

# Community Involvement

- **Bobcat Buddies**— community volunteers interact with students to help them learn important life skills and character traits as well as assist them academically if needed
- **Relay for Life**— students raise money for the American Cancer Society
- **Hop for Leukemia**— students raise money by collecting monetary pledges for each time they hop, benefitting the American Cancer Society
- **PTO**— parents who support the school through volunteer opportunities and fundraisers, and assist with school events and family-oriented activities that enhance learning
- **Angel Tree**— students and their families provide 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 which benefits 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
- **Military Family Liaison Consultant**— A licensed mental health professional provided through the Education Liaison for the Marine Corps Air Station who is available to work with children of military families

## 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 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.

### Mission of Beaufort County School District

*The mission of the Beaufort County School District is to ensure excellence in education for every learner that prepares each with the knowledge, skills and personal responsibility to succeed in a rapidly changing global society.*



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# Report to Parents Coosa Elementary School School Improvement Council 2010-2011



## 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*  
Mary Ellen O'Neal, *Parent*  
Linda Annand, *Teacher of the Year*

### Parent Members

Audra Powell  
*SIC Chairperson*

Aimee Swank  
*SIC Vice Chairperson*

### Community Members

Mr. Rick Weatherford  
Reverend Dr. Sam Spain

### Teacher Members

Cyndi Lauricella, *SIC Secretary*  
Brenda Rittman

## 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 for the 2009-2010 school year.

	Reading	Math
Kindergarten	86%	82%
1st Grade	63%	72%
2nd Grade	67%	75%
3rd Grade	77%	79%
4th Grade	72%	72%

## Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)

Aligned to the state academic standards, these assessments include in writing, English language arts (reading and research), mathematics, science, and social studies. The table below shows the percentage of Coosa students who scored "Met" or "Exemplary" for the 2009-2010 school year.

	Writing	Language	Math	Social Studies	Science
3rd Grade	77.2%	89%	71.4%	78.7%	68.2%
4th Grade	79.4%	80.2	85.4%	83.3%	74%

For more details on our school report card, visit:  
<http://ed.sc.gov/topics/researchandstats/schoolreportcard/2010Elementary>  
then select Coosa Elementary.

## Innovative Learning

- **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 learning technology in every classroom that encourages engagement of students during the learning process
- **Extended Learning**— instructional days provided throughout the school year to expand students' educational experiences
- **1.5 Million Page Challenge**— this new program challenges students to collectively read 1.5 million pages during the school year
- **Brain Boosters for 2nd Grade Students**— resource that encourages critical thinking
- **Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)**— classes designed to challenge qualifying 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students
- **Everyday Math**— students experience mathematical processes as a part of everyday work and play thus fostering the development of mathematical intuitions and understandings
- **6 + 1 Writing Traits**— framework of characteristics of good writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation
- **Related Arts Classes**— instruction in Art, Music, Physical Education, Computer Lab, and Science Lab
- **Instructional Coaches**— onsite professional developers who teach educators how to use proven teaching methods in Literacy, Math, and Technology
- **Two Literacy Intervention Teachers**— professional educators that provides 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
- **Waterford Early Learning Program for K-2**— An interactive computer software program for early learners that is tailored to the level of the student for literacy, math, and science activities.
- **Recycling Program**— "Planet Protectors", a group of 3rd and 4th grade students assisting with building a shelter for recycled materials from the school.

## Our School's Achievements

- Recognized by the SC Department of Education Oversight Committee for Closing the Achievement Gap 2006-08
- State Dept. of Education Palmetto Gold Award 2010
- State Department of Education Palmetto Silver Award 2010
- Met Annual Yearly Progress Status (No Child Left Behind) for the 8th consecutive year
- Winner of the Community Spirit Award
- Eleven of our teachers are Nationally Board Certified
- Nine of our teachers are Gifted Endorsed Teachers

