

## Family & Community Involvement

- **All Pro Dads**—monthly breakfast event; each month approximately 100 dads and kids participate in building character, closeness, and involvement of fathers in their children's lives. Moms are welcome too!
- **Family Events**—Spaghetti dinner/Curriculum Night, Family Movie Night, Parent Fair, Chick Fil-A Family Nights, Book Fair Family Nights
- **Relay for Life**— students and staff raise money for the American Cancer Society
- **ASPCA/Lowcountry Humane Society**—students collect donations for these organizations
- **Hop for Leukemia**— students raise money by collecting monetary pledges for each time they hop, benefiting the American Cancer Society
- **Jump Rope for Heart**—students raise money for the American Heart Association
- **PTO**— parents who support the school through volunteer opportunities and fundraisers, and assist with school events and family-oriented activities that enhance learning
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive/Baskets for Families**—food is provided anonymously for Coosa families in need
- **Angel Tree**— provides anonymous gifts of toys and clothing for families in need during the holiday season
- **Coosa Closet**— provides uniforms for students in emergency situations
- **Festival of Trees**— students decorate a Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees benefiting Friends of Caroline Hospice
- **Dollar Days**— students pay \$1 to wear a specified article of clothing (hat, jeans, patriotic colors, team shirt, etc) to benefit community and school causes

### Our History

Coosa Elementary School was built in 1998 and was named after the Coosa Indians who once populated this area. There are many spellings for this now extinct tribe, but the one we chose was Coosa (pronounced coo saw).

The bobcat is our school mascot, the only native wild cat found in South Carolina today. The bobcat gets its name from its short (bobbed) tail.

## What Are Our Current School Renewal Plan Goals?

- Increase student achievement
- Ensure best practices and resources in learning, teaching, leadership
- Actively engage community and stakeholders in the school
- Provide resources for appropriate learning environments
- Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment in collaboration with community resources
- Develop practices, processes and technologies for open, frequent, transparent and effective communication

## How are We Achieving Our Goals?

These goals are reviewed monthly by the SIC, School Leadership Team, and faculty to assess progress toward achievement and determine ongoing strategies for successful attainment.

## 2011-12 SIC Survey Results

Thank you to all parents who participated in our annual survey. Your responses provide valuable information regarding areas needing improvement as well as areas in which we are succeeding. We received a total of 276 surveys this year! Below is a basic summary of the results. For detailed results, please contact the school.

2011-2012 PARENT SURVEY SUMMARY			
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Academics	86.2%	10.6%	3.2%
Resources	83.6%	11.0%	5.4%
Special Services	75.2%	20.8%	4.0%
Behavior/ Discipline	84.0%	11.4%	4.6%
Communication	85.4%	10.4%	4.2%

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# School Improvement Council Report to Parents Coosa Elementary School 2011-2012



*Home of the Bobcats*

*An Update on the  
Progress of Our  
School Renewal Plan*

Carmen Dillard, Principal  
Lynn Patterson, Assistant Principal

# The Mission of Coosa Elementary School

*The mission of Coosa Elementary School is to build a safe, secure, learning community that challenges students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens in our global society.*

## What is the School Improvement Council?

Mandated by law, the School Improvement Council (SIC) serves as an advisory group to the CES principal and faculty. The SIC plays a crucial role in school improvement by bringing together parents, educators, and community stakeholders who work collectively to establish, monitor and evaluate specific long-range goals (School Renewal Plan) for student achievement. Other duties include producing the annual report to parents which outlines the progress of that plan, and advising on the use of school incentive awards.

### Ex-Officio

Carmen Dillard, *Principal*  
Lynn Patterson, *Assistant Principal*  
Christina Wilson, *PTO President*  
Kathy Williams, *Teacher of the Year*

### Community Members

Mr. Graham Holcombe  
Reverend Dr. Sam Spain  
Kim Fickes

### Parent Members

Audra Powell, *SIC Chair*  
Vivian Watts, *SIC Vice Chair*  
Heather Bruner

### Teacher Members

Melissa Pender, *SIC Secretary*  
Brenda Rittman

## Our School's Achievements

- State Dept. of Education Palmetto Gold Award 2010, 2011
- State Dept. of Education Palmetto Silver Award 2010, 2011
- Met Annual Yearly Progress Status (No Child Left Behind) for the 9th consecutive year
- 10 of our teachers are Nationally Board Certified
- 11 of our teachers are Gifted Endorsed Teachers
- Awarded a 3 year Department of Defense grant (DoDEA) to offer Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs to students and STEM training for teachers.
- Received 2011 School Report Card Absolute and Growth Ratings of Excellent
- 2011 Coosa recognized as a USDA Healthier US School (Bronze Level) for implementing a healthier school nutrition environment.

## Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)

MAP Testing is used to show a student's academic progress in school. These assessments include Reading and Math. The table below shows the percentage of Coosa students meeting or exceeding MAP growth targets from Spring 2010 to Spring 2011.

	Reading		Math	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Kindergarten	86.0%	89.2%	82.0%	95.7%
1st Grade	63.0%	84.8%	72.0%	82.8%
2nd Grade	67.0%	82.0%	75.0%	83.8%
3rd Grade	77.0%	77.5%	79.0%	83.8%
4th Grade	72.0%	82.2%	72.0%	87.8%

## Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)

Aligned to the state academic standards, these assessments include English/Language Arts (reading and research), math, science, and social studies. The table below shows the percentage of Coosa students who scored "Met" or "Exemplary" for the 2010-2011 school year. Only 3rd and 4th graders are tested.

	Language	Math	Social Studies	Science
3rd Grade	88.8%	77.5%	82.9%	64.1%
4th Grade	88.8%	89.9%	91.0%	77.5%

For more details on our school report card, visit:  
[www.ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/](http://www.ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/)  
You will then select the year, select Beaufort, and select Coosa.

## Innovative Learning & Resources

- **Rotary Readers**— a reading enrichment program provided by community volunteers from Rotary International
  - **Odyssey by Compass Learning**— enhances learning in the classroom and at home in a stimulating learning environment
  - **Promethean/Smart Boards**— interactive technology in every classroom that engages students during the learning process
  - **Extended Learning**— instructional days provided throughout the school year to expand students' educational experiences
  - **Brain Boosters for 2nd Grade Students**— resource that encourages critical thinking
  - **Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)**— classes designed to challenge qualifying 3rd and 4th grade students
  - **6 + 1 Writing Traits**— framework of characteristics of good writing
  - **Related Arts Classes**—Art, Music, PE, and Computer Lab,
  - **Instructional Coaches**— onsite professional developers who teach educators how to use proven teaching methods i
  - **Literacy Intervention Teachers**— professional educators that provide small group and individual reading instruction
  - **Balanced Literacy Initiative**
  - **Full-time Guidance Counselor, Media Specialist, and Speech/Language Pathologist**
  - **Author Visits**— noted authors of children's books come to the school to interact with the students and talk about their work
  - **Recycling Program**
  - **PBIS/Core Values** — Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies emphasizing Respect, Responsibility, and Integrity
- The following are new to Coosa for 2011-2012:**
- **Critical MASS/Lego Camps**—made possible through grant money received by DoDEA
  - **PBIS/Core Values**— Respect, Responsibility, Integrity
  - **Sand Gnats Reading Program** — reward program that encourages reading
  - **7 Habits Leadership Initiative** — to be fully implemented 2012-12
  - **Waterford Early Learning Program for K-2**— interactive computer software program for early learners tailored to the level of the student for literacy, math, and science activities.
  - **Bobcat Boot Camp** — Early morning fitness for students