



# Murray-LaSaine Elementary School

**School Improvement Council: *Annual Report to the Parents*  
2017-18**

691 Riverland Dr., Charleston, SC 29412  
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<https://murraylasaine.ccsdschools.com/>



### **The Murray-LaSaine Mission**

The mission of MLES is to prepare each student to become a functioning, **respectful** member of a diverse society.

We will provide a meaningful, stimulating, **child-centered** environment

that emphasizes a positive atmosphere

while promoting opportunities for optimum development.

Through active involvement of students, staff, administration,

MLES will empower every child to become a **lifelong learner** while enhancing their desire to learn.

### **Purpose of the Report**

This Report is issued by the MLES SIC in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.

### **Murray-LaSaine Elementary School School Improvement Council Members**

**Chair:** Joey Ballenger, Parent

**Vice Chair:** Mari Davin, Teacher

**Secretary:** Sue Grisanti, Parent

Megan Minchener, Teacher

Alexis Phillips, Teacher

Kate Riddile, Parent

Elise Gorman, Parent

Bailey Cooper, Community Member

Kate Calloway, Community Member

Jamie Meissner, Community Member

Hannah Kalish, PTO President

Kisha Harvey, Title I/Teacher

Meredith Wallace, Principal



## School Achievements

- ★ High-quality Montessori instruction in beautifully prepared environments to over 350 students age three to grade six
- ★ College of Charleston partnership to teach education majors about Montessori
- ★ International Peace Day Celebration
- ★ Producing the Lion King
- ★ Giving back to our community through creating welcome bags for families at the Ronald McDonald House
- ★ Raising money for those in crisis, including families impacted by a fire at a local apartment and for a Montessori school in Puerto Rico
- ★ Growing flowers & veggies in our garden, hosting our PTO's annual Farmers' Market
- ★ Field trips to numerous shows at the Gaillard, Gibbes Art Museum, Aquarium, & Epcot
- ★ Gaillard Field Trips-Mayhem Poets, Moon Mouse, Go Dog Go, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad,
- ★ Visiting Improv Troupe from SOA and the Fighting Gnomes, a traveling theatre group Storytree Theatre
- ★ Kris Manning, visiting artist, taught about sculpture, dragons, and My Father's Dragon
- ★ This year, our PTO funded
  - primary playground equipment, planter boxes and plants for each classroom
  - teacher spirit shirts and meals during teacher work days
  - the production of the Lion King and rental fees for the auditorium
  - professional development opportunities, including the reading conference in Myrtle Beach, TEDx Talks, MEPI, and the AMS Conference
  - an outdoor sunshade and classroom furniture and yoga for all students
- ★ PTO Community Building Events: Back to School Night, Spaghetti Dinner, Holiday Bazaar, Sweetheart Ball, Farmer's Market
- ★ Talent show, strings performances, and winter and spring concerts
- ★ Run for Niger, Cooper River Bridge Run, Charleston Marathon
- ★ Grant with Heal with HeARTs and Meg Mims, Recycling Grant awarded to Megan Minchener
- ★ Parent development on Parenting in the Digital Age, Montessori Materials and Methods, Literacy, and Healthy Development
- ★ Professional Development on analyzing data, Montessori math, Readers/Writers Workshop, workshops for assistants, positive discipline, Waseca materials

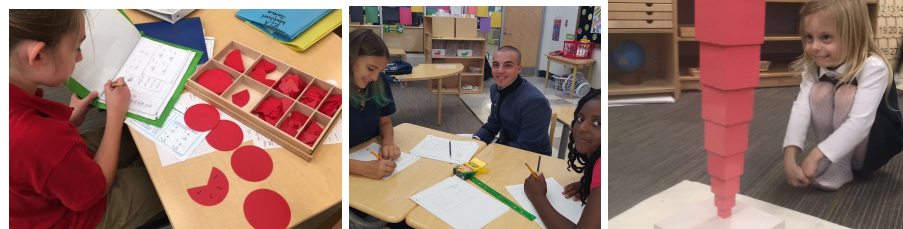
## SIC Annual Goals

+Increase number of SIC members +Review bylaws for the MLES SIC +Write the Report to Parents +Review school assessment data and survey data. Use data to set goals. +Continue to build Adolescent Committee, Outreach, and Enrichment Committees

## Student Achievement

<b>SC READY 2017</b>	Exceeds & Meets	ELA	Math
	MLES	42%	25%
	3rd Grade	50%	44%
	4th Grade	44%	15%
	5th Grade	30%	14%
	6th Grade	67%	33%

<b>SC PASS 2017</b>	Met & Above	Social Studies	Science
	MLES	71%	31%
	4th Grade	77%	39%
	5th Grade	62%	24%
	6th Grade	100%	33%



For more information, “S.C. School Report Card” for the previous school year online at [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov).



## Message from the SIC Chair and the Principal

Murray-LaSaine is a partial-magnet school serving over 350 students ages 3 through 6th grade in both Montessori and traditional classrooms on James Island in Charleston, South Carolina. We are a Title I school with a proud history of serving our community and working diligently to meet the needs of our students and their families.

MLES continues to transition to a full Montessori program serving our attendance zone and District 3 and 9. We are excited to open our Adolescent Montessori program for 7th graders in August 2018. In August 2019, we add grade 8. We will be full Montessori by 2020 for age 3-8th grade.

We are excited to continue to grow and improve, ensuring that our students are provided authentic Montessori instruction that aligns with state and district expectations.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement include volunteering, serving on PTO and SIC, attending Principal Coffees, joining Title I, participating in the Wellness Committee, working at the Farmers' Market, supervising the Running Club, attending after school events and activities, and hosting after school clubs and activities.

We strive to be a community of lifelong learners that values independence, respect, responsibility, and growth. **We are Murray-LaSaine.**

**Meredith Wallace**, Principal

**Joey Ballenger**, School Improvement Council Chair



