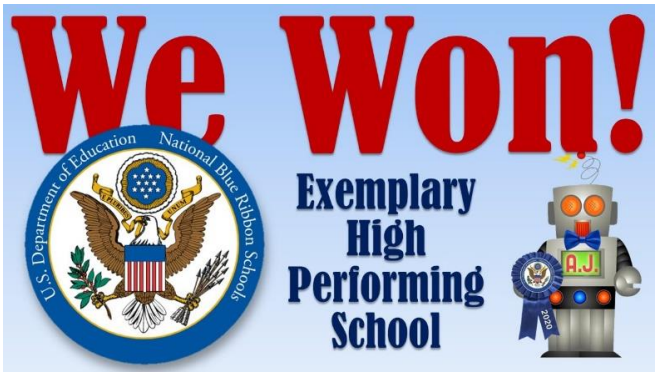
A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School of Engineering

SIC Report to the Community 2021



For the 2020-21 academic year, AJW has been focused on growing each student to their full potential while also ensuring COVID protocols for safety are followed. This year, A.J. Whittenberg was named a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. What a tremendous achievement! We have been celebrating our "2020 Vision" all year long to reinforce our belief that strategic, rigorous instructional practices and systems of support lead to student success. Almost half of the student population chose the virtual learning platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, 11 teachers were allocated to the virtual platform to support students. Regardless of the educational setting, all students and staff who participated in the virtual platform were included in school-wide programming and communications as well as our school achievements.

2020-2021 SIC Members

Demond Criss, Chair
Shammond Williams, Community Member
Hannah Hall, Member
Julie Desmangles, Member
Dr. Susan Stevens, Principal
Nicole ream, PTA President
Cameron Brice, Administrative Assistant
Katy Reid, Instructional Coach
Catherine Cooker, School Counselor
Lynn Mann, Program Director

School Profile

School Enrollment: 504
Administrators: 3

Grades: K4 - 5
Teachers: 38 (11 virtual)

Mission: We, at AJW, create a culture of respect and highest achievement, uniquely aligned with engineering principles, that best prepares a diverse group of learners to succeed in the 21st Century.

Vision:
Essential 18
Rock the Top
Power Through Partnerships

A Pioneer for the Upstate

Engineering focused, problem-based curriculum

88,232 square foot, three story facility

Building designed to facilitate learning and the engineering curriculum

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Schools Silver certification

Downtown Greenville location adjacent to the Swamp Rabbit Trail and Reedy River

Co-located with the Salvation Army's Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center (shared facility space)

Student-designed playgrounds

26 Junior Lego Robotics and FIRST Lego League (FLL) Robotics teams

Student-led Yearbook

Challenge Program for Gifted and Talented students

Award-winning Innovate! program

Class-size Mars topographical map

Green Roof

Solar Panels

STEAM Labs

6 different types of Robotics curriculum

3D Printers

CATCH Program

School Garden

AJ Night at Flour Field

Walk to Run Program

Leveled Bookroom

Robust after school programs

STEAM-focused Summer Camps

Engineers Make A World of Difference!

A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School of Engineering

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Awards & Recognitions

- 2020 National Blue Ribbon School
- FLL Lego Robotics State Championship participant (7th year straight) for Agents of Fury
- Global Innovation Award (GIA) State Finalist for FLL Robotics Team MineCraft Engineers
- 2018-19 South Carolina School Counselor of the Year for Ms. Deborah Blume

Power through Partnerships

A major portion of AJW's success is due to robust partnerships with many community organizations and major engineering-focused corporations. Since the school's inception, AJW students have benefited from real-world engineering instruction from Fluor, GE, Hubbell Lighting, Michelin, and others. Today, those partnerships continue to grow and expand including, the Greenville Drive, iMagine Upstate, Jacobs Engineering, ABB, Society of Women Engineers, Renewal Water Resources (ReWa) and its DIG Greenville project, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, First Baptist Simpsonville, Project Host, YouthBASE and many others. We offer a special thanks to those who choose to give anonymously to our many programs.

Rock the Top

Our results on standardized tests continue to see significant growth year-over-year. Our latest results, from the spring of 2019, show tremendous growth in each of our testing grades – third, fourth and fifth. This includes more than 40% gains in 3rd grade Math and 4th grade ELA, and double-digit growth in 3rd grade ELA, 4th grade Math and almost 20% growth in 5th grade ELA.

New Technology

All AJW students received Chromebooks in 2020-21. In addition to 1:1 computing, AJW students have exposure to a variety of technology to reinforce math, engineering, coding, and other STEAM concepts. You can find our students using technology such as 3D pens, many different types of robots, and programmable circuit boards (Raspberry Pi, Arduino and MakeyMakey). The tools are integrated into all subject areas so that students have wide exposure and are comfortable with a range of technology tools and systems. This technology helps to engage students in all subjects, including ELA, public speaking and team work.

WE OWN WOW

A.J. Whittenberg Elementary School of Engineering believes in a student-centered approach to learning that addresses the whole child and works with parents and the community to fully develop the academic, social and problem-solving skills of each child. AJW students are equipped with all of the skills necessary to meet the demands of the 21st Century workplace and not only succeed, but lead the way!

AJW was the first elementary school in South Carolina to offer an engineering-focused curriculum for all students. Beginning in pre-kindergarten, students learn the Engineering Process and apply this to a problem-based curriculum. The school leverages the many engineering-focused companies in the Upstate to bring real-world engineers into the classrooms on a regular basis. These business partnerships offer a wealth of benefits to AJW students including expert instruction, field trips, mentoring, career path development and other opportunities. Special programs such as Lego Robotics, Engineering "eWeeks", and STEAM-focused festivals enrich learning for students of all ages.

Essential 18

Team work and social skills are major components of the AJW approach to learning. From day one, students are taught the school rules called the Essential 18, which are the character development and soft skills that students will need to succeed.

Eye contact, good manners and effective communication skills are incorporated into the Essential 18.

Engineers Make A World of Difference!