

Flat Rock Elementary School, a school “Committed to Excellence,” is helping all students develop the World Class Skills of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Our school community serves a population of approximately 400 students in grades pre – kindergarten (K4) through fifth grade (5th). 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 and programming. 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, social studies, art, engineering, physical education, and music. Inquiry skills are used to develop critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills in all subject areas. Guided Reading, Guided Math, LLI, small group instruction, tiered intervention, and individualized instruction are 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 coach and a full time reading interventionist who work with teachers on best practices and use a pull out program to work with struggling students in grades K5 – 5 in order to increase reading fluency and math skills. We celebrate literacy with a Fall Family Literacy Night to help our families learn how to help our students with their reading. Students also have opportunities to participate in Battle of the Books, the Reading Challenge, and the Greenville Drive Reading Challenge.

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 classrooms teachers with lesson planning and professional development in this area in addition, our students participate in VEX Robotics and the International Jettoy Competition.

Students in grades K5-5 have access to 1:1 technology through the use of Chromebooks 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, robotics competitions, and JetToy competition. Our fourth and fifth grade students participate in our Battle of the Books competition. Students work in teams of three to read ten of the South Carolina Book Award nominees and compete in a bracket style tournament. We hold a school-wide STEAM night showcasing our musicians and artists and provide 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 with Flat Rock Baptist Church. Several members of the church and surrounding churches visit our school weekly to read with selected students. The group provides a book for every student at Christmas as well as a gift card for each faculty and staff member. We also partner with Michelin in their Education Challenge program. United Way partners with us to provide Snack Pack Back Packs, a weekend meal program. The Anderson Federal Credit Union also partners with us and provides quarterly funds used to sponsor teacher appreciation and awards for our celebrations at the conclusion of the year. We continue to monitor and adjust all activities at our school to ensure the health and safety of all 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.”

Erica Smith, School Improvement Council Chair
Christy Horton Dodd, principal