

# Meadow Glen Elementary School



*"Rooted in Knowledge, Growing in Wisdom"*

## HOME OF THE EXPLORERS!

Meadow Glen Elementary is an EL Education school where students are Empowered to Design the Future! We are a community of learners who believe in the concept of 'CREW.' We believe that we must ALL work together to grow as a family of learners and individuals.

Through our partnership with EL Education, MGES focuses on core practices and design principles that promote mastery of knowledge and skills, high levels of character and leadership, and the production of high-quality work in every classroom. Our Habits of Success are Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, and Craftsmanship.

## SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program
- 4th and 5th Grade Robotics Teams
- Inaugural Archery Team
- Student-Led Conferences Kindergarten -Fourth Grade
- Passages - Fifth Grade
- SIC Sponsored Community Coat Drive
- National Board Certified Teachers
- Library collection awarded EXEMPLARY status across all areas!



**2022-2023 MGES Teacher of the Year**  
**Mr. Neil Nadkarni**

**2022-2023 Staff Member of the Year:**  
**Mrs. Barbara Brazell**

**Jennifer McNair, Principal**  
jmcnair@lexington1.net

**Michelle Brazell, Assistant Principal**  
mbrazell@lexington1.net

**Todd Wade, Assistant Principal**  
twade@lexington1.net

## SIC YEARLY GOALS:

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT:  
COMMUNITY COAT DRIVE**

**COMMUNICATION: STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION  
WITHIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY THROUGH THE  
UPDATED FAMILY HANDBOOK**

**ACADEMICS: INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS ON USING DATA  
TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT LESSONS THAT ARE  
INTENTIONAL AND BASED ON STUDENT NEEDS;  
PARTICIPATION AS FAMILY MEMBERS IN STUDENT-  
LED CONFERENCES**

### SC READY DATA

MGES received an **Excellent** overall rating on the 2021-2022 school report card.

#### SC READY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**ELA (Reading and Writing) - Percent Met or Exceeding 2021-2022**

School 72.6% District 52.0% State 46.6%

#### SC READY MATHEMATICS

**Mathematics - Percent Met or Exceeding 2021-2022**

School 74.0% District 43.7% State 38.9%

### AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Little Gators Archery State qualifiers
- MGES Robotics Teams - State qualifiers
- Recognition as a Top Donor, Linking Lexington

### 2022-2023 PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) BOARD

President – Kara Brurok

Secretary – Jennifer Whitsett

Treasurer –Angi Grant

Board members: Adrienne Bellinger, Marissa Hill

### EL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Mastery of Knowledge and Skills

Character

High Quality Work

We are CREW!



### 2022-2023

#### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Ramya Sreedharan - Chair

Valencia Bostic - Co-Chair

Jennifer Carinci

Susan Jennings

Devon Kirk

Andrew Beeson

Michelle Brazell

Todd Wade

Megan Klimek

Markie Burnett

Tyler Miles

Shana Tyner

Jennifer Gessner

Jennifer McNair

*SC School Improvement Council Website:*

*<https://sic.sc.gov/>*



## **A few thoughts from a teacher...**

Perhaps the best opportunity that the 2022-23 school year has provided me is being able to represent the incredibly passionate and hard-working teachers here at Meadow Glen Elementary. Through casual conversations in the halls, lesson planning in team meetings, the ideas expressed during professional development, and in the meetings we have with our families, it is incredibly evident that teachers at MGES share love in promoting the development, growth and success of the students we serve. But what makes me most proud to represent this fine group of educators is that this love extends beyond the classroom. Teachers at MGES impact students in many more ways than just their academics.

For example, teachers lead the inaugural season of the Little Gator Archery team. Students learned about safety, dedication, and friendships during their seven months together. Through perseverance, the team was able to attend the South Carolina state tournament, where they placed 3rd in 3D and 4th in Bullseye. It was an unbelievable accomplishment and we are thrilled the program is here to stay.

MGES teachers also paved the way in Elementary robotic competition. This year, 4th and 5th-grade teams won spots to attend the South Carolina State Robotic Competition for First Lego League. The teams also participated in robot coding competitions, where students worked to critically design mission strategies and learned to program their robots to compete with other teams. I was lucky enough to witness the 5th grade's presentation to their panel of judges and was in awe of how composed and prepared the students were. The level of responsibility and craftsmanship they demonstrated was something to behold.

A teacher also built on the hard work of staff and students from years past by establishing the Meadow Glen Elementary Garden Club this year. Students met after school and planted vegetables, flowers, kohlrabi, ground cherries, French breakfast radishes, and strawberries. Club members learned about the brassica plant family, the importance of pollinators, seed saving, soil health and preparation, as well as the impact of kindness, charity, and service to others. Of course, space allows me to only mention a small sample of our teachers going the extra mile. Programs like Run Hard, the News Team, and Honors Chorus are others that also rely on the dedication of teachers to be successful. Our School Counselors organize events like Career Day and Vehicle Day to introduce jobs to our younger students that will allow them to explore and become familiar with SC career clusters.

As we look towards next year, I would ask that our MGES friends and families take time to celebrate the "extras" that our teachers do to develop and grow our children. These opportunities help shape the kind of people they become. Often, these opportunities provide success to kids who may not always find it in the classroom. They allow them to build confidence, explore new avenues, and learn to take risks.

I am extremely proud to have represented a staff of teachers committed to this goal and look forward to seeing where we will lead students in the 2023-24 school year!

(Neil Nadkarni, 5th Grade Teacher, MGES Teacher of the Year)

## **A few thoughts from a student...**

Being a 5th grader this year has been about showing the habits of success in everyday life and preparing for middle school (specifically 6th grade). In the younger grades, students learn about what the habits (Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, and Craftsmanship) mean, but in 5th grade, students learn to demonstrate these habits. For example, I'm working on responsibility. I want to keep up with things and remember to bring or take them with me. I decided that I would make a list to help me remember things better and know what I needed for a project or something else. Another way we have learned responsibility is when we transition between classes. Most students struggled to transition at first because they wanted to socialize with their friends or create a dramatic scene. This would cause students to forget things they needed for the next class. Transitioning has taught us that responsibility is an important thing to have in middle school when we switch classes during the day. Students are encouraged to show these habits and if they get voted by students or selected by teachers for representing our four habits they are awarded special certificates and recognition at our grade-level Crew Celebrations. Teachers show us that the Habits of Success are more than just an important characteristic to have, it's a life lesson to learn. Finally, 5th-grade teachers don't expect us to get everything right, they know nobody is perfect but they do encourage students to use 100% effort in all their work. These are only some of the many things 5th grade is all about.

(Wilson Hawkins, a 5th-grade student)

## **A few thoughts from a parent...**

Wow, what an amazing year! Three years post the onset of one of our world's most urgent crises and our Meadow Glen family is growing and thriving well beyond what one could imagine. As I look back, I can clearly see how this pandemic season unexpectedly positioned us to create opportunities and fortify processes in meaningful ways. For example, the level of resiliency demonstrated by teachers and students has been astounding. To amplify communication and to help minimize lost learning time all students were given access to a personal digital device. This strategy continues but in different ways. Students are now more efficient at using devices to collect and organize study material. There are learning apps such as keyboarding, math and writing tools that children can utilize outside of school hours. While the objectives may evolve the goal will always remain the same which is to help improve academics and student/teacher communication. An unintended bonus is that this opportunity has also provided a more equal pathway to educational resources.

In addition, our third graders have taken their lessons in perseverance and created a "Student Expedition" sharing their knowledge and experiences on how to overcome challenges. These transferable life lessons will undoubtedly help our children in future decision-making and other endeavors in ways greater than any curriculum lesson could offer. Afterall, life has taught me that some lessons are best taught through experience.

Another positive I consistently see is a renewed sense of gratitude for all that we have and perhaps took for granted. While I've always enjoyed having lunch with my son, volunteering for events and attending school programs, words cannot fully express what it feels like resuming these privileges after such a long pause. I remember this year seeing the overwhelming joy and pride on the faces of so many students, parents and team members the evening of the Chinese Immersion performance. There was barely standing room, a lot of smiles, laughter and a room full of love, absolutely priceless.

Overall, there seems to be an even greater extension and appreciation by all. Teachers are sharing their nonschool hours for tutoring, robotics, archery, RunHard, Garden Club, news team and much more. There's a great collective action also seen in how our community supports our school and in turn how the school serves our neighboring communities with various donations of time and goods. These wonderful times are led by our administrative team who tirelessly sacrifice for us to have these memorable moments. When asked to share the greatest success of the year, while many things could have been said, the resounding theme from our principal, Mrs. McNair, was her great appreciation for the community and commitment from the students, faculty and families. She stated, "I want our school to feel welcoming to all..." Here's a school we can believe in, work and grow with...Go Explorers!

(Valencia Bostic, Parent, School Improvement Council Co-Chairperson)