

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 30, 2013

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our school's progress towards excellence! We believe that it is our shared responsibility to establish instructional goals, monitor their progress, and develop long term academic, social, emotional and career goals that will prepare your child for the future. In reviewing our school and district data to state and national goals, we have established targets for academic growth, staff development, and parent education. Our school consistently scores among the Palmetto Gold and Silver winners, demonstrating high levels of academic achievement and growth within socio-economic sub groups. The chart below highlights our progress:

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth	Award Category
2007-2008	Average	Good	Silver
2008-2009	Good	Good	Silver
2009-2010	Good	Excellent	Silver
2010-2011	Good	Excellent	Gold
2011-2012	Good	Good	Silver

Ratings from the 2011-2012 school year reflect a requirement for heightened levels of performance; our school was one of only eight schools in Beaufort County School District earning a Palmetto Silver or Gold.

Where do we go from here? As the implementation of Common Core has become a reality, we seek to prepare our students and parents. Our school has increased its focus on literacy in nonfiction text. Our curriculum standards have been articulated and reviewed for alignment and integration across content areas. The focus of assessments will continue to be on the "How" and "Why" of developing an appropriate response. For students in third, fourth and fifth grade, we have introduced S.T.E.M., Science Technology, Engineering and Math, as a supplement to our science program. Student involvement and teacher professional development in the areas of science and technology has allowed us to build a foundation with our students in areas of study that will lead to preparation in the fields of technology, math, engineering and science. We believe all students need to have exposure, instruction, and demonstrate proficiency in these 21st century career target areas. For our youngest students, this means a focus on Inquiry-Based Learning.

During our second year of PBIS, M.C. Riley students continue to conduct themselves as proud Eagles by showing respect for others, acting responsibly, go safely, learn, and encourage. Flight school and celebrations help students monitor their success in meeting behavioral expectations. Our faculty has participated in a book study; *The Leader in Me* by Stephen Covey. We believe by building leadership skills, students will choose, express and support positive behaviors. This is an area for parent education you will hear more about.

As a Title I school, we have been able to support the needs of all students through increased literacy support, an extended day instructional program, full day prekindergarten, smaller class size, ongoing staff development, nurse care at both the Early Childhood Center and main building, a bilingual liaison and parent education programs.

We appreciate parents' enthusiasm while attending school-sponsored programs such as Kids Club, Health Fair, Arts Festival, International Festival, Orientation, parent conferences, and Science Fair.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the current fifth grade parents who have formed a strong group of parents that developed an active Parent Teacher Organization and School Improvement Council. Among these parents are some true leaders: Sue Champion, Jane Harmon, Jackie Wilhelm, Shauna Shea, Ana Burkart, Suzanne Boggs, Debbie Clark and others who have contributed limitless hours and effort to make our school a success. We will miss all of you as you progress beyond our school. Our school is truly an environment that welcomes collaboration. We are proud to be where school and community come together! Please continue to share your thoughts and talents as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Sutton
Principal

Jennifer Banks
SIC Co-Chairperson

Dana Rowe
SIC Co-Chairperson

M.C. Riley Elementary and Early Childhood Center
“Where School and Community Come Together”
Proud to be a Title I and PBIS School