, they have provided financially for our school as well through the donation of funds to pay for STEM bins, K4 snacks, and the addition of a landscaped outdoor classroom facility. United Way partners with us to provide Snack Pack Back Packs, a weekend meal program, for some of our students. The Anderson Federal Credit Union also partners with our school and provides quarterly funds that are used to sponsor our awards celebrations at the conclusion of the year.

Due to the COVID pandemic, we continue to monitor and adjust all activities at our school to ensure the health and safety of all the members of our school community.

At Flat Rock, we believe that everyone is capable, contributes, and needs to be connected as we continue to be “Committed to Excellence.”

Carly Herron, School Improvement Council chair
Christy Horton Dodd, principal