



Our school is helping all students develop the World Class Skills and Life and Career Characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by developing rigorous, standards-based academic programs in language arts and math. We are providing a science and social studies curriculum that is rich in content and provides hands-on learning experiences through experimentation and exploration for students. We are preparing students for the future by providing STEAM based instruction in the classroom and in a dedicated STEAM focused class. Students are challenged to strengthen critical thinking and problem solving skills in all areas of their life.

Historically, Harrisburg Elementary students exceed the district and state average for the South Carolina College and Career Ready Assessment (SC READY) in English and mathematics, Most recent data available (2019) indicates 73 percent of students scoring “Meets or Exceeds” in English (compared to a district average of 46.5 percent) and 76.5 percent reaching the same level in mathematics (compared to a district average of 47.5 percent). In addition, Harrisburg Elementary students exceeded the state averages for the SCPASS science and social studies assessments with 72.4 percent of students reaching the “Met” or “Exemplary” standard in science (compared to a state average of 49.1 percent) and 88.6 percent reaching the same standard in social studies (compared to a state average of 67.6 percent).

We encourage academic progress and personal responsibility in our students by maintaining high expectations in all areas and by providing student-focused learning opportunities based on student need and interest. This is partially accomplished through our workshop-based approaches to literacy and to math. We believe that the most effective way of teaching is to meet each child on their level. By giving students project based learning experiences, we are encouraging self-direction and self-motivation, which will help students develop strong work ethics and high achievement will follow. We encourage students to embrace technology and use it as a tool for learning. We have incorporated 1:1 technology in Grades 2-5 and encourage technological exploration and responsibility. We also expect students to continue to build strong interpersonal skills through public speaking opportunities, shared learning experiences, and engagement with other students, staff, and our community.

Our school community created a team-based approach to learning and living that is evident in all areas of school culture. We are proud to be recognized as a National School of Character and we work hard to keep our focus on character as the basis for all we do. Collaboration and teamwork are heavily emphasized in the classroom and in our daily school routines. Students follow the five essential foundations designed to encourage leadership, promote integrity, and create a positive atmosphere for learning. We have a dedicated leadership course that all students participate in that begins with growing our youngest leaders in kindergarten and beyond. Our many leadership opportunities, including our iLead leadership program encourage students to take on leadership roles, not only within the school, but in the surrounding community as well. We feel strongly that by providing students with opportunities to contribute to our community, and we are allowing them to build character and to look inside themselves to develop the traits that are necessary to become productive members of society.