

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Philip Simmons Elementary offers a PreK-4 STEAM curriculum that focuses on providing students with a transdisciplinary curriculum in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. At the end of 4th grade, we expect all of our students to be able to demonstrate competency with World Class Knowledge, World Class Skills, and Life and Career Characteristics as outlined in the Profile of a SC Graduate. Our Academic Arts classes include Discovery Lab, Media, Music, Physical Education, and Visual Arts.

2022 BCSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Mrs. Cynthia Zimmerman



Ms. Zimmerman has been teaching for 14 years with experience in 1st-5th grade. For the past three, she has been teaching 4th grade Gifted and Talented. She is certified in Early Childhood, Elementary, and English as a Second Language with Reading, Gifted /Talented and STEAM endorsements. She has been married to her husband, Tom, for 11 years, and has a son, Colton, and a daughter Charlotte. Mrs. Zimmerman was selected as the BCSD Teacher of the Year for 2022.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Angela Hobbs, Chairperson
Brooke Morris, Secretary
Suzanne DiBella, Parent
Julia Hart, Parent
Joel Delph, Community
Jerald Borden, Community
Cynthia Zimmerman, Teacher
Michael Huff, Principal
Sha'shawna Seabrook, Assistant Principal



PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This Report is issued by the Philip Simmons Elementary School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.

PHILIP SIMMONS ELEMENTARY

2021-2022

School Improvement Council Report
to Parents and Community



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We facilitate and support student-driven learning experiences by unleashing the power and potential of education.

MICHAEL HUFF, PRINCIPAL
SHA'SHAWNA SEABROOK, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

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<http://bcstdschools.net/pse>

STUDENT ACHEIVEMENT

Teachers administer assessments throughout the year to gain a better understanding of the learning needs of our students.

These assessments include:

- Authentic Assessments
- Fountas and Pinnell Reading Benchmarks
- CogAT/IA
- Performance Task Assessments
- Common Unit Assessments
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- iReady Reading and Math
- PALS
- SC Ready

PSE students have continually outperformed both the State and District in the areas of Reading, Writing, Math, and Science on all State-wide Assessments. This is achieved by providing targeted instruction based on individual student needs.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

PSE strives to cultivate community awareness, appreciation of culture and diversity, and a better understanding of how we fit into the global community. We do this through daily student morning meetings, digital storytelling and community events.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Art Extravaganza
Career Vehicle Day
Character Education
Fall Family Dance
Field Day
Gatekeepers (Before/After School Care)
Gifted and Talented
Girls on the Run
Grade Level Music Performances
Grandparent's Tea
Iron Horse Choir
Iron Horse Derby
Kids Who Care
Literacy Night
MakerSpace
Mindfulness
Multi Tiered Systems and Supports
PTA
Read Across America
Red Ribbon Week
Reindeer Run
Restorative Practices
Robotics
Scholastic Book Fair
School Spirit Nights
School Spirit Weeks
STEAM Night
STEAM Color Run
Student Council

*Some events were postponed or canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders of Philip Simmons Elementary are invested in the education of all students. Parents and community members volunteer for reading buddies, career exploration, mentoring, PTA, character education, and School Improvement Council.

TECHNOLOGY

All students are issued Chromebooks to support learning at school and at home. We use the Common Sense Media curriculum to ensure safe and meaningful use of technology. The availability of technology for every student allows teachers to accept student work and provide feedback in real time. Students are able to make their learning public in an effort to make the community and world a better place.

The use of Robotics allows students to experience more hands-on and engaging lessons. Our Innovative Learning Coordinator visits monthly to train and work with teachers on the development and implementation of technology integrated lessons and robotics that focus on creation over consumption. Our goal is for teachers and students to be proficient in the effective integration of technology to support student success. Students at PSE have authentic, meaningful learning experiences that help prepare them for the 21st century.

STEAM

Our students participate in one STEAM Unit each semester. Each unit focuses on a relevant, real-world problem. Our teachers create and facilitate transdisciplinary lessons through the use of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Throughout each unit, our students make their learning public and inform others of how we can solve problems to #makeitbetter.

In addition to the STEAM Units, our teachers implement STEAM Instructional Approaches daily.

These approaches include:

- problem based & inquiry rich
- authentic assessments
- collaboration with peers & experts
- student choice
- utilizing the engineering & design processes discipline, arts, and technology integration

