

Coosa Elementary School is helping our students develop world class skills, along with the life and career characteristics of the Profile of a South Carolina graduate by both fostering and promoting an environment where students are actively engaged in 21st century learning in a safe environment, along with where they feel both nurtured and protected. Coosa provides an academically challenging curriculum that promotes students to come up with innovative and workable answers to real world situations, working both collaboratively and independently. This encourages students to gain confidence and take ownership in their learning! Teachers and students collaboratively work developing activities/projects that enable students to ask the right questions, search for and evaluate researched information to both answer questions and communicate solutions that foster a students' natural curiosity.

Coosa Elementary School Staff prides themselves on being continuing learners. They constantly look for and share new teaching methods, technology training and applications, enabling them to work with students, ensuring that they are receiving the needed skills in order to meet the challenges they will face once they graduate from high school. Technology is definitely a learning enhancement by giving teachers/students information at their fingertips that in the past they would not have had access to.

Coosa Elementary School's Kindergarten through second grade students have individual iPads, while the third through fifth grade students have individual computers. The school is also equipped with one classroom computer lab for further technological use, and a LEGO Learning Lab equipped with desktop computers as well. In addition, the staff has laptops where learning projects and activities can be shown to students as a group through an interactive Promethean Board. The use of this board allows teachers to instruct students in whole group, small group and individual settings.

Coosa Elementary is honored to be the flagship elementary leadership school in Beaufort County, the 12th elementary school in South Carolina, and one of 379 out of 3223 Leader In Me Schools internationally to have been honored with Lighthouse status based on Dr. Stephen R. Covey's books, *The Leader in Me* and *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The program encourages students to make good choices through planning ahead, working well with others and taking care of their "whole" selves, mind, body and spirit. This program is embedded into the curriculum and modeled daily by our staff, reinforcing these principles to our students and community!

Coosa Elementary is fortunate to have an outdoor classroom made possible by the donations from the community. Teachers and students use the outdoor classroom to host guest speakers and complete experiments and lessons pertaining to the South Carolina Readiness Standards.

Coosa Elementary School is working towards STEM Certification. A large part of this initiative involves teachers creating and implementing learning experiences that maximizes student learning potential. Infusing science, technology, engineering, and math into project based lessons provides an engaging learning experience for students that related to real world situations.

The success of Coosa Elementary can also be shown through the involvement, collaboration and participation of dedicated students, parents, staff and community members that value and see the

need for a quality education. Volunteers and parents dedicate both valuable time and assistance that provide an invaluable support system for our students and staff!

Sincerely, Charles DeForge,

Principal, Coosa Elementary School