

Burns Elementary School is a Title I school located in North Charleston. We serve children pre-kindergarten to grade five. The enrollment is 489 with a poverty index of approximately 98%. Our staff holds very high standards for themselves as well as each student. They are passionate about teaching and learning and have created a positive, nurturing school environment. Initiatives underway for continued improvement include 21st Century technology, a rigorous and differentiated curriculum, with an emphasis on small, flexible groups designed to meet children at their learning level and accelerate achievement. Specialized instructional intervention continues to ensure student success. Professional development is an integral part of our school week based on a variety of school data.

Individual student reading data indicates an increase of students reading on grade level from 6% in September of 2012 to 40% in May of 2013. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) results show a year or more increase in reading for 60% of students in grades 1st through 5th and a year or more increase in math for 40 % of students. We continue to work towards meeting the school climate, student achievement and teacher/administrator quality goals as indicated in our school improvement plan.

Increased student leadership and decision making is in place through Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). The PBIS model is practiced school-wide with student recognition for appropriate choices. Our goal for PBIS is to improve immediate behavior as well as to provide students with life skills necessary for positive and productive decision making. Our PBIS model is shared with families to assist with the transition of concepts within the home.

Collaboration with community agencies continues in an effort to provide assistance for specific student and family needs. Parents are provided information and resources to enhance student learning throughout the school year. Communication includes on-going parent sessions, student agenda books, daily homework folder, weekly courier, monthly calendar of events, newsletters, phone calls, e-mails, report cards, notes and conferences. In addition, we incorporate swimming lessons, ballet, karate, and scouts into our school day.

Efforts to increase parental involvement includes vigorously recruiting parents to attend school events, volunteer, and participate in decision-making teams. We believe that community involvement is a necessary component of school success and are proud of our committed partners - one University, three churches, our mayor's office, one local business, Book Buddies/Reading Partners, AmeriCorps Project HERO and two community based not-profit organizations – Community In Schools and Beyond Our Walls.

L. Lynn Owings, Principal
Joyce Nesmith, School Improvement Council Chairperson