

# Message from the Principal



I believe that the responsibility of educating children is shared between school and home. Throughout my career, I have learned that the best way for students to meet and maintain high standards of learning and achievement is the development of a strong school community where the principal, staff, and parents work together to meet the needs of all children. The elementary school years are an exciting time of learning, exploration, and growth for all children. These years provide students with opportunities to begin a love for reading, to explore new interests, and to expand skills. It is my desire to work with parents, students, faculty, and staff to make this time in the lives of St. Helena Elementary School students as fulfilling, engaging, and exciting as possible.

Please, come out and join us during our quarterly Family Engagement Nights. Our final event will be our Parent Honor Roll in May.

*Senfronia Smith*, Principal

## Contact Us

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St. Helena Elementary School

Proud to be a Title I School



**St. Helena  
Elementary  
School  
2015 -2016  
Report  
To the  
People**



## Celebrations

Quarterly Celebrations of Achievement include students being recognized for:

First through fifth grade awards:

- all A's,
- All A's and B's,
- Most Academic Progress,
- Brought Up Grades, and
- Citizenship.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten awards:

- Most Academic Progress,
- Highest Academic Achievement, and
- Citizenship.

During our monthly Green and Gold Celebrations, students who have received no administrative referrals and no more than two classroom referrals are awarded a certificate and a 30 minute celebration of food, fun, and fellowship with their grade level. Student eligibility has ranged from 286 when the celebrations began in September to 317 in March, with peak eligibility in November at 378.

## Reading is Leading the Way

Reading achievement is an area of weakness with 54% percent of students, Kindergarten through fifth grade, reading on or above grade level. Spring 2015 ACT ASPIRE results indicate that 75% of third graders, 60% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and 70.9% of fifth graders “Need Improvement” in being “Ready” for the next grade in Reading Achievement. Only 15% of third graders, 8.1 of fourth graders, and 8.1% of fifth graders were deemed as being “Ready” for the next grade in Reading Achievement.

St. Helena Elementary School has adopted an interdisciplinary approach to extend learning and making Reading instruction relevant the students. Students in first grade through fifth grade have at least two teachers, one for English Language Arts and Social Studies, and one for Math and Science. Students read and write in all subject areas to make and retain connections and for the reinforcement of reading and writing skills in ways that are meaningful to them.



## School Choice

AMES (Advanced Mathematics, Engineering, and Science) was chosen by parents as the school choice for St. Helena Elementary School this 2015-2016 school year. AMES serves our gifted and talented and high achieving, highly motivated, and hard working students in third through fifth grade. In addition, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch K – 5 Engineering and Science Curriculum has been chosen as the STEM curriculum for AMES to afford students the opportunity explore the world around them while integrating English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies in the Scientific and Engineering Process. PLTW Launch was implemented in the AMES Academy for the 2015-2016 school year with grade level by grade level implementation beginning in the 2016 -2017 school year.

