

2012 SIC Report to the People

Abner Creek Academy (ACA), located 2.1 miles off of Interstate 85 in Spartanburg County, opened its doors on August 19 of 2008 and presently serves 455 students in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. The faculty and staff of 68 serve our students in a state-of-the-art facility.

This year marked ACA's second year of the school's magnet implementation. Our goals this year were to:

- Continue to focus our professional development on infusing advanced communications and the arts into instructional units
- Add keyboarding to the music curriculum
- Infuse the arts into all science and social studies units
- Promote leadership development for our students

Although we will continue to work on these goals, we're pleased with the progress we have made thus far. We were able to use our own teachers to lead staff development on infusing the arts into our instructional units. We also added the music keyboarding lab this year and our fourth-grade students are learning basic keyboarding during music class. Leadership opportunities are plentiful for students. Students were able to participate in Student Council, Drama, Honor's Chorus, Morning News Show Crews, and Gator Patrol. Teachers have also provided ways for students to earn leadership roles in the classrooms.

Our school has many accomplishments to celebrate. We have consecutively met Annual Yearly Progress as outlined in the No Child Left Behind legislation for three years. ACA maintained an "Excellent" overall rating on the SC Annual School Report Card, as well as a "Good" on our growth rating.

The Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver awards program was created for schools attaining high levels of absolute performance, high rates of growth, or substantial progress in closing achievement gaps between groups of students. Abner Creek received the Palmetto Silver Award in 2009 for "Closing the Achievement Gap." In 2010, we were awarded the Palmetto Gold Award for "General Performance", as well as the Palmetto Silver Award for "Closing the Achievement Gap". This year, 2011, we received the Palmetto Gold Award for "General Performance." We attribute this increase in our ratings to our knowledge of using data to inform instruction as well as our district's Learning Focused instructional practices.

Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), a School Improvement Council (SIC), and business partnerships have been instrumental in the success of our school year. We also enjoyed our partnership with the Spartanburg Writing Project for the fourth consecutive year.

Additional opportunities for students include early intervention programs, a new reading intervention program (Leveled Literacy Intervention), ESOL (our program for speakers of other languages), REACH (our gifted/talented program), Creations (our gifted art program), RTI (response to intervention), and services for special needs.

The Mission of Abner Creek Academy is to provide every student quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment, enabling each individual to succeed in life and function as a productive citizen.