

M.C. RILEY ELEMENTARY & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

200 Burnt Church Road
Bluffton, SC 29910
Phone: 843-706-8300
Fax: 843-706-8378

172 Burnt Church Road
Bluffton, SC 29910
Phone: 843-707-0800
Fax: 843-707-0845



April 13, 2014

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our school's progress towards preparing your child for the future. We believe that it is our collective responsibility to establish a strong instructional program as a foundation for your child's development as a student, and a self-directed learner. In review of our school and district data to state and national goals, we have established targets for academic growth, staff development, and parent education. Results of a parent survey indicated high levels of satisfaction with our morning enrichment program, and suggestions for the development of additional opportunities in the area of second language instruction for our students in the years to come. As a faculty we have reviewed school data to identify areas of strength, and needed growth.

Longitudinal data on our school's PASS scores indicates steady growth in the area of English Language Arts in grades, 3, 4 and 5. In Math, students demonstrate continued growth in grades 3 and 5. Science scores indicate growth in all grades. Students' scores in social studies have declined. We are reviewing our content strands and levels of difficulty across all content areas. Our state report card rating, growth rating and report card designation are in the good range, a strong B rating of 88.1.

Change in Percent of Students Scoring Met and Exemplary on PASS 2009-2013

ELA						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change 2009-13
Grade 3	73	82.3	87	80.8	82.2	9.2
Grade 4	75.4	81.5	82.1	84.5	78.4	3
Grade 5	82	89.7	84	77.2	85	3
Math						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	09-13
Grade 3	68.2	79.6	78.3	72.1	73.8	5.6
Grade 4	86.9	85.9	95.1	89.1	82.5	-4.4
Grade 5	78.9	84.2	88.7	83.5	84.2	5.3
Science						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	09-13
Grade 3	47.4	59.4	50.9	52.9	55.6	8.2
Grade 4	74.6	78.5	85.4	81.8	74.2	-0.2
Grade 5	69.7	62.5	65.5	68.7	75	5.3

Social Studies						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	09-13
Grade 3	76.7	75.3	84.5	73.6	62.3	-14.4
Grade4	87.7	83.7	91.1	90	83.5	-4.2
Grade 5	56.7	73	76.5	65.1	61.7	5

Our school has developed a strong focus in Science, Leadership, Arts, Technology, and Engineering (SLATE), a program that guides students through academic standards (language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education and the arts), while engaging in increased STEM rigor, depth and application of content, and integrated learning. Our curriculum is enhanced by engineering units, specialty classes, field studies, and project-based learning activities. Our inquiry-based pedagogy is designed for diverse elementary students to thrive in new and exciting ways, all with the goal of engaging, inspiring and empowering them to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Over the past two years, the vision for SLATE education at Michael C. Riley has been to afford students the opportunity to develop problem-solving skills and strategies that will help them to adapt and succeed not only in STEM-related professions, but in their everyday lives. By integrating STEM activities, fine arts, and leadership skills into our curriculum, we are challenging children to imagine, create, and communicate in new and valuable ways. Such tasks encourage the development of abstract and divergent thinking, meaningful questioning, and collaboration.

In the area of leadership, our fifth grade boys and girls participated in focus groups during their lunch and recess once a week to examine and implement characteristics of G.R.E.A.T. Girls and the Riley Boys Club. These groups were supported by author Rhonda Mincey, for our girls, and behavior management specialist Mr. Bryant Kitty for the boys. Both groups were met with enthusiasm by students.

We find that students need assistance in developing good work habits to complete homework assignments and projects on time. Not doing so can adversely affect their grades. We have provided an early morning homework support program, and continue to evaluate ways we can link home and school. As we revise our Title I Plan for next year, we plan to include a component for parents to participate in an afternoon homework center with their child. Side by side learning helps all of us deepen understanding.

Thank you for your support, contributions, and suggestions!

Sincerely,

Adrienne Sutton
Principal

Jennifer Banks
SIC Co-Chairperson

Dana Rowe
SIC Co-Chairperson