

ACHIEVEMENTS

*First elementary school in South Carolina with a school-wide engineering curriculum

*Two Stem Labs, Computer Lab, and Smart Table Lab

*Four major engineering units per year for all grade levels

*Robotic curriculum starting in grade 2

*Most technologically advanced elementary school in Greenville County

* One of the first schools in the nation to issue HP Tablet Computers to all second grade students for classwork and homework

*Odyssey of the Mind Primary Team State Champions - Best Team Work and Most Humorous Presentation

Monthly partnerships with engineering organizations:

Michelin
Fluor
GE Energy
Hubbell Lighting
CU-ICAR
Hartness International
Sealed Air
Clemson Extension
KTM Solutions
Arbor Engineering
IBM

ACHIEVEMENTS

Independently raised over \$400,000 to support innovative programs:

A World in Motion
Student designed, community built playground
Junior FIRST Lego League
Organic Community Garden
AJ the Robot
Leveled bookroom and classroom library
Math manipulative
Heart rate monitors
Nutritious menu
Summer Enrichment Program

Greater Greenville Association of Realtors 2010 Revitalization award

Established healthy living programs:
Healthy breakfast and lunch menus
CATCH
Partner with BI-LO
HLAC

AJW as a Green School:
Green Team
Green Steps Award
Organic Garden



A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School of Engineering

SIC Report to the Community/Parents 2010-2011



Sheila B. Earley - SIC Chairman
Margaret Thomason- Principal

A Pioneer for the Upstate

The school is named for A.J. Whittenberg, a pioneer for civil rights who is best known for his stand on the integration of Greenville County Schools.

The facility will also be used as a learning tool. The school will pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, based on use of the structure to teach students the importance of recycling, water conservation, and renewable resources. The innovation is apparent in many ways – from its downtown location on the Reedy River and partnership with the Salvation Army's Kroc Center, to the learning emphasis as an engineering school.

A.J. Whittenberg is the first elementary school in South Carolina with a school-wide engineering curriculum. The 88,232 square foot facility features a three-story atrium with the engineering labs visible from both the interior and exterior of the building. The labs have software to give students hands-on experience in engineering technology. Students create Lego robots, design and develop products using computers. The interior walls of the labs will be mostly glass so the children can see the activities and be inspired to learn.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Each school is required to have a School Improvement Plan that contains strategies or goals to improve student achievement. The School Improvement Council (SIC) members serve as representatives working on strategies for overall school improvement. A. J. Whittenberg SIC voted and determined in December of 2010, that the top priority for this initial school year would be to research and make recommendations to the school principal concerning school uniforms. Although many strategies were discussed through the school year, the SIC members were divided into committees including parents, teachers, and community members. Each SIC member was encouraged to take an active role in a committee of their choosing. Each month every committee reported to the SIC as a whole with research, information and samples of data collected. The entire SIC discussed progress and next steps. Once all the information was compiled the SIC reported the findings to the PTA. Information and surveys were further shared with parents and the community through the internet as well as distributing hardcopies. Through the hard work and dedication of all stakeholders, school uniforms, as the first initiative of the SIC has been achieved and will take effect for the 2011-2012 school year.

SIC MEMBERS

Libby Able, Teacher
Sheila Earley, SIC Chair
Jamie Howard, PTA President
Wanda Jackson, Parent
Beth Lagrange, Parent
Kelly Lester, Parent
Geoff Lester, Parent
Pam McCoy, Teaching Assistant
Becky Phillips, Teacher
Kesha Sales, Parent
Pamela Sawicki, Parent
Chris Thomas, Parent
Margaret Thomason, Principal
David Wagner, Business/
Community Partner
Jaime Weaver, Parent
Isaac West, Teacher

