

Where Today's Learners...



...are Tomorrow's Leaders!

HILTON HEAD ISLAND ELEMENTARY

an authorized IB School

30 SCHOOL ROAD, HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC 29926

Phone: (843) 342-4100 | fax: (843) 342-4299

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty, Administrators and Community Members,

Throughout the world, International Baccalaureate Schools are regarded as engaging and rigorous programs. The curriculum is structured to help students become thinkers with an emphasis on teaching our youngsters to become knowledgeable and caring students that will, one day, contribute to our global community. We are very fortunate to be able to offer the IB program to our young learners.

From initial authorization in 2001, Hilton Head Island Elementary School has maintained this reputation in our community. Each day, students are challenged by a highly trained and dedicated faculty, strong curriculum, active parents and a strong supportive community. High expectations are the standard and the results have been impressive.

Over the past four years, HHIES IB has worked tirelessly to help students achieve success. Our 2011 report card reflects the impressive strides our students have made in both the absolute rating and the overall growth rating. The students continue to show a high attendance rate, (greater than 96%), and have outperformed many of the district and state averages in PASS testing. In 2009, HHIES IB received The Palmetto Silver Award from the state department for excellent end of the year PASS test performance and growth in student achievement. This year we received GOLD! In addition, the students worked tirelessly to receive the SILVER award for closing the achievement gap! This is no coincidence. These results reveal the importance of shared responsibility between involved parents, talented teachers and an administration who believes that all children can learn.

One example of the school's efforts to improve student performance was the implementation of a new instructional start time. The school day begins promptly at 8:30, allowing students to receive an additional 15 minutes of instructional time. Although the initial adjustment may have been difficult, students have benefited from this gift of time. By year's end, all students will have received in an additional 45 HOURS of instructional time!

Another example of increased academic offerings has been the promotion of our second language program. Consistent with the International Baccalaureate guidelines, each student currently benefits from daily Spanish instruction. The Chinese Immersion program will continue into the third grade and a new dual language Spanish class will be implemented this Fall for rising first graders. The goal of this program is to develop students that are internationally minded, in order to, one day, earn an International Baccalaureate diploma and be more prepared to compete in this global economy.

We believe the success of our school is a direct result of the power of the International Baccalaureate framework, the strength of our curriculum through the program of inquiry, the overall commitment of our students, teachers, administration, parents and community leaders. In our role, the SIC is committed to the improvement of the school, its achievement, and the development of strategies to enhance the well-being of our students.

To ensure this, *your* SIC has developed three main goals that will guide its direction through the end of next year:

Healthy Choices – Eat Smart/Move More

Changes have been made to the menu to include more appetizing and healthier food choices for our students and faculty. We are meeting with representatives from our food service company to offer “student choice” entrees, vegetarian trays, healthy snacks and to suggest more appetizing preparations for our diverse student population.

On behalf of HHIES, the SIC has written a grant for the “Whole Child Award”. This award is given to schools in South Carolina who exemplify the “Whole Child” approach to education. Its focus is on a balanced and challenging curriculum. We feel that Hilton Head Island Elementary School is a great example of this approach to education and hope to win the award. If we are awarded this grant, the money we receive will be used to develop programs to supplement our efforts in promoting wellness and the importance of healthy choices amongst our students. We are also working with expert leadership to develop experiences in gardening and nutritional awareness.

Communication –

In an effort to provide the most accurate, up to date, and pertinent information to parents and community members, Hilton Head Island Elementary School has implemented many different resources to meet the varied demands of our school population. From e-mail notification, to phone blasts, to memos in your child’s “take home bag”, the staff works hard to keep you informed. A more detailed listing of the communication forums available for use will be displayed on the SIC website for future reference.

Campus Beautification -

Students take pride in the appearance of their school. Classrooms, recreational areas and quiet zones all contribute to the feeling of comfort your child gets from school. To this point, the school administration and your SIC continue to look for ways to make more indoor and outdoor learning environments available to each student. This year, the “Secret Garden” has been landscaped and “Victory Gardens” have been added to supplement the students’ curriculum and units of inquiry.

In cooperation with Artist Amos Hummell, the school’s Artistically Gifted and Talented students have finished work on a fully functioning rain harvester. This part art/part science project provides the school with a “green” way to collect and water campus plants using solar technology and also leaves the gift of beautiful art to enjoy for many years to come.

Together, with the support of the school administration, parents, teaching staff and community leaders, we will continue to work to enhance the learning environment and opportunities for all HHIES IB students. I hope you will join us to help build a stronger foundation for their future.

Sincerely,

Diana B. Magnan

President, 2011-2013

HHIES IB School Improvement Council